

October 11, 2018 Parish Gathering

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.

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.

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.

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:

Have heard that we are overstaffed. It would be helpful to let people know that only **most are** part-time. **(DCN SANDY NOTE - NOT INTENDED TO STAY IN THE FINAL VERSION OF NOTES: Saying specifically three are full time is subjective - see previous emails. 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.**

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

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

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.

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

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

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.