

Dear Parishioners,

Thank you so much for your response to the parish survey. To date, 117 households representing 170 people have responded. As always, the survey reflects that Little Flower is a prayerful, generous parish in both resources and time.

There were several reasons that this survey was conducted: first, to let parishioners know that their opinions are welcomed and considered. Secondly, to get some idea of what our parishioners and commissions are already doing by way of evangelization. Finally, it was hoped that it would be a good reminder of the ways we can evangelize; we also felt it would be supportive because it reflects, as we suspected, that a large number of parishioners are involved in these corporal and spiritual works of mercy. Listed below are a few of the items that had a large percentage of positive responses:

- Feed the hungry/ give drink to the thirsty – 531 positive responses in this category
- Those formally involved in instructing individuals and counseling the doubtful – 100 people
- Pray daily for the living and the dead –almost 100% of responders pray daily, but 25% of responders attend mass during the week, and 40% say the rosary, novenas and other prayerful practices, and fast and sacrifice.

The Pastoral Council has passed on all personal remarks and comments about the music program to the appropriate person or group in their entirety. (The challenge of finding a music director has been more difficult than we expected.)

All other comments are published here and they will also be sent to the appropriate commission or organization to be addressed in the near future. Obviously, all requests cannot be met, but all can certainly be discussed for practicality and response.

It is our hope that by asking for feedback and being transparent, the parishioners will realize that Pastor and Pastoral Council are striving to make Little Flower a welcoming, responsive parish.

Survey Results

I might be more involved in the parish if:...

- if I were younger (13 responses)
- I had more time (5 responses)
- I felt more welcomed by parish groups
- I saw fresh faces; the same people are always involved.
- there were more child facilities
- more younger parishioners would step up and volunteer for the ministries
- there was an open line of communications via suggestion boxes, email, conversation with council members
- there were more activities throughout the year that involve entire parish community
- there were public announcements sign up for opportunities to become more involved in parish activities.
- I lived closer
- parishioners' wishes and opinions were respected more

Tabernacle:

- Please move the tabernacle back to its prior location - 2
- Move the tabernacle to a place of higher reverence to remind us of the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist - 3
- Open the church for private prayer during daytime hours (then the tabernacle space would make more sense.)

Crucifix Light the beautiful crucifix as it always was. Put the American flag on the side of the altar again.

Other thoughts:

- Since 9:00 Sunday Mass has minimal attendance, would it be possible to have a Sunday afternoon Mass replace it, or only have one Sunday afternoon liturgy?
- Can we increase the number of Eucharistic ministers, greeters, and readers?
- Could there be a monthly community Mass in Spanish? Reaching out to minorities should grow the parish and enrich us as a community
- Include a section in our bulletin devoted to learning something new about our faith.
- In reference to St. Vincent de Paul, do not build the wall in garage. It will hinder operations (2 responses)
- Compose a new "outreach" letter listing groups and works that they do with contacts as a renewal to commitments to the new year
- I've been an active member of the parish for years; I attended LFS as did my children. During these years, I was very active. Now it's my turn to take it easy. I am thankful for the computer Masses
- The church is too cold; the air conditioning is running when it's cold outside.
- I no longer feel connected to the parish; I go to other parishes and their Masses feel more meaningful. Since the tabernacle has been moved, I'm afraid it will be taken out altogether.
- As a family, we observe people in need more than "working the system."

- There has been no mention of voting or praying for the most important election thus far. There is no mention of life issues being important. It is important to speak up and not be silent about these things.
- People in the parish have, after years of service, burnt out and stepped back
- After 40 years of active participation, the recent developments in music and the pace of the Mass have affected me deeply
- Our family financially supports many religious organizations: other parishes, archdiocesan and other charitable organizations.
- I would like information on how the Pastoral Counsel is selected and the terms they serve. Does being on one commission or ministry keep you from serving on another?
- I don't care for the term "brethren;" an all- inclusive term should be used

Unrecognized needs:

- Bereavement group needs more members to assist with phone calls and notes.
- Bereavement group requests that more parishioners attend funerals.
- We need publication and sign up opportunities to join ministries and other activities that provide service in the parish
- A cry room in the back to assist new parents; this will help parish members and lessen frazzled emotions
- St. Vincent de Paul, at times, needs help to prepare or distribute food items, etc.
- I need prayerful support – 3 people. I need prayer for relief from the pain in my back
- Return the holy water fountain to its original place; it is too hard to reach
- More parish involvement in the Pro-Life movement. Include in the intercessions prayers for those have suffered from the loss of a child through abortion
- There is a need for a Eucharistic ministry to shut-ins and create coordinating contact person were publicized

Other activities suggested:

- Sponsor child in 3rd world country
- Fill Power Pack with food for kids
- Organize a coat drive at place of employment
- Sponsor daily meditation
- Sponsor daily prayer for those who are mentally ill
- Facilitate Alzheimer caregiver support groups 2
- Furnish bibles to the jail chaplain
- Have more activities in October for Respect for Life Month
- Involvement in Project Rachel Ministry

Recognitions:

Claire's planned workshops and educational opportunities are appreciated

Sr. Jacinta does good work in the Bereavement support group

The St. Vincent de Paul Society is the gem in our parish

Thank you, Father, for being willing to listen to our opinions

Survey Confirms Parish Vitality

A few months ago, the Little Flower Pastoral Council asked the parish commissions, committees and groups to share the ways they support our Parish Mission and Vision Statements. As expected, the reports showed that all of them are fulfilling the parish mission and manifesting its vision in ways that prove we are a vibrant, transformative faith community. Because the extent of their activities and achievements is not fully known to everyone in the parish, a few highlights from the survey are in order.

Men's Society. "While our identity is mainly social, we provide a Catholic faith-based environment in which our members gather on a regular basis to pray and to support each other by discussing various family, parish, community or social concerns." This expression was followed by a long list of actions and benefits that the Men's Society brings to the parish, such as purchasing lector books, funding parish work and honoring parishioners whose service to the parish is outstanding.

Worship Commission. Promoting spirit-filled worship is at the heart of this group's work. Currently, this commission is committed to learning about and implementing new ways to promote the evangelizing potential of liturgy. It is also focused on enhancing the contributions of liturgical ministers and a revitalized music ministry.

Parish Life Committee. This group fosters "an unconditional love of Jesus Christ by providing an atmosphere of hospitality and openness to the parish community and beyond." From organizing the Lenten Soup Suppers, sponsoring our Hospitality Sundays, supporting our connection to the Sisters in Madagascar and many other "words and deeds" that carry out the parish mission and vision, this committee is a life-affirming force in our parish.

Old Timers. This group provides recreational and social opportunities for its members (parish men 35 and older) and their families, while maintaining the parish ballfields and outside concession stand, along with other services to the parish. The Christian fellowship this group encourages is reinforced by its interactions with like-minded groups from numerous other parishes.

Peace and Justice Commission. This commission vigorously appries parish members on the call to be responsible citizens with a well-formed Christian conscience, to be effective stewards of the natural world, to support aid to refugees, the homeless and the needy, as well as learn more about the Church's teaching on Social Justice.

Faith Formation Commission. This commission is studying and promoting the principles of adult spirituality and spiritual growth, encouraging a knowledge and understanding of the Bible, making resources related to Church teaching available and supporting sound sacramental preparation. It also

helps enliven the parish's celebration of feast days and the observance of events on the liturgical calendar.

Bereavement Support Group. This group brings comfort and assistance when the loss of a loved one can be overwhelming. Although helping with arrangements for a funeral Mass is the most practical and urgent form of this group's assistance, it also provides a group setting to support parishioners during the process of grieving.

The survey also revealed that all of the commissions, committees in groups have plans to continue their work, to grow in their efforts and enact specific steps as outlined in their strategies or sets of goals.