

Parish Transformation Meeting #4

~24 people in attendance for Meeting #4

We received the quantitative results from the Parish Transformation Survey. 60 surveys were received in English, 4 surveys were received in Polish.

The organization of the data received was unhelpful (and there was no analysis)...it was only available as a hard-to-read xerox of lists of frequency counts & total number of responses for each question. The questions which pertain to the frequency counts were also cut off part-of-the-way, so this data was not understandable without referencing the original questionnaire (which was not available at the meeting). The Polish responses were tabulated separately from the English responses; due to the low numbers, this is not very meaningful for stand-alone analysis. These should be combined...

Parish members will try to work-up the survey results themselves and present these next time.

We then began talking about the building blocks for Mission. Because no one had yet begun drafting a Mission Narrative (based on previous week's work), Harriet Siller, Chair of the Parish Council, volunteered to try. After each building block was discussed, those present voted on how much effort the Parish should put into each.

Building Blocks for mission:

Evangelization (pages 26-30 of mission workbook)

- The Parish could be segmented into different groups with differing needs. Reach out to school families, young adults differently.
- A need for **intentionality** in Parish evangelization efforts was mentioned
- Issues with divisions in the parish (3 separate parishes present at St. Helen—Polish-speaking, English-speaking, & School communities. Difficulties in integrating these were described.
- Maybe approach Evangelization through service

How much should our parish focus on evangelization?	
much more	18 (90% of those voting)
somewhat more	2 (10% of those voting)
keep the same	0
do less	0

Taken from poster-sized post-its...

Group #3

Share our faith with positivity
Personal experiences
Examples/Actions not necessarily words
Holy Spirit being present & understanding each other—no matter what language
Service

Group #1

Be more welcoming to Parishioners
Cultivate more community
Motivate parishioners to develop their personal relationship with Christ
Base community-building activities to be here at St. Helens

Social activities:

Euchre nights
potluck dinners
service projects in/around the neighborhood

Faith-Based activities:

Encyclical discussions
“Back-to-Basics” of Church traditions
Community building/Social justice discussions (current issues)

Group #2 didn't write anything down.

Catechesis (pages 31-34)

- The school does a good job with catechesis for its students
- We need both adult & youth catechesis because lack of basic knowledge about the faith is main source of low appreciation for the Catholic faith/ low Mass attendance, etc. (Important to reintroduce fundamentals because the younger generation never learned their faith all that well.).
- Maybe there should be a Family Mass more often (e.g. once a month rather than quarterly) to reach out to both children & parents w/r/t their faith.

How much should our parish focus on Catechesis compared to current efforts?	
much more	24 (96% of those voting)
somewhat more	1 (4% of those voting)
keep the same	0
do less	0

Taken from poster-sized post-its...

Group #1

Activity ideas:

Discussion groups to bring the preaching “off the pulpit”

-About Catholic teaching/ traditions

-For Adults/youth

****Idea.*

Student Mass once per or every other month with parishioners in charge of liturgy

-Builds unification

-Increase bilingual initiatives

Active participation in the Mass.

Groups #2 & 3 didn't write anything down

Prayer & Worship (pages 35-38)

- Comments about possible need for bilingual liturgies/devotions (e.g. Stations of the Cross)
- Emphasis should be placed on teaching people about their faith; Prayer and worship will then follow naturally once people understand the fundamentals of what they profess & believe.

How much should our parish focus on Prayer & Worship compared to current efforts?	
much more	3 (17% of those voting)
somewhat more	15 (83% of those voting)
keep the same	0
do less	0

No groups wrote anything down on post-itswe were short on time...