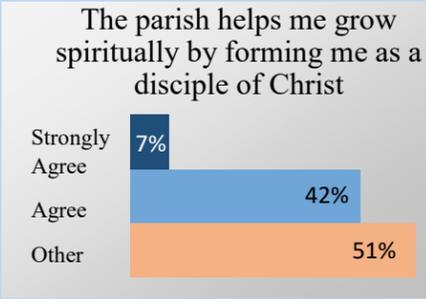
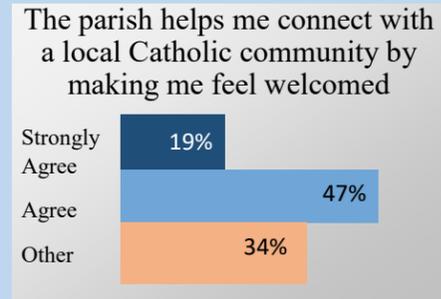
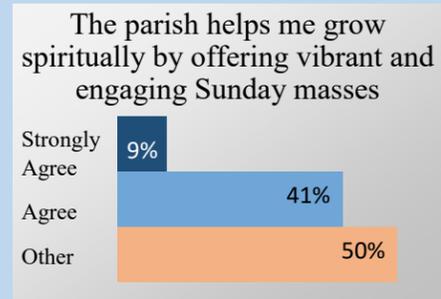
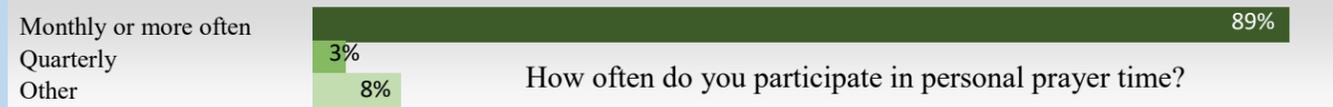
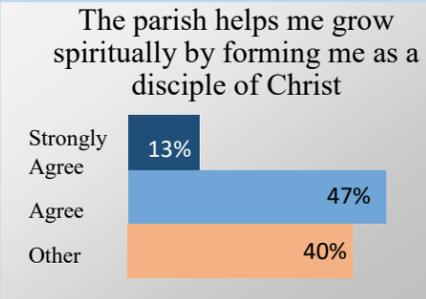
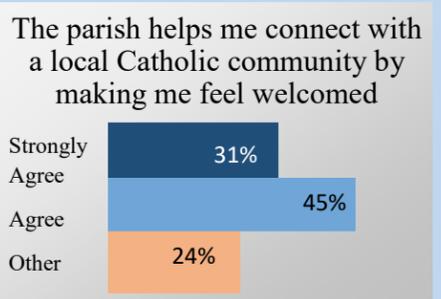
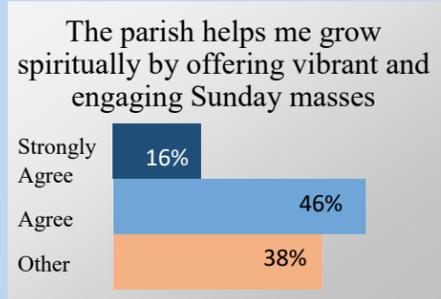
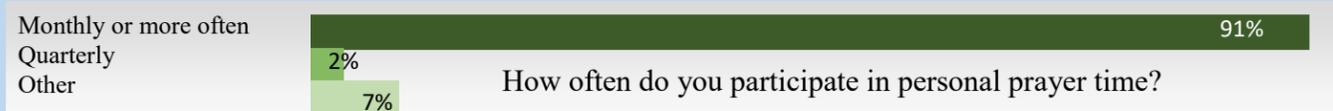


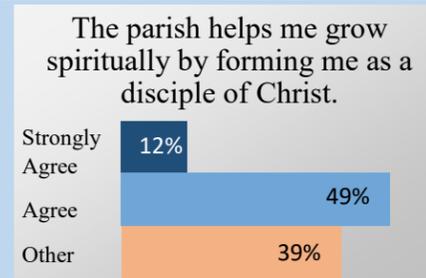
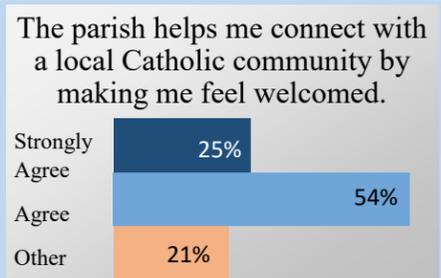
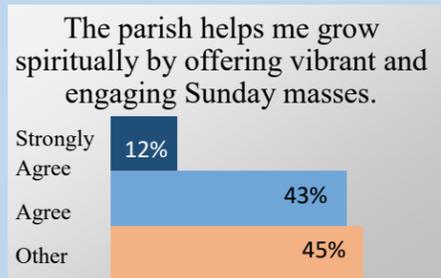
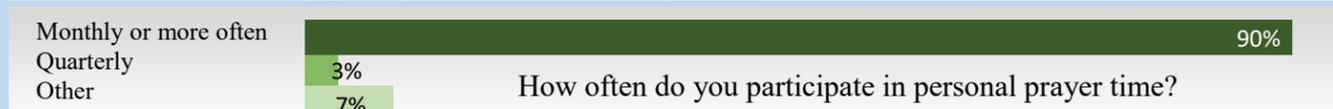
Saint Bartholomew



Saint John and Holy Cross



Saint Maximilian Kolbe



Other = once a year or never or Other=Neither disagree or agree, disagree or strongly disagree

Cluster 22 Priority Plan

St. Bartholomew, St. John and Holy Cross and St. Maximilian Kolbe

CLUSTER PURPOSE STATEMENT

Our mission is to live and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ as disciples called to evangelize, inspire, and make of the Church a welcoming, supportive environment.

VALUES

Love: Act as a symbol of God's love for us by being open and embracing to all people
 Respect: Behave in a manner that values all God's creation
 Spirituality: Faith in Jesus Christ's Word and his Infinite love for us

**Priority 1
Strengthen the Family-Church Connection**

**Priority 2
Make Disciples of Jesus Christ**

**Priority 3
Stewardship-Sharing of ourselves**

Smart Goals

- ✔ Hold two listening sessions to determine the needs to achieve this Goal
 - ✔ Listening Session Sacramental Preparation Year One
 - ✔ Listening Session Sacramental Preparation Year Two
- ◇ Initiate a new Annual Cluster Family Day event for prayer, community and fun to support our Cluster identity
- ◇ Form a Welcoming Committee to assess the needs of our cluster

✔ Task Completed
 ◇ Task in Progress

Smart Goals

- ✔ Initiate an adult catechetical experience for parents during children's faith formation classes at the Cluster during Advent
- ✔ Offer a yearly retreat or prayer or mission for the Cluster
 - ✔ Mission or Retreat
 - ✔ Evening Prayers during Solemnities and Seasons
- ◇ Transform the "Building Bridges and Fostering Diversity" Dinner into an Annual Community event
- ✔ Organize Interfaith meeting to develop future event
- ◇ Hold Interfaith event Educational Community event around diversity

Smart Goals

- ◇ Create Cluster Handbook of all our Volunteer opportunities and ministries
- ✔ Organize Volunteer recruitment drive to bring in 25 new volunteers within a year.
- ◇ Engage middle and high school youth through meaningful volunteer opportunities into Cluster Activities
- ◇ Create a plan for new parishioners to welcome them and connect them to the Cluster

Priority Plan Goals Accomplished Thus Far

Priority 1- Strengthen the Family-Church Connection

Goal 1-Hold two listening sessions to determine the needs of our families

September 2018-Sacramental Preparation One held their listening session during our sign up night. Over 60 parents attended. Some of the results included looking for more at home faith based activities, children's masses, and more community activities.

April 2019-Sacramental Preparation Two held their listening session at the end of their final retreat. Over 75 were in attendance. Some of the results included looking for more cluster-wide activities, more young adult engagement, more child friendly masses and more children's volunteer opportunities.

Goal 2-Initiate a new Annual Cluster Family Day event for prayer, community and fun

August 2019-Our Parish Life Commission is planning our Cluster Picnic for August 24. Parishioners have been asked to hold the date since December. Different committees and commissions have been invited to attend and share their upcoming events.

Priority 2- Make Disciples of Jesus Christ

Goal 1-Initiate an adult catechetical experience for parents during children's faith formation

Lent 2018-The parish offered Bishop Robert Barron's "Catholicism" series during all of our Faith Formation Classes. Kris Benson facilitated these sessions. About a dozen parents attended.

Fall 2019-After consultation and looking at our survey results, we have decided to revamp our whole Adult Education program. This will be rolling out at the end of August 2019 with a Catholic Faith and Life catalog of classes and faith sharing opportunities.

Goal 2-Offer a yearly retreat or prayer or mission for the Cluster

October 2018, the cluster held our first Mission in over ten years. 100+ volunteers were involved in planning and implementing this event. Over 200 parishioners from all three parishes attended all three nights.

April 2018 and 2019, Taizé prayer services were held at St Bartholomew Church. Twenty-five people participated

2018-2019, We offered Liturgy of the Hours five times, once during each Liturgical Season rotating through our churches. Participation grew from 8 to twenty people.

April 2019, we held the first Divine Mercy Prayer in our cluster at St Maximilian Kolbe. Forty-eight people participated.

Goal 3-Transform the "Building Bridges and Fostering Diversity" Dinner

Spring 2019, The Social Justice and Peace Committee plans to talk with representatives from a housing project in South Portland that houses refugees, about their needs. They plan to host a dinner educating our parishioners.

January 2019, our cluster planned and implemented a Prayer for Christian Unity and invited all of the Christian Churches in our demographic area. Fifty people attended this service from several Churches. Several of the ministers would like to be involved with the planning for 2020.

Priority 3 - Stewardship-Sharing of ourselves

Goal 1-Create Cluster Handbook

August 2019-We did not meet our goal to have this accomplished in September 2018, but in the process of creating our handbook, we realized our website needed to be reorganized as well. This was completed and rolled out in April 2019.

Goal 2-Organize Volunteer recruitment drive

June 2019, We held a Volunteer Appreciation with over 140 volunteers attending. The previous year we had 60 attending. We have added thirty five new volunteers to our programs.

Goal 3-Engage middle and high school youth in meaningful volunteer opportunities.

September 2019-After a year without a Youth Minister, we are finally able to revamp our Youth Ministry programs. We met with 17 middle school youth on June 26 and they are excited and ready to meet as soon as possible. We had 10 High School Youth lead our Vacation Bible School Crews and Stations and we have 3 High School Youth who have been teaching in our Faith Formation programs.

Goal 4-Form a Welcoming Committee

We are currently working on this goal and hope to establish by Spring 2020.

Dear Parishioners:

In 2005, The Diocese of Portland presented a process of clustering parishes through the document Telling Anew the Story of Jesus. Clusters created working plans to best meet the needs of parishioners and presented them to the Bishop by 2009. Bishop Deeley, upon the beginning of his tenure, asked the question "what now?". In other words, with new structures in place, how could we strengthen the way we live and share the faith here in Maine? With the support of the Presbyteral (Priests') Council, the Bishop contracted with Catholic Leadership Institute (CLI) to help us accomplish this task. Priests and deacons attended three Clergy Institutes led by CLI over the course of three years to explore parish planning. In addition, the staff attended two-day trainings for three years. The public phase in Cluster 22 began with a parish-wide survey that we undertook in early 2015.

A group of parishioners from all three of our parishes and members of our staff began a process of goal planning that would consider the survey results and our experience as members of Cluster 22. We met with representatives from CLI to help develop a three-year plan for our cluster exploring ways to support parishioners trying to live their faith more vibrantly.

Unfortunately, staffing changes, changes in pastoral leadership, and a need to revamp our original plan resulted in a long delay for the publication that appeared in the June 24, 2018 bulletin. The members of the committee who finalized the Parish Priority Plan were: David Steinbrick, Katie Benedict, John Moreshead, Ann Marsh, Kristin Homicz, Fr. Innocent, Kris Benson and me.

We identified three priorities which we agreed were crucial for our parish at this time: Family Church Connection, Discipleship, and Stewardship (gifts and talents), all described in greater detail in this insert.

In February of 2019, we held our second survey, giving us less than a year to see results from our priority plan. Sadly, only 495 of over 5,000 parishioners participated in our second survey. We are sharing a portion of the results with you in this publication and we will be reviewing the results as we go forward.

I am very pleased we are finally able to publish some key points of our survey results, priorities and a list of what we have done so far to accomplish our goals. Moving forward, we have scheduled three input sessions for our parishioners to give us feedback on our CLI Priority Plan and how to best meet our needs. On September 8, we will have a session at St. John and Holy Cross after the 9:30AM Mass and at St. Bartholomew after the 11:00 AM Mass and on September 15 at St. Maximilian Kolbe after the 10:30 AM Mass.

By continuing our discussions, you can help the staff and me to continue our efforts to provide parishioners with what is needed to confidently live and share our Catholic faith in Jesus Christ.

CLI Input Sessions

September 8

St. John and Holy Cross after the 9:30 AM Mass
St. Bartholomew after the 11:00 AM Mass

September 15

St. Maximilian Kolbe after the 10:30 AM Mass

Yours in Christ,

Paul F. Stefanko
Msgr. Paul F Stefanko