

Written Responses to the *Be Missionary Disciples* Survey (2015)

3208 - St. Francis of Assisi (Brunswick)

These written responses should be read in conjunction with the accompanying survey report.

Q2: Other than your home parish, which other parishes do you attend?

- Holy Family Catholic Communit
- St MAry Petersville
- St Marys Petersville,Md.
- St. John Frederick, MD
- St. John the Apostle, Leesburg, VA
- St. John, Frederick
- st. Johns
- St. Mary's

Q11: Languages spoken at home

- Burmese/Chin

Q13a: If you have children under 18, how do your children receive a religious education?

- Baptist Church

Q13b: If you have children under 18, which of the following faith-based activities do you do with your children?

- remind them that god is good

Q15: How would someone know you are a Christian?

- Belong to CDA
- Blessings at every meal even with guests
- Charity begins in my home with family members in need

Q17: What do you feel are the greatest obstacles to being able to talk about faith with others?

- especially my children, no longer practicing Catholics

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- I don't feel my church really puts evangelism at the forefront of their thinking.
- N/A
- Others view of the balance between conversation and coercion

Q18: What does the term "evangelization" mean to you?

- Going "outside" the church and compelling them to come in.

Q19: Think of a person who you know has left the Catholic Church or is thinking about doing so. With that person in mind, which of the following do you believe are the 2 or 3 most important reasons they left or might leave?

- clergy who are bureaucratic or canon law orientated instead of pastoral for their sheep
- Doesn't believe you need to go to church to talk with God/be forgiven
- spouse not Catholic
- The church moving backwards from the advancement of Vatican II
- too busy
- Unable to discern entertainment from faith

Q20: Think of a person who you know has left the Catholic Church or is thinking about doing so. With that person in mind, which of the following do you believe are the 2 or 3 most important reasons they left or might leave?

- Lift them up to the Holy Spirit to do his work with them

Q23: There are many ways that people grow in their spiritual life and practice aside from going to Mass. Please check the ways in which your spiritual life is nourished.

- I am a secular Carmelite

Q24: What is the one thing you could do to enhance your spiritual life?

- Be less critical of church bishops.
- be more reflective on God's Word in the bible
- bible study

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- daily mass/better discipline
- Do more spiritual reading/study
- Encourage people who no longer attend mass or receive the sacraments to return to church.
- Give more of myself to others in ways that they need help
- go on a retreat
- Go to confession more often and church functions
- go to confession more often
- Have a spiritual director.
- Have more exposure to the other Rites of the Catholic Church
- help others more
- help the poor and elderly more
- I think a greater participation in service projects would help enhance my spiritual life.
- I wish I knew how to talk more about my faith.
- Increased Spiritual Reading, more involvement in ministries outside of the parish
- Join a prayer group or have a prayer partner.
- joint volunteer groups
- Live my faith all of the time.
- Look for possibilities to Let Go and Let the Holy Spirit lead me. This requires finding times for quiet listening for myself and to others.
- making more/dedicated time/place to pray
- Meditate more
- More Spiritual Reading/Reflection
- not sure
- One thing I would like to do is to get more out of Mass.
- Participate in bible study if I had more time
- Pay more attention to it.
- Pray more and help others. I guess that is two things. Prayer.
- Pray more (*2 instances*)
- pray the rosary more
- pray
- Reach out to the sick and the homebound.
- Read and study the bible more
- read more spiritual books

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- Read the writings of the early church fathers.
- reading bible more
- Religious group
- Retire so that I would have more time to participate in my parish.
- Spiritual reading and reflection on a regular basis.
- stay open minded
- Take better care of myself.
- theological instruction
- To learn more about the lives of the saints and to be encouraged through their daily lives and struggles.
- Work to help the needy.

Q25: What is the one thing the parish could do to help you enhance your spiritual life?

- adult education opportunities
- announce outreach more at the end of mass
- Be more open to evangelizing non-catholics.
- be more open to ideas
- Bring more young people / young adults with children into the parish by having fun events and communicating them!
- Continue to exist
- Continue to welcome and encourage
- Daily Mass and regular Eucharistic adoration.
- Evening spiritual activities.
- Explain the historical facts so that I can accept things internally.
- For the future, have a Children's Mass.
- Go back to how we treated mass when I was younger. This would increase the respect that I believe the church and God have lost some what of over the years. Stop changing things to meet the people's needs while sacrificing Gods needs and wants.
- Have a facility large enough to accommodate larger groups for functions for the youth. Other churches have so many things for the youth. Also a place to have fund raisers for the church, a place for bible study meetings etc.
- Have a Latin Mass.

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- Have a meeting hall where parishioners could get together socially. This would expand the interaction of our "family" from "just praying together" to doing other things together. Currently, once Mass is over, everyone just leaves the church and goes home because there is no place to gather socially.
- have adoration more often, also adult classes such as Symbolon held in the evening for people who can't get to bible study during the day; better CCD classes for children so they understand that Catholic means 'the first christian church established by Jesus and his disciples'; then incorporate the beautiful stories of the saints and the miracles and help them 'fall in love' with their faith.
- Have more events that are both prayerful and social.
- Have more outreach opportunities.
- Have small groups or activities to help learn about our faith with others.
- I am not sure that a parish or anyone can enhance an individual's spiritual life--they have free will. A person has to be willing and ready to receive that enhancement--and no one program or event can magically do that.
- I am not sure.
- i dony know
- I love this little parish and drive out from DC to attend it and take my aged mother and father there every chance I can.
- I really don't know
- Interesting and varied adult formation program
- make programs more available for adults
- More gathering together
- More prayer opportunities (bible studies, book clubs)
- no answer
- Not sure
- Nothing, really.
- Nothing.
- offer bible study + lessons
- pray the rosary before mass more often than one month of the year
- Provide opportunities to participate in activities that allow me to help others. Notification or sponsorship of events, retreats, or service projects would help.
- small group activities at times working & family folks can actually participate.
- They are trying, size at times does make a difference.

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- To continue teaching us about our Catholic faith in the Sunday homilies; (which is now happening) and preaching about the history of our faith and what are its roots are and how they evolved from our Jewish brothers and sisters. I am glad we no longer have homilies about time, talent, and treasure every week. I am glad we know have deacons who explain the readings to us.

Q26: Do you have any specific suggestions for ways to improve or broaden the appeal of adult faith formation opportunities in this parish?

- Ask what the parishoners would like
- Child care offered at fun events say St. Patrick's day and other Saints feast days.
- I'm not sure what the faith formation program presents, so I can't
- More interaction with sister parish.
- New converts that naturally go to faith formation "discipleship classes.
- Notification or sponsorship of activities such as retreats or opportunities to serve.
- Offer adult evening faith formation programs.
- We have unsuccessfully tried different AFF ideas. Not sure if parishioners are interested
- We miss Father Larry

Q27: There are many reasons why people may not attend church everyweek. Other than the occasional illness or vacation, please seelct from the list below the most common reason(s) why you or people you know might not attend church at this parish on any given weekend.

- Children' sports haave taken the place of religion.
- lazy
- NA
- our clergy should be talking about Life issues, beginning with conception and end of life
- Too much past exposure to preachers with no passion for the truth.
- Unless Father Limmer gives the sermon, it's just words that last til the 10:30 mark.
- Young people are too busy and married young people w kids are under a lot of time pressures.

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Q35: In which of the following areas could the parish give you the most support, either now or in the future?

- would like to have adoration of the blessed sacrament more often

Q37: How would you characterize your experience in contributing your time and talent to the parish?

- I was told that I should stop going to confession until my annulment is settled. I don't get involved, because I am not sure where the lines are drawn around me.
- I would like to do more but my health slows me down.
- New to the parish but intend to be more involved as and EME and letor as I grow to know the parish better
- unable due to health conditions

Q43: There are many reasons why some parishes might choose or need to work collaboratively with other parishes. Based on your experience, in which of the following areas would it make the most sense to work collaboratively with another parish - to achieve a better experience, higher participation, or cost savings?

- Costs
- our office staff is not open; too secretive

Q44: Do you have any suggestions for other parishes that this parish ought to consider collaborating with?

- (Obviously) Holy Family, Middletown
- Child and Youth Ministries need to be enhanced and given special attention for the future growth of the Church both in Disciples and in future vocations!
- Currently assigned with Holy Family Catholic Community in Middletown.
- Holy Family Catholic Community / St. Joseph on Carrollton Manor
- Holy family in Middletown
- Holy Family of Middletown, since Msgr Jaskot is already our Administrator.
- Holy Family, Middletown MD
- holy family
- I would like us to do more family friendly activities. We need to get our youth involved.

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- no (6 instances)
- NONE (2 instances)
- One of the reasons I attend this church (and it is not St. Francis in Brunswick but the adjoined St. Mary's on Catholic Church Road that I attend) is because it is a small, welcoming country church and Father Limmer is a great priest. His homilies are always the best and really well thought out. Always gives food for thought.
- parish is small and perhaps joining with another parish would be better. The parish is too small and does not have the financial resources to do everything by itself.
- Service opportunities such as volunteering or retreats.
- St Francis/St Mary should and does collaborate with Holy Family of Middletown.
- St. Francis and St. Mary's is collaborative; we are two churches, one parish. However, there are separate issues with each that need to be addressed such as parking and a social space.
- St. Joseph; Holy Family
- St. Joseph's on Carrolton Manor and Holy Family. St. Joseph's might bring more young people into our parish.
- We do not have a resident Priest for our two churches. We rely on retired Priest. Sad that Priest who have come to a time when they have earned retirement can no longer do so. Our Priest is a great man who always has a smile and a sence of humor.
- We have an old church and this should be shared vs the new and bling bling church's.

Youth Survey Q12: What is the one thing you personally could do to follow Jesus more?

- pray more often, especially before bed and meals
- pray more (2 instances)

Youth Survey Q13: What is the one thing your parish could do to help you follow Jesus more?

- some sort of "children's mass" that is geared more towards kids

Youth Survey Q18: What types of issues are you dealing with at school, with your friends or family, or with your faith that people in the parish might be able to help you with?

- no