



St. Patrick Parish

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fall 2018

My Dear Parishioners,

Greetings to you! This past Lent, our parish participated in the Disciple Maker Index (DMI) Survey issued by Catholic Leadership Institute (CLI) of Malvern. The purpose of this survey was to provide us with a snapshot of our parish family vis-à-vis faith. I am grateful to the 450 parishioners who participated in the survey. And now, I am excited to share the findings.

In April, we formed a team to help study the results of the survey and to develop a plan moving forward. In addition to myself, members of the team are: Marie Elliott, our Business Manager; Marianne Kane, our Director of Religious Education; Pastoral Council members: Anne Marie Gillinger, Mike Weber, Meghan Cascarelli; Parishioners Brian Eyre and Rose Hearn.

In May, we attended a Consultation Session facilitated by the CLI. The purpose of this meeting was to help us understand the results of the survey, to learn from the responses and to develop the basis for an action plan.

This Summer, our Survey Team met twice and we are happy to share the following Action Plan:

- A Summary Report of Key Strengths and Areas of Focus (see reverse side of this page).
- A full report of parish survey results is available on our parish website for your review.
- A Town Hall Meeting will be held on *September 19* to share thoughts and to pray about our next steps.
- A meetings with Parish Ministry heads to help align all according to our Mission.
- Suggestion boxes will be placed in the rear of the church, in the parish office and online that you will be able to use to share your ideas to help our parish grow.

As Fall gets underway, more information will be shared and we welcome continued feedback. **Please feel free to reach out to members of either of these groups or myself to share your thoughts or suggestions.** Their contact information is on our website.

Peace,

Fr. Christopher B. Rogers

Pastor

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Key Strengths to Celebrate		
Key Finding	Explanation	Interpretation
<i>Growth via Mass</i>	The parish helps me grow spiritually by offering vibrant and engaging Sunday Masses.	It is clear from the survey and the positive overall response that people are hungry for and desirous of God, Church and our Parish.
<i>Recommend Parish</i>	I would recommend my parish to a friend.	
<i>Parish helps spiritual growth</i>	My parish helps me grow spiritually as a Catholic.	People are keenly aware of something more, something bigger than themselves.
<i>Growth via Preaching</i>	The parish helps me grow spiritually by preaching and homilies that connect my faith with my everyday life.	Sunday Mass and our programs such as Bible Study, Reach More, etc. are well received and a clear strength for St. Patrick's.

Areas of Focus		
Key Finding	Explanation	Interpretation
<i>Belief- Scripture is word of God</i>	I personally believe scripture is the word of God.	There is evidence from the responses that there is some lack of understanding/belief that the scripture is the Word of God. We can do a better job communicating this during Mass, providing more perspective in this important area.
<i>Community Welcoming</i>	The parish helps me connect with a local Catholic community by making me feel welcomed and accepted.	
<i>Growth via Forming as a Disciple</i>	The parish helps me grow spiritually by forming me as a disciple of Jesus Christ.	There is also evidence that our parish could be more welcoming especially to new parishioners. This is something for all of us to keep in mind and may also reflect the strong relationships and bonds that many people in our parish already share. We also think this may be due to lack of opportunities for connection with others, including our lack of facilities to promote deeper connections between parishioners. Overall the parish also feels we need to provide more support to help them grow as a disciple of Jesus Christ, as well as support how to share their personal witness story in conversation with others.
<i>Conversations- Sharing my personal Story</i>	My parish equips me to have conversations about my faith with family and friends by teaching me how to share my personal witness story.	