

Parish Discernment Process
December 12, 2015

Pastor and 2 members of Discernment Committee to discuss:

1. Strategy for implementing results of Parish Survey
2. Communication with the Parish especially regarding Survey results.

In discussion it was decided that the Pastoral Council will step in to facilitate the needs of the Parish.

Our survey indicated that the top two priorities are:
to increase Children, Youth and Family involvement in the Parish
and to increase Volunteers in the Church Ministries.

The 5 top areas in our parish life that need to be worked on (according to the survey) are:

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 and planning of procedure.

We are proposing the following:

Organization:

1. Team leaders
2. Ministries
Identify ministry and leader. Leaders to call a meeting for an evaluation of their ministry:
 - a. what is working
 - b. what needs improving
 - c. how can the parish help
3. Communication
A process for communicating what is planned and what is happening to the people
4. Timeline
5. Priorities

Other ideas:

Children, Youth and Family

The setting of a committee including our Youth Minister, Children's Liturgy Co-ordinator, a representative to our High School and a Family Facilitator.

This committee will be a working group to help overlap the ministries for maximum involvement.

Each leader would be responsible for their specific group but working together, they would be able to draw from the other groups. For example when Youth Ministry is working on the Autumn Hike, the Family Facilitator, and Children's Liturgy might be invited to help promote and participate in this activity.

Also, this would help with the cross over effect, with children and teens being directed to continue with activities in the church as they mature.

Involvement of our Youth in Music Ministry might also be a cross over for our Elementary and High School students.

Volunteers in the Church Ministries

The ongoing need for volunteers is evident. Yet many of our survey results indicated that people wanted to volunteer. While it would be great to ask each one individually if they are interested in joining a ministry, with our numbers it is practically impossible. One solution would be a "Ministry Fair" with each one having a table to explain their group, and invite people to sign on to help with that particular ministry.

Volunteer Appreciation – having Mass and Reception to thank our present volunteers as well as inviting new volunteers to attend.

Survey Results

Using the synopsis of the results of the survey, we suggest publishing a weekly update on each different area to be presented to the Parish in our Sunday Bulletin. A special indication of what we are doing well, as well as what we can do to improve our Parish Community.