

Parish Planning Survey

Overview and Purpose

This survey will assess various individual items as well as measure three overall aspects of parish life:

- Satisfaction with general areas of parish ministry (youth, liturgy, faith formation, etc.)
- Strengths of Catholic evangelization in parish life
- Level of parishioner engagement and assets for moving parishioners from involvement to engagement

The survey can:

- provide a snapshot of the entire parish
- isolate the opinions of particular groups within the parish – Engaged, Involved or Inactive
- elicit views from a particular demographic group within the congregation (e.g. young adults or families)
- indicate the difference between the views held by average parishioners and leaders

All findings are the property of the parish and kept confidential. Additionally, no written comments are considered in the analysis or report.

Instructions for Distribution

The **Leader** survey is identified in the lower right hand corner: (Leader). The **Parishioner** survey is identified in the lower right hand corner: (Parishioner).

Leader surveys should only be given to parishioners who function in a recognized leadership role (e.g. pastoral council, finance council, trustees, heads of parish organizations or ministries and staff). It is important that these respondents be people who know the parish well (at least 16 years old and active as parishioners for at least 3 years) and that they demonstrate a commitment to the parish's success. To insure this, it is best to limit the number of **Leader** surveys used and to distribute them personally whenever possible.

Parishioner surveys are for general distribution. Parishioner surveys may best be distributed either at a weekend liturgy, a parish event or through the mail. The best method for distribution of the parishioner survey will depend on which audience the parish intends to survey. Please select the particular survey most relevant – the first parishioner survey allows respondents to identify their age:

___ 15 – 30, ___ 31 – 49, ___ 50 – 65, ___ 65 and over

The second parishioner survey invites "Additional comments". N.B. Surveys can also be color-coded for distribution with particular audiences (age, neighborhood or school involvement).

Instructions for Analysis

For optimal results, these surveys should be tabulated and analyzed by the Office of Parish Life. A confidential, customized report of findings is provided to the pastor within two weeks based upon parish instructions.

Surveys can also be posted for completion online using Google Forms. Send completed surveys to the Office of Parish Life, 795 Main St., Buffalo, NY 14203 with any directions for the desired report. A presentation and explanation of findings can be given to parish staff or pastoral council when desired.

Parish Planning Survey

We ask you to respond to the following items by circling the number that best describes your level of agreement with that statement. A "U" MEANS YOU ARE UNCERTAIN; "1" MEANS YOU DISAGREE; "2" MEANS YOU ARE NEUTRAL OR AGREE MILDLY; "3" MEANS YOU STRONGLY AGREE.

1. U 1 2 3 Our parish values good music in weekend worship and other celebrations.
2. U 1 2 3 Our parish offers opportunities for on-going faith formation across the life span.
3. U 1 2 3 Sacramental preparation involves the entire family.
4. U 1 2 3 Our parish knows that it has a mission beyond the walls of the church.
5. U 1 2 3 Households are provided materials to grow in faith at home.
6. U 1 2 3 Parents are supported in their role as teachers of our faith.
7. U 1 2 3 Young people (12-18 years old) are given opportunities to serve in the community.
8. U 1 2 3 Our parish works with other churches to care for people in need.
9. U 1 2 3 The parish celebrates diversity, confronts discrimination and encourages tolerance.
10. U 1 2 3 Our parish identifies and invites inactive Catholics to participate in various activities.
11. U 1 2 3 People with disabilities use their gifts in various ministries at weekend liturgy.
12. U 1 2 3 Our parish does a good job inviting, preparing and recognizing volunteers.
13. U 1 2 3 The pastor seems overworked.
14. U 1 2 3 Young people are actively encouraged to participate in parish ministries.
15. U 1 2 3 Our parish encourages us to care for people in need and work on behalf of justice.
16. U 1 2 3 Our parish welcomes all people and seeks out those who may feel less accepted.
17. U 1 2 3 Parishioners share personal faith experiences and what it means to be Catholic.
18. U 1 2 3 Our parish addresses issues of conscience and social justice.
19. U 1 2 3 The scriptures are well proclaimed at weekend liturgies.
20. U 1 2 3 Parish facilities are kept clean and well-maintained.
21. U 1 2 3 Signs of care and concern are abundant in this community.
22. U 1 2 3 Children, youth and couples are well-prepared for the sacraments.
23. U 1 2 3 Mission trips and service programs are sponsored throughout the year.
24. U 1 2 3 Parishioners learn about Catholic social teaching.
25. U 1 2 3 The parish has an active catechumenate.
26. U 1 2 3 The sound at worship is clear and audible from all locations in the church.
27. U 1 2 3 Assistive hearing devices are available and offered to anyone in need.
28. U 1 2 3 Young people are encouraged to worship in age appropriate ways.
29. U 1 2 3 Young people are in visible leadership roles in the church.
30. U 1 2 3 Parents receive adequate preparation for the sacraments.
31. U 1 2 3 Young adults (18-35 years old) serve in visible leadership roles in this parish.
32. U 1 2 3 Opportunities exist for pondering the meaning of God's Word in one's life.
33. U 1 2 3 Our parish is engaged in public discourse regarding social issues.
34. U 1 2 3 Our parish participates in activities with other churches and religions.
35. U 1 2 3 Devotional opportunities (e.g., rosaries, stations, adoration) are offered in this parish.
36. U 1 2 3 Our parish encourages vocations to ministry in all its forms.
37. U 1 2 3 Adults are encouraged to explore the various doctrines of the church.
38. U 1 2 3 Parishioners are equipped to critically evaluate the media in light of Christian values.
39. U 1 2 3 Parish leaders encourage interfaith dialogue.
40. U 1 2 3 Our facility has accessible parking, entrance and bathrooms for people with disabilities.
41. U 1 2 3 Couples are prepared and supported for married life.
42. U 1 2 3 Young families receive spiritual resources and practical support.
43. U 1 2 3 People are encouraged to discover the presence of God in everyday life.
44. U 1 2 3 The church has a website that is attractive and useful (resources, information, etc.)

Which 2 items in this survey do you consider MOST valuable? Items #____ #____

Which item in this survey do you consider LEAST valuable? Item #____

Additional Comments? Please use the space available on the other side.

(Leader)

Parish Planning Survey

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About the Parish

1. U 1 2 3 I find it easy to tell others about my faith in God.
2. U 1 2 3 The homily is almost always relevant, usually uplifting and sometimes challenging.
3. U 1 2 3 I have confidence about how money is spent at this church.
4. U 1 2 3 Families are provided materials to grow in faith at home.
5. U 1 2 3 The parish works with other churches to care for people in need.
6. U 1 2 3 I use my talents in meaningful ways at church.
7. U 1 2 3 Leader(s) of the parish care about me as a person.
8. U 1 2 3 This parish encourages us to care for people in need and work on behalf of justice.
9. U 1 2 3 Someone in this parish encourages my spiritual development.
10. U 1 2 3 Young people feel welcomed at our church.
11. U 1 2 3 I connect with God in a meaningful way through worship.
12. U 1 2 3 The parish promotes stewardship of time, talent and treasure.
13. U 1 2 3 Young people are given opportunities to serve in the community.
14. U 1 2 3 The parish is engaged in public discourse regarding social issues.
15. U 1 2 3 My opinion is valued at this church.
16. U 1 2 3 I feel a sense of belonging and caring in this community.
17. U 1 2 3 I enjoy attending Mass each weekend.
18. U 1 2 3 I am supported in my ministry at this church.
19. U 1 2 3 The parish celebrates diversity, confronts discrimination and encourages tolerance.
20. U 1 2 3 This parish welcomes all people and seeks out those who may feel less accepted.
21. U 1 2 3 After Mass each weekend I have a better sense of how to live my faith each day.
22. U 1 2 3 I have been invited to take a leadership role in the parish.
23. U 1 2 3 I have opportunities to learn and grow in faith at this parish.
24. U 1 2 3 Devotional opportunities (e.g., rosaries, stations, adoration) are offered in this parish.
25. U 1 2 3 I feel a responsibility to support our parish financially.
26. U 1 2 3 Young people are well prepared for the sacraments.
27. U 1 2 3 I have been invited to participate in a small faith sharing group.
28. U 1 2 3 The parish helps me experience God's presence in the daily activities of life.
29. U 1 2 3 Parents are supported in their role as teachers of our faith.
30. U 1 2 3 This church supports full-time caregivers (young, elderly, disabled or sick).

About You

- A. U 1 2 3 My relationship with God is my source of personal strength.
- B. U 1 2 3 My faith gives meaning and purpose to my life.
- C. U 1 2 3 I spend time in prayer every day.
- D. U 1 2 3 Faith enables me to do things beyond my own capability.
- E. U 1 2 3 I actively care for people who are suffering or who are less fortunate than myself.

Which item(s) in this survey do you consider MOST valuable? Item # _____

Which item in this survey do you consider LEAST valuable? Item # _____

Please indicate your age: ___ 15 – 30 ___ 31 – 49 ___ 50 – 65 ___ 65 and over

(Parishioner)

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Additional Comments? Please use the space available on the other side.

(Parishioner)