

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

3218 - Holy Family Catholic Community

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?

- Central City, PA
- Holy Savior (Ocean City, MD.)
- Sacred Hear of Jesus
- St. James, Boonsboro; St. Josphe, Buckeystown
- St. Patrick

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

- I do talk about religion with other Catholic friends. don't feel comfrtable to talk about religion with non Catholics or strangers.
- In general, the loudest and showiest are the most fake and untrustworthy. Evil, even.
- Situation needs to be appropriate

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?

- Being judged & condemned
- Disagreements/conflicts with parish staff and other parishoners

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?

- I can't think of anything.
- Show them by example

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.

- Doing for others

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- Member of Secular Franciscan Order
- Reading Christian stories
- Spiritual Director

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

- Attend daily Mass as often as possible
- Be even more thankful
- Be more patient and concerned with others needs
- Continue what I am doing now
- Enhancing spiritual life for me is a multi-faceted, ongoing challenge to act according to God's will; act in such a way that my faith is clearly evident to anyone around me. I suppose that getting rid of self righteousness and vengeance would enhance my spiritual life.
- Help someone in need
- Interact more with those in need and pray more
- ir a grupo de oraciones
- Learn how to pray better
- Listen small talk
- Make even more time to read God's Word
- Not sure.
- Pray more and listen to hear God talking to me
- Pray More (2 instances)
- Reach out to those in need more often
- read scripture more regularly
- read the Bible more
- Reading scripture (2 instances)
- Set aside focus time
- Take time out to contemplate.
- try to attend mass every day
- Work harder to make Jesus Christ the center of all that I do.

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

- Attempt to relate the scripture and the church teachings to current everyday living experience
- Book/bible study for young professionals
- Encourage outreach programs that include the participation of other faith communities
- have more bible study groups
- have priest give homily not deacon
- I am very satisfied with my parish. We have many, many activities to choose for deepening spiritual life.
- I don't know?
- I feel my parish does a good job of offering ways to enhance your spiritual life and it's up to me and my schedule to take advantage.
- Keep Mass, Mass! Stop taking surveys, or talking about money issues half way thru Mass. If you need to say something additional, send out a flyer.
- Make homilies more interesting. Bring in samples, stories or experiences related to the gospel reading. I'm okay with it, however, some think or complain that the mass is too long and has become too drawn out. If the closing hymn is patriotic everyone seems to stay and finish singing. Also, the new hymns are hard to get use too. People don't like change.
- Make me more aware of the ways available to enrich my spiritual life. Mass time, support groups, use of parish library etc. through "gentle" reminders
- Make the homily pertain to every day concerns - not just thru scripture
- Nothing right now.
- Other priests
- Provide more family friendly volunteer activities. It's hard to find volunteer activities for the elementary school ages.
- Remember that those of us who do not navigate modern technology will still matter
- Small discussion groups
- Small groups
- The parish/pastor does an excellent job of giving us opportunities and information to foster our spiritual journey. Fr. Rob frequently preaches about "what we need to know, and what we need to do". The rest is up to us.

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

- Alpha - small groups
- Alpha Participation type programs
- creo que si los ministros dijeres fueran mas amables sin tener preferencias
- Go back to church basics.
- Our Pastor great leader- but not good spiritual director. To much his way or the hi-way
- Remember that an older segment of the parish prefer daytime experiences
- Schedule aduly faith formation on Saturdays during the daytime; I work full time during the week; I am too tired to attend formation at night on weekdeays.

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.

- Exhaustion
- I never miss Mass. I always attend at either Holy Family or another parish if schedules and/or activities require that to happen.
- illness
- married non catholic
- mass times
- Mass too long and too much singing. Acoustics sometimes not good and can't hear deacon or priest's sermon
- Recent petition at Mass was said "may people being martyred serve as an example to others." Examples of WHAT!?! exactly? Our heritage is under attack. Oh, and the music is horrid; must we let every amateur guitar strummer and reedy-voiced singer a platform? And I don't appreciate the silly verbiage changes to the service. I was simply more compelling to give "thanks and praise" to a God of "power and might" than to a "Lord of hosts" only because it's "right and just." I've read the rationales given for the changes.
- Tired of feeling guilty while trying to live as well as I can

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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?

- catholic church can not fix all the social problems. Focus on offering God's love. He will reach out to them with healing.
- I'm pretty sure I wouldn't turn to my parish for any of these, at least not first. Oh, and are you talking about legal or illegal immigrants?
- Remember that we are each a person - not just an email address

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

- " contribute my time and talent to my family. If all the volunteers would focus on their own families there would be less social problems to fix.
- At the risk of admitting that I make my employment more of a priority, I don't contribute my time as a result of my work schedule. I am lacking in this regard.
- I do what I can when I can
- I don't have time or talent to contribute

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

- All Middletown parishes- ex: thanksgiving service
- Frederick - Washington Co. nearby parishes
- I know it is a bit of a conflict to embrace Lutheran teachings, but I do know some good people at Zion Lutheran. Also, MUMC (Middletown United Methodist Church).
- Parishes in western Frederick County

Youth Survey Q8: How do you learn about your faith?

- all of the above

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

- go to church more often
- I could participate in mass more /
- pray

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

- differen mass times
- Nothing /

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?

- peer pressure
- We are not taught English very well