

ST. CLARE *of* ASSISI PARISH

July 2014

2014 Parish Survey Results

Dear Parishioners,

As part of St. Clare's ongoing commitment to develop stewardship as a way of life, we conducted a comprehensive parish survey in March. The survey gave all our parishioners an opportunity to express their views regarding worship, parish life, religious education, outreach and stewardship.

Thanks to your response, our survey was a success! The parish office received 312 completed surveys. This is a 35 percent response rate, which is more than three times greater than the national average of 10 percent. I thank you for your honesty, as well as the time and commitment you made to complete the survey and help our parish become better and spiritually stronger.

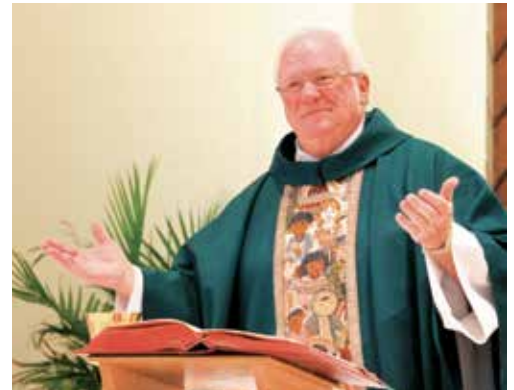
The results of the survey are included in this newsletter, and I hope these results will give you a clearer vision of how the parish as a whole responded to each specific question. We also asked you to respond to a few open-ended questions. Because of space constraints, we could not include each response in this newsletter, but they have been read, reviewed and grouped together based on likeness so that we could determine the top responses for each open-ended question.

As your pastor, I am confident that the information we have gathered through the survey will help guide our parish leadership as we continue to develop stewardship at St. Clare. In the coming year, I hope we all can work together to meet the needs of our parish community and make parish life more rewarding for us all.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Fr. Larry M. Bakke
Pastor



**SURVEY
RESULTS
ISSUE**

As you complete this survey, please check only one response per question unless otherwise indicated. Also, please print. Thank you.

Liturgy

Where do you and your family regularly attend Mass?

- 98% St. Clare of Assisi
- 2% Another parish

How often do you attend Mass at St. Clare of Assisi?

- 59% Every weekend
- 21% Every weekend and some weekdays
- 1% Every weekend and every weekday
- 15% Occasional weekends (once a month)
- 1% Seasonally (Christmas, Easter, etc.)
- 3% I no longer attend Mass

Which Mass at St. Clare of Assisi do you **MOST** frequently attend?

- 38% Saturday, 4:30 p.m.
- 25% Sunday, 8:00 a.m.
- 37% Sunday, 10:00 a.m.

The music at the Mass I attend enhances my prayer and worship.

- 37% Strongly agree
- 34% Agree
- 17% Neutral
- 5% Disagree
- 6% Strongly disagree

Please explain: **(Top 3 Responses)**

- Song Selection (27 responses)**
- Love/Appreciate the music (21 responses)**
- Comments about the organ (19 responses)**

Please indicate how well the following liturgical ministers enhance your prayer and worship.

| | <u>Excellent</u> | <u>Good</u> | <u>Fair</u> | <u>Needs Improvement</u> |
|-----------------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| Priests | 70% | 28% | 2% | 0% |
| Lectors | 40% | 54% | 5% | 1% |
| Ushers | 36% | 54% | 9% | 1% |
| Greeters | 34% | 53% | 10% | 3% |
| Altar Servers | 34% | 58% | 6% | 3% |
| Eucharistic Ministers | 42% | 53% | 4% | 1% |
| Choir | 48% | 41% | 8% | 3% |

Do you have any other suggestions to help enhance our Sunday liturgies? **(Top 3 Responses)**

Music (31 responses)

Liturgical Ministers (20 responses)

Positive Comments (12 responses)

Parish Life

What is your perception of your role as a member of St. Clare of Assisi? **(Check all that apply)**

- 96% To attend Mass
- 59% Participate in ministries and volunteer
- 90% Support the parish financially
- 56% Share my faith with others
- 46% Participate in social functions
- 7% Other

In your experience, how responsive is our pastor, Fr. Larry Bakke, to your needs and requests?

- 53% Very responsive
- 22% Responsive
- 23% Neutral/no experience
- 1% Unresponsive
- 0% Very unresponsive

In your experience, how responsive is the PARISH OFFICE STAFF to your needs and requests?

- 50% Very responsive
- 34% Responsive
- 15% Neutral/no experience
- 1% Unresponsive
- 0% Very unresponsive

Do you enjoy receiving the parish's new monthly newsletter?

- 83% Yes
- 17% No

In what medium do you prefer to receive the parish's monthly newsletter:

- 73% Print (current medium used to deliver newsletter)
- 27% Online (via email or some other form of electronic delivery)

What information do you want included in our monthly newsletter? **(Check all that apply)**

- 86% Articles about parish groups and activities
- 86% Comments from our pastor
- 45% Highlights on various parishioners
- 66% Information on the finances of the parish
- 23% Diocesan-wide news
- 52% Articles of general Catholic interest
- 52% Explanations of specific Catholic teachings
- 10% Other **(Top 3 Responses)**

All of the above (5 responses)

Parish events/Ministries (5 responses)

Prefer Not to Have (4 responses)



What methods of communication work best for you and your family to receive parish information?

(Check all that apply)

- 61% Monthly Newsletter
- 86% Bulletin
- 21% Web site
- 7% Facebook
- 0% Twitter
- 27% Email
- 55% Announcements at Mass

Adult Faith Formation

Within the past three years, have you attended an Adult Faith Formation program at St. Clare of Assisi?

- 23% Yes
- 77% No

If you have attended an Adult Faith Formation program within the past three years, was it a good experience?

- 76% Yes
- 24% No

Please explain: **(Top 2 Responses)**

Positive Comments about Jane (6 responses)

Would Like More Options (3 responses)

If you haven't attended an Adult Faith Formation program within the past three years, would you consider attending one in the future?

- 49% Yes
- 51% No

If you would like to attend an Adult Faith Formation program, what areas would you be most likely to participate in? **(Check all that apply)**

- 55% Church Teachings
- 61% Scriptures/Bible Study
- 32% Ethics and Morality
- 20% Marriage
- 21% Parenting
- 25% Small Faith Sharing Groups
- 59% Practical Ways of Growing in Faith and Prayer
- 23% Retreats
- 8% Other

Youth Faith Formation (Grades 4K - 12)

Please answer the questions in the shaded area only if your child/children are currently enrolled in the Youth Faith Formation program.

Which model of Faith Formation do you practice with your children? **(Check all that apply)**

- 26% Parish School
- 83% Classroom Sessions Wednesday evenings
- 19% Home Study
- 21% CLW - Children's Liturgy of the Word
- 2% Unsure

How would you rate the quality of instruction that your children receive in the Faith Formation program?

- 45% Excellent
- 33% Good
- 12% Adequate
- 5% Fair
- 5% Poor

Do you feel that the instruction provided by the Faith Formation programs is in line with the teaching of the Catholic Church?

- 80% Yes
- 13% Somewhat
- 2% No
- 5% Unsure



What do you like most about the Faith Formation programs? **(Check all that apply)**

- 62% The catechists/teachers and staff
- 35% The families involved
- 78% The children/families learn about their faith
- 22% Meeting times
- 5% Other

How do you think we can improve the Faith Formation programs? **(Check all that apply)**

- 53% Get the parents more involved
- 40% Offer classroom sessions at a different time
- 33% More training and support for the catechists/teachers
- 22% Improve the curriculum
- 27% Offer additional models of children's faith formation
- 42% Other **(Top 2 Responses)**

More Activities (4 responses)

Different Class Times (2 responses)

Outreach

Do you feel that St. Clare of Assisi does a good job reaching out to the following groups:

| | Yes | No | Unsure |
|--------------------------|-----|-----|--------|
| Active Parishioners | 82% | 3% | 15% |
| Inactive Parishioners | 14% | 15% | 71% |
| New Parishioners | 30% | 11% | 59% |
| Shut-in Parishioners | 45% | 5% | 49% |
| Non-Catholic Spouses | 13% | 15% | 71% |
| The Local Community | 61% | 5% | 34% |
| The Poor | 63% | 5% | 32% |
| Other Christian Churches | 37% | 7% | 56% |
| Other Religions | 23% | 8% | 69% |



What more can we do as a parish to reach out to those in need? **(Check all that apply)**

- 45% Increase communications about parish ministries
- 46% Encourage more parishioner participation
- 41% Be more welcoming
- 41% Get more involved in the community
- 19% Other **(Top 3 Responses)**

Doing Good Already (6 responses)

Shut-ins/Homebound (5 responses)

Don't Know (5 responses)

Stewardship

What is your perception of Stewardship (Time, Talent, and Treasure) when it is discussed?

- 52% Accept it as a core Gospel value and carry it out in my life
- 3% Don't really understand what it means
- 31% Think it's important, but find it hard to implement
- 4% Feel it's not applicable in my life
- 10% Feel that it's just another way to discuss fundraising

Stewardship of Time

How often does your family share meals?

- 72% Daily
- 20% Several days a week
- 4% Once a week
- 4% Less than once a week

Do you say grace before meals?

- 59% Yes
- 41% No

If you have children at home, do you pray with them on a daily basis (in addition to grace before meals)?

- 38% Yes
- 63% No

If you are married, do you pray with your spouse on a daily basis (in addition to grace before meals)?

- 19% Yes
- 81% No

In addition to Sunday Mass and grace before meals, how often do you set aside time for personal prayer?

- 71% Daily
- 16% Weekly
- 2% Monthly
- 5% Every few months
- 1% Yearly
- 6% Never

If you have children, do you discuss religious vocations within your family?

- 39% Yes
- 61% No

Stewardship of Talent

In how many parish ministries, committees, programs or events are you actively involved?

- 36% 0
- 10% 3
- 20% 1
- 13% 4 or more
- 22% 2

Beyond participating in weekly Masses, how do you rate your involvement in St. Clare of Assisi?

- 10% Very involved
- 20% Moderately involved
- 37% Somewhat involved
- 26% Rarely involved
- 7% Never involved

What single reason (if any) has most prevented you from more participation in parish ministries?

- 5% Not interested in what the parish offers
- 26% Health issues
- 7% Usually unaware of opportunities within the parish
- 48% Not enough time due to family and work responsibilities
- 2% Transportation
- 11% Haven't yet made the effort to get involved
- 2% Lack of babysitting services

Are you satisfied with your PERSONAL level of involvement in parish ministries?

- 75% Satisfied with my current level of involvement
- 25% Would like to become more involved

If you are married and/or have children, are you satisfied with your FAMILY'S level of involvement in parish ministries?

- 71% Satisfied with current level of involvement
- 29% Would like to become more involved



At what times would you most likely be able to attend parish functions? (**Check all that apply**)

- 21% Weekday mornings
- 36% Weekday evenings
- 18% Saturday mornings
- 25% Saturday evenings
- 19% Sunday evenings
- 24% Before the Mass I attend
- 55% After the Mass I attend

Stewardship of Treasure

Each parishioner is responsible for supporting our parish financially.

- 43% Strongly agree
- 48% Agree
- 8% Neutral
- 1% Disagree
- 0% Strongly disagree

How often do you make financial contributions to St. Clare of Assisi Catholic Church?

- 44% Every week
- 10% About every other week
- 14% About once a month
- 19% Monthly (for all the weeks in the month)
- 1% Never
- 13% Other (**Top 2 Responses**)

When I Attend Mass (8 responses)

When I Can (3 responses)

How do you determine the amount you contribute in the offertory collection?

- 21% I have chosen a certain dollar amount, based on a percentage of my income (*i.e., I give 5% of my income to the offertory*).
- 49% I have chosen a certain dollar amount, not based on a percentage of my income (*i.e., I give \$10 a week regardless of how much I make*).
- 0% I base the amount on what I think the parish needs.
- 16% I give whatever I can afford that week.
- 13% I don't have a system that determines how much I give.
- 2% I don't financially support the parish.

My household's gross annual financial contribution to the parish offertory represents:

- 7% 0% of my annual income
- 38% 1% - 2% of my annual income
- 21% 3% - 4% of my annual income
- 23% 5% - 6% of my annual income
- 6% 7% - 8% of my annual income
- 4% 9% - 10% of my annual income
- 1% 11% or more of my annual income

What is your perception of our parish's current financial position?

- 4% We are easily able to pay our operating bills **and** put aside money in savings.
- 14% We are easily able to pay our operating bills.
- 32% We barely generate enough revenue to pay our operating bills.
- 7% We are not generating enough revenue to pay our operating bills.
- 43% I am unaware of the state of our parish finances.

Demographics

Gender

- 17% Male
- 51% Female
- 32% Husband and Wife Completed Together

Marital Status (**Check one**)

- 6% Single
- 71% Married
- 17% Widowed
- 7% Divorced
- 0% Separated

What is your range of annual household income?

- 3% \$0 - \$9,999
- 23% \$10,000 - \$29,999
- 28% \$30,000 - \$49,999
- 17% \$50,000 - \$74,999
- 12% \$75,000 - \$99,999
- 14% \$100,000 - \$199,000
- 3% \$200,000 and above

Age (**You may check more than one box if husband and wife completed the survey together**)

- 0% 14 - 17
- 2% 18 - 29
- 8% 30 - 39
- 17% 40 - 49
- 19% 50 - 59
- 24% 60 - 69
- 32% 70+

How long have you been a registered parishioner at St. Clare of Assisi?

- 2% 0 - 1 year
- 9% 2 - 3 years
- 5% 4 - 5 years
- 10% 6 - 10 years
- 74% More than 10 years



ST. CLARE of ASSISI PARISH

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General Information

The things I like best about St. Clare of Assisi are...

(Top 3 Responses)

Clergy (81 responses)

Music (42 responses)

Friendly Parish/People (39 responses)

I wish St. Clare of Assisi would... **(Top 3 Responses)**

Scheduling (28 responses)

Music (27 responses)

Financial Concerns (26 responses)

Name (49 total responses)

