

Parish Family Input Review

“What are our gifts?”

Synthesis sheet for PFAC members

Reviewers: Shari Mentel, Paula Dey Synthesis author: Paula Dey

Parish Family:3 Parish represented in report: St. Charles

Almost without exception, the surveys named a welcoming and comfortable atmosphere at St. Charles that led to an increased interest in worship and ways to participate in the parish. There was a sense of community that “helped me to feel freer to share my faith story” and easier to help in other ministries. One parishioner had been “hesitant to attend a mass after 53 years away but it was so wonderful” going on to mention how very welcoming and supportive folks were to newcomers. Another shared that “the Icons front and center pointed to the extended family feeling” that others mentioned. The next common observation was on the progress that St. Charles has made to connect with the Hispanic community and appreciate the occasional bilingual mass. The bulk of the surveys returned were from parishioners who are currently volunteering, and all expressed a hope that more of the parish become involved. Finally, the Tri Parish Food Bank was spoken of as a wonderful blessing to our parish family.

In so far as suggestions, several senior parishioners wished there was a way to hear and understand what was said during the mass for those with hearing loss.

Synthesis Review Sheet

What are our gifts

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Parish Family: 3 Parishes Represented in Report: **St. Charles**

Please list the themes related to the questions, “How have your experiences in our parish (and your experience of the parish’s gifts and charisms) brought you closer to God? What has been spiritual impact of your participation in our parish?”

1. Easy opportunities to grow in faith through various ministries such as Lector, Usher and Eucharist, etc.
2. Access to Bible Study with quality leadership.
3. Friendly and warm welcome to all, especially new parishioners with invitations to join church related groups, making new Catholic friends. Good social networking.
4. Music ministry has grown, and more singing is happening.
5. Growing connections to our Hispanic members and bilingual Masses.

Please list the themes related to the questions, “If you had to describe the main gifts and charisms of our parish to a newcomer in one sentence, what would you say? What is your favorite part about being a parishioner? What stands out to you as something to be proud of?”

1. Atmosphere which is described as “family like”, “cozy” and unpretentious and welcoming to all.
2. Inclusive of those of different cultures.
3. Bilingual Masses and joint celebrations.
4. Tri Parish Food Bank and good opportunities to volunteer.
5. Small parish that feels safe and non-threatening with pleasant grounds and worship space.

Key quotes or suggestions worth noting in synthesis:

1. Warmth of congregation and the feeling of an extended family.
2. Broad appreciation of the Priests who minister to the Valley (although some members with hearing issues wish they could hear and understand better).
3. Those who are already involved in St. Charles’ ministries are impressed with the positive difference from other parishes they have served at.