

RESULTS FROM THE PARISH QUESTIONNAIRE.

As part of the ongoing process of strategic planning for the Parish, a brief questionnaire was circulated during the three weekend masses (Saturday, November 5th and Sunday, November 6th, 2016. Parishioners were invited to respond to two questions: (1) What can the Parish do to help you? and (2) What can you do to help the Parish? The findings from this questionnaire are included in an attachment to this week's Bulletin and are also available from the Parish website.

A total of 190 people provided written responses to the questionnaire (93 from Sunday 11 am mass; 49 from Sunday 8:40 mass and 48 from Saturday, 4:45 mass). Two additional responses provided contact information but no comments. Several individuals offered to speak in more detail with Fr. Earl about their responses and he is in the process of meeting with these individuals.

The findings from the questionnaire are presented in the four Tables below. Where possible, responses were grouped into categories and for the larger categories, sample responses were appended to the Tables for illustration purposes.

The first two tables present the most frequent responses to the two questions (5 respondents or more per category of response). In order to ensure that the valuable input from less frequent responses was not lost, Tables 3 and 4 present these responses in descending order of frequency of response.

The next steps in the strategic planning process are to : (1) consider the findings from the questionnaire and additional feedback received from parishioners and (2) plan a final series of meetings in the spring (post Lent) to incorporate the feedback received under the 4 strategic directions for the parish (***Build Relationships; Foster Spirituality and Faith Development, Support Social Justice and Commit to Sustainability***)

Thank you to everyone who provided feedback through the survey and/or through discussions with Father Earl post the survey. Please keep the parish planning committee and parish council in your prayers as they work to complete a renewed strategic plan for our parish (anticipated June 2017).

TABLE 1: HOW CAN THE PARISH HELP YOU? (Most Frequent Responses)

Responses Received From Parishioners During Weekend Masses	SUNDAY 11 AM (n=93)	SUNDAY 8:30 AM (n= 49)	SATURDAY 4:45 (n= 48)	TOTAL All masses (n= 190)
Encourage participation in the church/continue inviting people to become involved/foster increased sense of belonging and community for everyone (a)	15	5	4	24
Continue as you are (generally)	8	6	7	21
Encourage more young people to become involved (b)	10	4	4	18
Help us to understand our faith and what is distinctive about it (c)	7	5	3	15
Enhance the music program at 11 am mass (d)	10	3	1	14
Continue to be there for me and my family	6	3	5	14
Continue to provide programs to children and involve them in the mass	10	3	1	14
Continue to meet my spiritual needs/spiritual growth/renewal (e)	3	6	3	12
Create mechanisms to connect parishioners outside of mass, such as small prayer groups, faith/ bible study groups, social events such as potlucks, opportunities for older parishioners to socialize	4	3	3	10
Keep masses as they are	2	1	5	8
Increase opportunities for parishioners to volunteer (f)	3	2	3	8
Thank you for asking/finding ways to listen to parishioners	4	2	1	7
Be more forward thinking /current in meeting our present day needs and desires	2		4	6
Continue daily mass, prayer room and sacraments (Blessed Sacrament fully exposed)	1	3	2	6
Focus homilies on today's life and issues relevant to parishioners	3	2		5
Have more opportunities for social justice /outreach (g)	4		1	5
Add mass on Sunday evening	3		2	5

Examples for indicated categories of responses in Table 1:

- (a) Specific suggestions for inclusion were: families, new Canadians, refugees, MUN students, LGTQT, separated and divorced Catholics; family members who no longer attend church; others who have drifted away.
- (b) Include young people in things like pastoral care. Offer specific activities for teenagers so that they can learn love, faith and values through those activities. Use the parish hall for more youth activities. Create youth groups for pre-teens and teens to help them get involved in community and social justice activities. Offer youth camps and youth choirs.
- (c) Workshops conducted by Fr. Greg Caruthers on the mysteries of our faith is very helpful; more well prepared sessions that are similarly thought-provoking would be appreciated. Other suggestions included retreats, lectures, bible study, adult faith formation.
- (d) Suggested enhancements include: encourage increased involvement in singing; choose hymns that are easier for the congregation to sign along with; use more upbeat music; create a choir for children, not professional just one to help with participation in the mass and for fun that would sing regular songs (not children's songs); consider collaborating with St. Bon's to create a children's choir; introduce guitars.
- (e) Provide the nourishment that I need to keep my faith alive during each day. Teach me God's message for me and help me know how to spread and share this message with others.
- (f) Do you need my help? I might need to be asked...give me a T.O.S. – a Tap on the Shoulder! Create a list of behind the scenes activities that people can do for the parish – not everyone likes to be seen. Ask people or phone them to help out. Send out a list of needs that the parish has in an email accompanying the bulletin instead of burying it within the bulletin. Have a sign up sheet for volunteers for events one week in advance so that people could assist with specific tasks such as set up and clean up, serving coffee etc.
- (g) Specific suggestions include having a group volunteer at the Gathering Place or MacMoran Centre; outreach to the poor and sick; visiting the sick and homebound, cooking a meal at Ronald MacDonald House

TABLE 2: HOW CAN YOU HELP THE PARISH (Most Frequent Responses)

Responses Received From Parishioners During Weekend Masses	SUNDAY 11 AM (n=93)	SUNDAY 8:30 AM (n= 49)	SATURDAY 4:45 (n= 48)	TOTAL All masses (n= 190)
Continue and/or increase financial support	18	11	9	38
Volunteer/help where asked/needed	21	7	6	34
Participate in/show up to parish events	22	9	4	35
Begin or continue involvement in parish ministries (h)	16	4	8	28
Attend mass	11	6	3	20
Pray	3	4	8	15
Support (generally)	5	4	4	14
Work or health issues limit my ability to volunteer	8		1	9
Volunteer my time towards some social justice oriented goals/outreach/charitable works of mercy	2	2	1	5
Provide feedback on parish initiatives and help bring forward the concerns of others who may be reluctant to speak	2	3		5

Examples for indicated categories of responses in Table 2:

(h) Begin and or continue involvement with parish ministries- reader, Eucharistic minister, alter server, choir, bringing up the gifts, children’s faith formation

TABLE 3: HOW CAN THE PARISH HELP YOU? (Less Frequent Responses)

Responses Received From Parishioners During Weekend Masses	SUNDAY 11 AM (n=93)	SUNDAY 8:30 AM (n= 49)	SATURDAY 4:45 (n= 48)	TOTAL All masses (n= 190)
A spirit of welcome at the door is important	4			4
Organize more fundraisers and community service events to help the less fortunate	3			3
Really enjoy the opportunity to celebrate as a family/community - supportive environment for families	2	1		3
Continue to provide essential liturgical services throughout the year		3		3
Continue charitable initiatives/provide an avenue to donate to worthy causes here and around the world	2	1		3
Let the Vatican know for that there is great support for married and women priests	3			3
Better use of the church during mass – everyone in the chapel for weekdays and everyone in the main church for weekends would help with heating costs			3	3
Offer more general confession			3	3
Engage social media expertise; Create a facebook page to connect to our parishioners, share events and reminders and engage our young people	2			2
Make better use of our parish resources – the church, parish hall etc to help others	2			2
Offer workshops in collaboration with people from other Christian denominations and other faith traditions	1		1	2

TABLE 3: HOW CAN THE PARISH HELP YOU? (Less Frequent Responses)
(continued)

Responses Received From Parishioners During Weekend Masses	SUNDAY 11 AM (n=93)	SUNDAY 8:30 AM (n= 49)	SATURDAY 4:45 (n= 48)	TOTAL All masses (n= 190)
Music ministry is wonderful; choir makes a significant impact	2			2
Help me to have a prayerful daily life		2		2
Provide more guidance on reception of the sacraments		2		2
Offer children's instructions for sacraments another time besides 11 am mass and continue the sessions longer into the year	2			2
Give us some ideas on how to encourage family members to attend church	1	1		2
Improve sound system - have presiders wear the mike			2	2
Earlier Christmas eve mass	2			2
I don't like the puppet/less of the kaola/use the puppet in children's liturgy versus the mass	2			2
Provide parishioners with more complete information on the financial status of our parish (spending, cash flow, budget, resources etc.)		1	1	2
Find ways to bring back those who have drifted away		1	1	2
Minister to the sick		1		1
Continue to provide communion to those at home who need it			1	1
Ground me in my faith		1		1
Remain Jesuit				1
Continue to provide support to groups such as Filipino parishioners and university students	1			1
Embrace social values that are inclusive	1			1

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(continued)

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Make the food bank donation area more visible and remind people to contribute	1			1
Build a partnership with the ANC to welcome newcomers, bring them to our parish, enhance our life experiences and build a stronger, inclusive and diverse church community	1			1
Consider providing transportation to our services and events, particularly for newcomers	1			1
Advertise our masses and events to all parishes in the archdiocese		1		1
Improve female leadership	1			
Build community by having tea and coffee after every weekend mass	1			1
Provide more information about parish activities such as times for confession	1			1
Gather a group of parents together to discuss the types of things that they would like to see for their children	1			1
Include children in the mass (readers, cantors, choir members)	1			1
Arrange a get together for international students to help them get to know each other		1		1
Provide networking opportunities with different professionals in the parish	1			1
Tap into the artistic talents of our parishioners re music and theatre programs	2			1
More community outreach			1	1

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(continued)

Responses Received From Parishioners During Weekend Masses	SUNDAY 11 AM (n=93)	SUNDAY 8:30 AM (n= 49)	SATURDAY 4:45 (n= 48)	TOTAL All masses (n= 190)
Help young people use phones to follow along with readings and music	1			1
Help instill good values in our children	1			1
Help our children to want to be practicing Catholics	1			1
Home visitations to get to know families better	1			1
Phone calls or outreach to lonely seniors	1			1
Reflect more on the teaching of Pope St. Pius X,		1		1
Restore some of our traditions – embrace reverence in the church, kneeling after communion, prater to St. Michael after mass		1		1
Workshops on community integration, immigration and Canadian culture, gospel messages	1			1
Provide more guidance on death	1			1
Provide information about autism and other health related challenges	1			1
Continue and offer more spiritual renewal sessions	1			1
Offer counseling sessions or seminars for 50+ who still work, times nights or weekends, topics aging, loneliness etc		1		1
Hold public meetings and seminars on weekends so more people can attend	1			1
Provide parish contact information for those in need and for evangelization in the bulletin		1		1
Take action on all the good ideas from Pope Francis	1			1
Remove Latin mass from the parish	1			1

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(continued)

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Schedule other parishioners to work with the regular greeters at mass and have them use name tags	1			1
Use name tags at events to help people meet each other	1			1
Prayer			1	1
Continue and expand contributions to the poor			1	1
Activities for married couples such as dinner with reflection opportunity	1			1
Ensure leaders of the children's liturgy are connecting with the children through interactive and engaging sessions	1			1
Help my family in times of death and sorrow	1			1
Keep us informed about parish events		1		1
Continue to have multiple priest available to meet the needs of the parish		1		1
Need more time to provide input- today could have been a discussion or focus group	1			1
More shared responsibility and decision making		1		1
Develop a plan for present day parish		1		1
Create a heritage fund for the future			1	1
Get more involved in visiting senior citizens homes- priests and parishioners			1	1
Develop a succession plan for ministries - many of our volunteers are elderly			1	1
New time option for Saturday mass	1			1

TABLE 3: HOW CAN THE PARISH HELP YOU? (Less Frequent Responses)
(continued)

Responses Received From Parishioners During Weekend Masses	SUNDAY 11 AM (n=93)	SUNDAY 8:30 AM (n= 49)	SATURDAY 4:45 (n= 48)	TOTAL All masses (n= 190)
Youth masses	1		1	1
Have a mass that is suitable for all			1	1
Add more evening masses			1	1
More evening masses during Lent			1	1
Discontinue Sunday 8:30 mass and move Sunday mass to 10 or 10:30	1			1
Stagger times for weekend masses across the archdiocese so there is a mass somewhere every half hour on Sunday		1	1	1
Involve all the parish priests in the weekend masses	1			1
Organize and publicize a mass for people who no longer come to church		1		1
Record one of the weekend masses and put it up on the website for those who cannot attend in person			1	1
Offer a week-day service without a priest so that people can get used to the idea			1	1
Dispense with Jesus under the blood of Christ			1	1
Increase the celebration of the sacrament of the sick		1		1
Continue the practice of visiting priests hearing confessions at Advent and Lent and expand where possible		1		1
Keep us informed about our outside ministries, what is working and how we can help	1			1
Priest speak to children in words they can understand	1			1
Give Sunday school more time- let the kids go up sooner	1			1

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Responses Received From Parishioners During Weekend Masses	SUNDAY 11 AM (n=93)	SUNDAY 8:30 AM (n= 49)	SATURDAY 4:45 (n= 48)	TOTAL All masses (n= 190)
Use the puppet in children's liturgy versus the mass		1		1
Provide new binders for the choir	1			1
Congregation taking part in singing praises to God	1			1
Go to local schools and talk about the importance of faith and religion	1			1
Involve volunteers to lower the cost of maintenance		1		1
Help my daughter to socialize with others and continue to improve in the future	1			1
Place emphasis on the stewardship of the gifts that God has entrusted us with for the good of all			1	1
Bring all ministries together under the Parish Council and have it act as both a consultation group and an action group			1	1
Spend less time on non-essentials			1	1
Don't make the sermons too long			1	1
Raise money through fundraising, hosting bridge , other games			1	1

TABLE 4: HOW CAN YOU HELP THE PARISH? (Less Frequent Responses)

Responses Received From Parishioners During Weekend Masses	SUNDAY 11 AM (n=93)	SUNDAY 8:30 AM (n= 49)	SATURDAY 4:45 (n= 48)	TOTAL All Masses (n= 190)
Regular contributions to special causes, families or communities in need	1	2	1	4
Food/hamper donations	3		1	4
Volunteer with fund raising,	2		1	3
Donate flowers/help decorate the church/clean the church	3			3
Help with programs for youth	1	2		3
Help in the parish hall during social activities	2			2
Volunteer math lessons, environmental risk assessment projects	2			2
Spread the word of God	1	1		2
Cultivate open-heartedness about future ways of involvement	2			2
Help international students and families feel welcomed at mass, events, workshops etc		1		1
Help count the collection after mass	1			1
Spiritual participation	1			1
Pair with an older parishioner to provide visiting, companionship, help with groceries etc		1		1
Participating in parish council		1		1
Help with computer or software related issues	1			1
Help with carpentry work		1		1
Content development strategies		1		1
Contribute my expertise from other jurisdictions		1		1
Play Christmas music in the church during the Christmas season			1	1
Share hospitality with students, have them in for a meal			1	1

TABLE 4: HOW CAN THE PARISH HELP YOU? (Less Frequent Responses)
(continued)

Responses Received From Parishioners During Weekend Masses	SUNDAY 11 AM (n=93)	SUNDAY 8:30 AM (n= 49)	SATURDAY 4:45 (n= 48)	TOTAL All Masses (n= 190)
Provide feedback on children's programs	1			1
Reach out to fellow parishioners			1	1
Participate in a monthly prayer group to pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit to direct where we are headed as a Parish. The early church did not make any decisions without first consulting the Holy Spirit			1	1
Cultivate gratitude for the parish	1			1
Be patient – it takes people time to change/move on from the past	1			1
Evolve and respond without losing values			1	1
Support the priests	1			1
Delegate more duties to the laity to help with priest workload			1	1
Respond faithfully as a good Catholic		1		1
Volunteer to phone people who may need encouragement			1	1
Perform duties more carefully; not make as many mistakes	1			1
Be more caring and helpful to people	1			1
I don't know	1	1		1