

St. Margaret of Cortona Disciple Maker Index Survey Results

You may recall that during Lent this year I invited all St. Margaret of Cortona parishioners to participate in a survey called the Disciple Maker Index as part of the *Real Presence, Real Future* initiative. Organized by the Catholic Leadership Institute, all parishes in the Diocese of Columbus were asked to take the survey to help Bishop Brennan, the Diocese, and each parish plan and prepare for the future.

I am pleased that 195 St. Margaret of Cortona parishioners participated. This represents 37% of the 522 parishioners who, on average, attend Sunday Mass. This is an excellent response and provides us with reliable data. The Catholic Leadership Institute considers anything over 10% of average Sunday Mass attendance as statistically significant.

As you might expect, the survey data reveals the wonderful strengths of our parish as well as areas where we can improve. I plan to discuss our results and plans with you in greater depth during my homilies over the months ahead, but I want to share a few highlights now to get us started.

Of the many positive findings, I wish to highlight three:

- “I would recommend my parish’s religious education to a friend.” A stunning 99% of respondents (the best possible result) strongly agree or agree with this statement.
- “I would recommend the parish Catholic school to a friend.” An excellent 84% strongly agree or agree with this statement.
- We can all be proud of the results for the question “I would recommend my parish to a friend.” 89% of respondents strongly agreed or agreed with this statement.

In terms of results that reveal opportunities, here are three:

- “Invited a man to consider a vocation to the priesthood.” 86% of respondents have never done this. Never. I have stressed from the ambo many times how critical this is. Currently, there are 102 parishes in the Diocese of Columbus and only 85 active priests. The number of active priests is declining and there are not even half enough priests in the developmental pipeline to replace them.
- Regarding “Teaching me how to share my personal witness story,” which indicates how equipped you feel to talk about our faith, only 36% of respondents strongly agreed or agreed with this statement.
- 77% of our parishioners have never gone on a retreat, which is an important faith practice.

This is just a snapshot of some of the rich data contained in our survey results. Please see the other side of this message for more data. The work ahead will involve not just us but the Columbus Diocese and every parish within the Diocese. I will keep you abreast of our progress as we move forward. We have a working team in place (myself, Ken Hagy, Peter Hersha, Peg Kuhns, Barb Maiberger, Mary Smith, and Deacon Tom Rowlands), but I will need and ask for your service and input so that you are involved in the decisions that affect the future of our parish. Thank you for making St. Margaret of Cortona a place where, through our worship and service, people can come and encounter Jesus. Sincerely in Christ,

Father Jeff, Deacon Tom, Ken Hagy, Peter Hersha, Peg Kuhns, Barb Maiberger & Mary Smith

(Over for Survey Highlights)

Highlights from the Survey:

	>Agree
I personally believe...	
Jesus died and rose from the dead for my salvation	93.98%
The Eucharist really is the body and blood of Jesus Christ	88.55%
Scripture is the word of God	93.37%
In the teaching authority of the Church	83.44%
The Church is critical to my relationship with God	81.93%
In Jesus' moral teachings for my life as taught by the Church	90.36%
My parish equips me to have conversations about my faith with family and friends by...	
Providing high-quality events and other opportunities to which I can invite people	56.36%
Growing my confidence in the Church's teachings so I can answer other's questions	50.00%
Exhibiting care to members of our community (not necessarily Catholics)	68.48%
Teaching me how to share the story of Jesus	53.66%
Teaching me how to share my personal witness story	36.81%
Helping me recognize how God is working in my life	74.39%
My parish helps me connect with a local Catholic community by...	
Making me feel welcomed and accepted	81.77%
Providing me with opportunities to serve those in need	73.74%
Following up with me when I express interest in becoming more involved	53.07%
Providing a community to support me and/or my family in times of need	60.89%
Making information about the parish easy for me to find (via bulletin, web, email)	89.44%
My parish helps me grow spiritually by...	
Offering vibrant and engaging Sunday Masses	68.79%
Offering music that deepens my desire to participate more fully in the Sunday liturgy	67.05%
Connecting me with a small faith-sharing group	40.46%
Preaching and homilies that connect my faith with my everyday life	75.86%
Teaching me to read and pray with the Bible	43.86%

Answer	Never	Once/Twice Per Year	Quarterly	Monthly	Weekly	Daily
How often did you do each of the following over the past year?	*	*	*	*	*	*
Invited someone to join me for an activity at the parish	39%	43%	12%	4%	2%	1%
Invited someone to join me for Mass	40%	43%	9%	6%	3%	0%
Invited a man to consider a vocation to the priesthood	87%	13%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Invited someone to consider a vocation to religious life	84%	14%	1%	1%	0%	0%
Answered another person's question about a teaching of the Catholic Church	15%	51%	11%	15%	6%	2%
Volunteered to serve a member of our community (not necessarily a Catholic)	28%	34%	14%	13%	10%	1%
Shared the story of Jesus with another person	31%	35%	9%	12%	11%	2%
Shared my personal witness story with another person	37%	36%	12%	9%	6%	1%
Prayed with another person outside of Mass	16%	22%	13%	15%	20%	15%
How often did you participate in or attend each of the following over the past year?	*	*	*	*	*	*
Individual prayer time with God	1%	4%	4%	6%	19%	67%
Bible study or Prayer group (in person or online)	57%	12%	4%	6%	19%	2%
Mass	3%	2%	2%	4%	77%	12%
Pastoral Counseling or Spiritual Direction	80%	16%	2%	1%	0%	1%
A class or workshop about the Catholic faith (in person or online)	68%	20%	2%	4%	5%	1%
A parish social event	33%	41%	19%	6%	1%	1%
A retreat	78%	21%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Eucharistic adoration – time in prayer before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament	32%	33%	10%	8%	16%	1%
Catholic Devotions (e.g. pray the rosary, novenas, special feast days)	19%	21%	13%	13%	10%	24%