

Parish Discernment Process

Report for November 7, 2015

Part 1.

What are the parish strengths?

1. Welcoming Community
2. Leadership
 - Caring, responsible, hardworking clergy (shepherds)
3. Outreach
 - Social justice – globally and locally
4. Financial stability
5. Lay involvement

What are your parish limitations and difficulties?

1. Ageing – able to do less
2. Youth – need to attract and involve them more
 - They are there in the schools – just need to connect with them and invite them to become more present in the parish community.
3. Volunteers – a few seem to be doing much and yet many say they would like to help
4. New parishioners – attracting and activating
5. Occasional Catholics – encouraging more activity in the parish community

What are your opportunities?

1. Work in the schools
2. Missions – opportunities for parishioners learn and be involved
3. Sense of belonging
4. Dedication of all the people that are involved

What are your threats, fears and risks?

1. Age – the average age of those who filled in survey is 63
2. Young families don't have time.
3. Societies values – faith – where does it fit?
 - The needs people feel for the Spiritual that we can best serve as Church and Parish
4. Loss of the Holy Cross Fathers

Part 2:

What areas in your parish life do you need to work on?

1. Attract youth and young families
2. Outreach to occasional Catholics
3. Faith formation for adults
4. Recruit volunteers for Ministries (formulate a renewal process)
5. Work with consistency

What means do you have to assist you in working on the survey results and directions?

1. Financial and personnel are there.
2. Great wealth of responses on survey and great number of good ideas given

How do you see your parish moving forward given the results of the parish survey?

1. Discernment team take these concerns to the Pastoral Council.
2. Pastoral Council forming a team to act on the questions and concerns which have arisen from the survey.
3. Establishing a process of communication of the results of the survey to parishioners and providing them with a proposed plan to work on our needs.