

October 11, 2018 Parish Gathering

Some comments were assigned to specific Commissions and/or teams for consideration and action (if deemed necessary). Text in RED is the response from the appropriate Commission.

Key: CF = Christian Formation, HC - Human Concerns, P&W = Prayer & Worship, FC=Finance Council, PD = Parish Director, PC = Pastoral Council, WS = Worship Space Team, B&G = Building & Grounds

What's Working:

Getting a more diverse parish and attracting more younger families. Wonderful development.

Many opportunities for growth --- religious education, outreach, emphasis on justice, welcoming atmosphere. Drew me here and keep me here.

We are not over decorated. Keep it simple. Some churches are over-decorated.

Profoundly beautiful this parish has kept to its founding spirit...Social Justice and a parish of the community of the world.

Very welcoming!

Good decision to move to two Masses on a weekend. More vibrant.

The pregnant Mary in the Narthex.

(CF) GOF program is excellent. Would like to see more people in my (older) age group to find out what younger families are doing and pass on wisdom of the elders.

CFC ideas and reactions:

- We already try very hard to inform the parish that GoF is for everyone – all ages, all families, all households. One thing we have been doing recently is trying to use the work household instead of family. Family gives us more of a vision of children.
- We talked about the fact that people are more likely to come to GoF if they have been personally invited by someone else who already attends GoF.
- We talked about the possibility of sending invites to those without children in the parish. We already do send the registration with a letter explaining the program to every household in the parish but maybe we could send an extra invite. On that invite, maybe we could have some quotes from some of the other parishioners who participate in GoF that do not have children and tell people to contact them with questions too.
- The Spotlight faithful attenders would probably be a group that would also love GoF so maybe we could work on more advertising with Spotlight.

Also, when we do our big push for registrations during the summer and have a table in back of church, make sure that some of our older parishioners without children are at the table to help us advertise.

(Adult Formation) In the Spotlight is amazing --- saddened not as much attendance. Perhaps have several in the evening in response to the need raised around evening meetings.

1. Movie being offered at end of January
2. We're looking into evening programming during Lent

St. James parishioners raved about how they loved Sandy.

The Youth Group, work camp opportunities and all that Corinna is doing.

The Gay and Straight Ministry. One person shared they have been attending here because of this ministry.

72 ministries and groups. Celebration of Ministries dinner brings 200 people each year. Among the highest number of ministries in the Arch and among the highest % - 20% - volunteers. Over 3000 volunteer hours in the Youth Program alone.

Areas of Opportunities:

(FC) Have heard that we are overstaffed. It would be helpful to let people know that only most are part-time. (Note: Technically we have 5 full time staff members.) If we were to consider staff cutback we may need to also ask what would we do without? Need to educate. Highlight positions to the parishioners know what the staff do. They do 100 times more than what we are aware of. Their gifts to us are very valuable and if we lose them – what will we do without. We need to add Tony to the list. Need to publicize it – communicate it. And don't forget Deacon Sandy.

Please see the response from the 10/6/2018 Parish Gathering. Our staff works very hard to support all the various needs of the Parish. From the input we received at the Parish Gatherings, we can understand that there may be a number of parishioners unaware of all the various ministries and outreach our parish does. We will work to communicate information about all of the work being done to support the Parish.

(P&W) Some of the artwork we have is not diverse. Obviously a Caucasian. It doesn't need to be a specific race– all are welcome. Question around what diversity is being referred to. Response was just human forms – abstract. Possibly a silhouettes.

We talked about all the artwork in and around the church, which isn't much. We couldn't identify any that portrayed caucasians specifically, and pointed out that our Mary statue is not a white woman. We will be mindful going forward when adding artwork in church and print, that it be diverse.

(Adult Formation) Wasn't initially attracted to GS because I could not identify prayer groups --- spiritual type meetings that meet in the evening for people that work during the day. Jane Clare responded with several examples of opportunities to meet.

(PD, PC, FC) Need for leaders to speak to moral issues. The message referred to was really around faith and politics. We have a community here that can do that. Sandy has raised these issues from the pulpit. Have an opportunity for people to discuss issues. Real issues are intra-faith.

Our Parish is known for our support of Catholic Social Teachings. All of the leaders in our Parish are encouraged to speak on issues related to Catholic Social Teachings.

(P&W) Wouldn't it be wonderful if we had an opportunity to discuss the homily and message after Mass...perhaps with a potluck breakfast. Suggestion was made to come to GOF for food and spiritual conversation.

Sister Joann noted that many parishioners go out to eat after Mass for fellowship and spiritual conversation. Perhaps we could encourage more groups to form or for those in established groups to invite more to join.

(Adult Formation) The session around Women Celebrating the Spirit could be used as a template for other sessions. 40 minutes presentation, 10 minutes discussing at tables, 10 minutes open discussion.

Correction: It is not Women Celebrating the Spirit that use the 40 10 10 time design for discussion. It's Spotlight.

(All) There was a comment about how to find out what the parish offers. Sandy explained that we have multiple communication channels available: the Bulletin, Baking Bread, the Website, the App, Facebook, step announcements, the screens in the church. We should utilize ALL channels more effectively.

As Deacon Sandy said, there are a lot of communication channels to find out what the parish offers. We could update the Ministry Directory and distribute it after Mass.

(Adult Formation) A session for married couples that isn't necessarily "Catholic" with child care provided would be welcomed.

We're working on bringing back the very popular and successful Date Your Mate program for couples – 10 months/ 10 dates – will be starting in June 2019.

(WS) When visiting the worship space design upgrade considerations --- perhaps consider open it up with a sky-light.

The original team looking at possible worship space enhancements gathered input from all parish leadership teams and staff to determine which enhancements would be most highly desired. One of the top items being considered is to lighten the design of the east wall emphasizing the focal point of the sanctuary. Much more information will be shared with all parishioners as this work continues.

Asked about automatic doors. It was shared that the doors to the ramp do have this ability.

It could be a challenge to keep up the number of ministries and volunteers.

(FC/Stewardship) Perhaps calculating and communicating a cost of membership to provide the services per family or person. Perhaps we could establish a goal or expectation.

We have been working to make the financial status and requirements of our Parish open and known to all Parishioners. Recent inclusions in mailings and inserts in Breaking Bread have included information about our financial status and needs. There is no “cost of membership”. Membership in a parish includes active financial support and participation, as much as one is able. A “calculated” amount would not be compatible with Sacrificial Giving. In this years Financial Update, the suggestion was an increase of \$4.25 per month per family would offset the 2018-19 anticipated deficit. We truly feel that is adequate guidance for all.

(B&G) A privacy screen in front of the restroom doors – especially for parishioners using a wheelchair and/or walkers.

We are investigating alternatives to provide this type of privacy screen.

Need to be aware and sensitive to the demands placed on our Parish Director.

After the meeting, I was told that our priests do a great job, but this person had a concern about the ages of the priests and what we will do for priests when they retire.