

St. Bernadette Parish Survey

TODAY'S FOCUS: MINISTRIES, OUTREACH & COMMUNICATION

THE APPROACH

The Parish Council believed it was essential to take a “big picture” view of our community. To accomplish this, parishioners were asked to identify activities and practices that should be continued, started, and/or stopped. Now that the results are in, the goal is to engage people whose skills and talents will make this a positive process that leads to meaningful long-term success.

AN OVERVIEW

150 respondents (about 5% of parishioners)

The data collected fit generally into four broad categories (in descending order):

1. Music and Liturgy
2. Religious Education
3. Ministries and Outreach
4. Parish Budget and Finances

Many responses were passionate and expressed heartfelt opinions. Parish Council is, and has been, working to address them.

A SAMPLING OF COMMENTS

- “Continue ministries like Prayer Shawl, Health, Card, Warming Shelter, Rummage Sale, Mission, Human Concerns, etc.”
- “We should stop all the handshaking.”
- “Actively encourage parishioners to volunteer more.”
- “Use email, Facebook, social media, and online signups to increase volunteering.”
- “I like the new electronic newsletter and the parish directory.”
- “Have more social activities like the Ladies Night, Golf Outing, Parish Picnic, Italian Fest, senior luncheons, and so on.”
- “Find ways to get people more energized and involved.”
- “Make it easy to join ministries and activities.”
- “We should have more community outreach and mission trip opportunities.”
- “Make children & students your priority.”

SUGGESTIONS

- Begin support groups like AA, Al Anon, divorced Catholics, adult caregivers, etc.
- Have more activities for young single adults, young married couples, and families with children.
- Do a better job of publicizing the needs and accomplishments of all the ministries.
- Develop an organized plan for community outreach including mission trips, Warming Shelter service, food programs, etc.
- Reinstitute a parish picnic.
- Formally acknowledge volunteers and other active parishioners.



ACTIONS TAKEN SO FAR

Since the Pulse of the Parish survey, parishioners and staff have initiated a number of programs and actions, including:

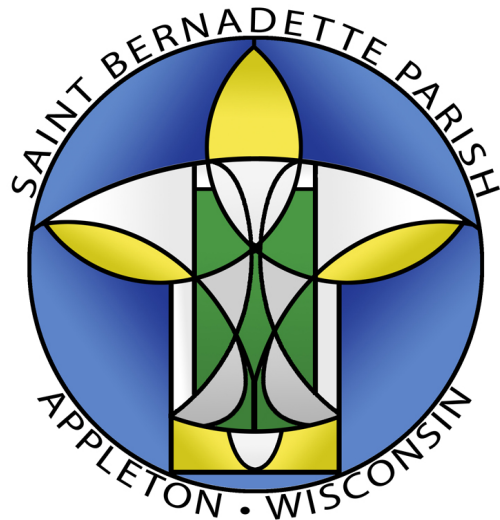
- the *Volunteer of the Month* program to recognize the contributions of dedicated parishioners
- the myParish App to provide easy access to parish news, daily readings, liturgical schedules, and more
- *St. Bernadette Happenings*, an eNewsletter sent directly to your inbox to highlight current parish news & activities
- Marriage Enrichment, Grief and Loss, and AA groups
- the *Let Us Go to the Altar of God* program which added 62 new servers, ushers, lectors, Eucharistic ministers, & choir members

IDEAS THAT REMAIN UNDER DISCUSSION/CONSIDERATION

- Creating a Communications Ministry under the oversight of parish staff to assist in keeping the parish website, Facebook posts, myParish app and other electronic communications updated and accurate.
- Developing easier, more effective, and wider ranging methods to help parishioners learn about, join, and inaugurate parish ministries, committees, and groups.
- Holding a Ministry Fair to inform and recruit parishioners.
- Introducing a Lenten Spiritual Study program: 7 Deadly Sins & 7 Lively Virtues.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Linger in the narthex after mass to meet and chat with other parishioners.
- Nominate a candidate for Volunteer of the Month. Find forms in the narthex & office.
- Join an existing ministry, committee, or group.
- Invite other parishioners to serve with you on a ministry or committee.
- Do you see the need or have an idea for a new ministry or group of particular interest to you? Develop an informal proposal then contact Fr. Don or a member of the Parish Council about volunteering to lead (or co-lead) its development and implementation.



Many thanks to those of you who responded to the Parish Survey. If you didn't get the opportunity to do so, or would like to share additional thoughts, we encourage you to speak with any of your Parish Council members.

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Tom Schmit (Chair), Joe Feldhausen, Kate Feldhausen, Jean Herres, Ed Kleckner, Mary Lietz, Dan Lynch, Conor Mares, Julie McMillan, Bob Parsons, Denise Reitmeyer, Sue Taylor, Rachel Tomasik, Deb Truymen, Jeff Venable