

Disciple Maker Index: Our Mother of Consolation Results

Overview: In March 2022, there were 249 electronic surveys (98% completed) and four paper surveys completed for a total of 253. I will report on the various subsets beginning with the three strengths and three opportunities. Most of the survey contained a Likert scale to respond to various statements (strongly agree, agree, neutral, disagree, strongly disagree). In reporting the data, I will use an agreement index, that is, I will add the percentages of strongly agree and agree. Please note that if there is 76% agreement to a statement most of the remaining percentage is usually the neutral option, with few percentage points on the disagreement index. There is some repetition in this report as some statements fell into various categories. We published this report two pages at a time in the bulletin. I invite you to share any insights, questions, or concerns with a member of the Parish Pastoral Council, Finance Council or to me.

Strengths and Opportunities

Strengths

I would recommend the parish to a friend.	91%
I would recommend the pastor to a friend.	91%
Information about parish is readily available, easy to find (via bulletin, web, email) and helps me connect with the community.	95%

A crosstab analysis was conducted of these three strengths with the following:

Attending Mass: daily (1%), weekly (74%), monthly (8%)
Individual Prayer time with God: daily (66%), weekly (15%), monthly (8%)
Prayed with another: daily (17%), weekly (16%), monthly (13%), quarterly (12%), once/twice a year (20%), never (20%)

Opportunities

My parish equips me to have conversations about my faith with family and friends ...

By **growing my confidence in the Church's teachings**, so I can answer other's questions:
Strongly Agree or agree (ASA) 58%, N (32%), D (10%)

By **sharing my personal witness story**
Strongly Agree or agree (ASA) 54%, N (36%), D (11%)

By **teaching me how to share the story of Jesus**
Strongly Agree or agree (ASA) 57%, N (34%), D (9%)

A crosstab analysis was conducted of these three opportunities asking respondents how often they participate in or attend each of the following over the past year:

Retreat: Once or twice a year (22%), never (78%)
Invited someone to consider a vocation to the religious life: monthly (2%), quarterly (13%), never (84%)
Invited someone to consider a vocation to priesthood: monthly (2%), quarterly (12%), never (86%)

Key Leader Perspective

About You

- 1.) How many ministries are you involved in? 3 or fewer (67%), 4-6 (25%), 6-10 (8%)
- 2.) Top three most influential factors that keep parishioners connected in life of the parish: (first) Relationship with other parishioners, (second) relationship with pastor, (third) celebration of Eucharist {4th: service & outreach, 5th: parish hosted social activities}
- 3.) Most important reason to encourage community service in our parish: it builds community (50%), Jesus calls us to serve the poor (50%), it creates an opportunity for encounter (50%)
- 4.) Mass time most attended: 4:30 Vigil (33%), 9:00 (42%), 11:00 (17%), 7:30 (8%)
- 5.) Five expectations of community for pastor: (a) celebrating the sacraments, (b) preaching, (c) vision & direction, (d) providing pastoral care, (e) teaching the faith {empower service & outreach to poor tied in sixth place}
- 6.) Two desired take aways from a homily: (a) hope, (b) call to action
- 7.) Besides the pastor, who is the most visible staff member: religious sister (58%), deacons (17%), youth minister (8%), DRE (8%), office manager (8%)
- 8.) Most important role of Pastoral Council: representing parish community (33%), advising the pastor (33%), creating & implementing parish strategy (33%)
- 9.) Two most important hats the bishop wears: (a) spiritual shepherd, (b) voice of social concerns

About Parish

- 10.) Three areas of growth for the parish: (a) more volunteers participating in ministries, (b) more young people involved, (c) more catechesis on Church teaching
- 11.) Community values that describe the OMC culture (high to low): (a) access to sacraments, (b) social justice, (c) sharing faith with others, (d) prayerfulness, (e) stewardship, (f) family focused, (g) diversity & inclusion, (h) parish tradition, (i) service & outreach
- 12.) Assessment of financial health of the parish: we are usually in the black but never complacent (50%), we hold our own but there's not a lot of room for extras (42%), we had some ups and downs and are shooting for stability (8%)
- 13.) Assessment of physical shape of church building: lots of beauty! Recently renovated and/or really-well maintained (67%), lots of character! Really nice structure and "bones" but needs some normal cosmetic renovation or improvement
- 14.) Assessment of physical shape of other buildings (rectory, parking lot, parish center); Good! We could use more space & there are a few projects needing attention, but it is well within the parish's reach (50%), Great! We have sufficient space for our needs & everything is in good shape (33%), We make it work! Our current space limits us in our ministries and communities and we don't have sufficient resources to improve it at this time (17%)
- 15.) The preferred method of bringing others to Christ: leading by example (67%), one-on-one conversation (33%)
- 16.) To what degree do we need to change in order to be best fulfill our mission in the next five years? In a really good place right now and need to do more of what is working (58%), on right track and need some minor tweaks (33%), getting a little complacent, time to look toward the future (8%)
- 17.) The phrase that best describes relationship between parish school and parish from your perspective:
 - Of one heart.** There are some distinct "school families" & "parish families" but all believe in the importance of the school (57%)
 - Of one mind.** Share space & resources, but as our parish changes there seems to be a need to build a stronger bridge between the school family and the parish family (29%)
 - Of one mind and heart.** I think our parish and school families consider themselves one in the same and there is excellent integration between the two (14%)

Key Drivers

What drives a parishioner to recommend the parish to a friend and to indicate that the parish is helping them grow spiritually? *(The following percentages are all strongly agree and agree combined)*

Recommend pastor	91%	Welcoming community	89%	Growth via preaching	81%
Growth via Mass	79%	God's work in my life	80%	Growth in forming us as disciples	76%
Information readily available	95%				

What drives a parishioner to share a personal witness story? My parish equips me to have conversations about my faith with family and friends by...

Believing Sacred Scripture is Word of God	84%	Confidence in Church teachings	58%
Teaching me to share personal witness story	54%	Sharing the story of Jesus	57%
Inviting someone to Mass (daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly, one or two times)	64%		
Inviting someone to a parish activity (weekly, monthly, quarterly, one or two times)	68%		
Frequenting pastoral counseling or spiritual direction (weekly, monthly, quarterly, one or two times)	28%		

Belief in Core Catholic Teaching

Jesus died and rose again	91%	Eucharist is Body & Blood of Christ	84%	Scripture is the Word of God	84%
Belief in authority of Church	69%	I personally believe the Church is critical in my relationship with God	66%		
I personally believe in Jesus' moral teachings for my life as taught by the Church	79%				

Effectiveness of Parish Support: The Parish

Connects me with Catholic communities

- Provides me with opportunities to serve those in need 88%
- Helps me connect with a local Catholic community by following up with me when I express interest in becoming more involved 79%
- Provides me a community to support me and/or my family in times of need 78%
- Makes information available about the parish easy to find (bulletin, web, email) 95%
- Communicating effectively through online platforms, text, social media 91%

Fosters my spiritual Growth

- Helps me grow spiritually 89%
- Helps me develop a personal prayer life that connects me to God 75%
- Offers vibrant & engaging Sunday Masses 79%
- Offers music that deepens my desire to participate more fully in the liturgy 73%
- Connects me with a small faith-sharing group 76%
- Preaches homilies that connect faith with everyday life 81%
- Provides retreats, workshops, other resources to help me figure out my life's purpose 70%
- Teaches me to read and pray the Bible 51%
- Prepares me/my family for the sacraments (confirmation, marriage, baptism) 72%
- Forms me as a disciple of Jesus Christ 76%

Equips me to talk about faith by

- Providing high-quality events & other opportunities to which I can invite others 73%
- Growing my confidence in the Church's teachings so I can answer other's questions 58%
- Exhibiting care to members of the community (not necessarily Catholic) 88%
- Teaching me to share the story of Jesus 57%
- Teaching me how to share my personal witness story 54%
- Helping me recognize how God is working in my life 80%

Supports and educates children in the Catholic faith

- I have adequate supports from my parish to help my children grow as a disciple of Christ 87%
- I would recommend our parish school to a friend 85%
- I would recommend our parish religious ed program to a friend 100%

Four Factors for a Thriving Parish (Percentages combine strongly agree and agree)

Leadership Indicators: My parish...

- Involves me in decisions that affect the future of the parish 67%
- Provides transparent information of the finances of the parish 86%
- Follows up with me when I express interest in becoming more involved 79%
- Provides me with opportunities to serve those in need 88%
- I would recommend pastor to a friend 91%
- I would recommend parish to a friend 91%
- I would recommend the parish staff to a friend 85%
- I would recommend other priests serving the parish to a friend 74%

Sunday Experience

- My parish makes me feel welcomed and accepted 89%
- I grow spiritually by the vibrant and engaging Sunday Masses 79%
- Music deepens my desire to participate more fully 73%
- Preaching and homilies connect my faith with everyday life 81%

Spiritual Practices

The pace of my spiritual life...

- In a period of rapid spiritual growth 4%
- Growing at a steady, continued pace 39%
- Growing in my faith, but I would like to grow more than I am 27%
- Content staying where I am spiritually 17%
- Stalled in my spiritual growth 10%
- In a period of spiritual decline 4%

Where I am on my Catholic Journey...

- My relationship with Jesus Christ is my most important relationship 32%
- I have personally encountered Jesus Christ and am growing as a disciple 34%
- I practice my Catholic faith but do not know Jesus personally like a friend 29%
- I consider myself Catholic though faith is not a significant part of my life 4%

My individual prayer time with God...

- Daily 66%
- Weekly 15%
- Monthly 8%
- Once or twice a year 5%
- Quarterly 3%
- Never 3%
- No response (24 people did not respond)

Bible study or prayer group (in person or online)

Daily 2%
Weekly 20%
Monthly 9%
Once or twice a year 17%
Quarterly 7%
Never 45%
No response (57 people did not respond)

In the past year, describe the frequency of your Mass attendance

Daily 11%
Weekly 74%
Monthly 8%
Once or twice a year 3%
Quarterly 2%
Never 3%
No response (61 people did not respond)

In the past year, describe the frequency of celebrating confession or Reconciliation

Weekly 1%
Monthly 6%
Once or twice a year 45%
Quarterly 14%
Never 34%
No response (59 people did not respond)

In the past year, how often did you frequent pastoral counseling or spiritual direction

Weekly 1%
Monthly 8%
Once or twice a year 16%
Quarterly 3%
Never 72%
No response (57 people did not respond)

In the past year, how often did you enroll in a class or workshop about the Catholic faith (online or in person)?

Weekly 5%
Monthly 5%
Once or twice a year 25%
Quarterly 5%
Never 60%
No response (57 people did not respond)

In the past year, how often did you attend a [parish social event?

Weekly 3%
Monthly 6%
Once or twice a year 39%
Quarterly 24%
Never 28%
No response (58 people did not respond)

In the past year, how often did you participate in a retreat?

Weekly %
Monthly %
Once or twice a year 22%
Quarterly %
Never 78%
No response (61 people did not respond)

In the past year, how often did you participate in Eucharistic Adoration, time before the Blessed Sacrament?

Weekly 6%
Monthly 18%
Once or twice a year 23%
Quarterly 11%
Never 42%
No response (58 people did not respond)

In the past year, how often did you participate in Catholic devotions (rosary, novenas, feast days)?

Daily 19%
Weekly 13%
Monthly 10%
Once or twice a year 21%
Quarterly 13%
Never 24%
No response (58 people did not respond)

Missionary Impulse

In the past year, how often did you invite someone to join you in a parish activity?

Weekly 3%
Monthly 2%
Once or twice a year 54%
Quarterly 10%
Never 32%
No response (55 people did not respond)

In the past year, how often did you invite a man to consider the priesthood?

Monthly 2%
Once or twice a year 12%
Never 86%
No response (56 people did not respond)

In the past year, how often did you invite someone to consider the religious life?

Monthly 2%
Once or twice a year 13%
Never 84%
No response (56 people did not respond)

In the past year, how often did you answer another's question about a teaching of the Catholic faith?

Daily 4%
Weekly 10%
Monthly 13%
Once or twice a year 42%
Quarterly 17%
Never 15%
No response (57 people did not respond)

In the past year, how often did you volunteer to serve a member of our community (not necessarily a Catholic)?

Daily 4%
Weekly 12%
Monthly 23%
Once or twice a year 26%
Quarterly 13%
Never 23%
No response (58 people did not respond)

In the past year, how often did you share the story of Jesus?

Daily 3%
Weekly 8%
Monthly 10%
Once or twice a year 35%
Quarterly 16%
Never 28%
No response (58 people did not respond)

In the past year, how often did you share your personal witness story with another person?

Daily 2%
Weekly 5%
Monthly 9%
Once or twice a year 31%
Quarterly 15%
Never 38%
No response (61 people did not respond)

In the past year, how often did you pray with another person outside Mass?

Daily 17%
Weekly 16%
Monthly 13%
Once or twice a year 20%
Quarterly 12%
Never 20%
No response (57 people did not respond)

In the past year, how often did you attend a parish social event?

Weekly 3%
Monthly 6%
Once or twice a year 39%
Quarterly 24%
Never 28%
No response (58 people did not respond)

Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statement regarding your child's Faith journey.
One of my most important responsibilities as a parent is helping my child(ren) to know Jesus.

Strongly Agree 63%
Agree 25%
Neither agree nor disagree 10%
Disagree 2%
No response (201 people did not respond)

What's Next? Each parish needs to establish three core priorities (what we want to accomplish in the next 24-36 months). Each priority must meet three criteria: (a) it takes more than one parish group to accomplish; (b) it's complex enough that it cannot be delegated; (c) it's important enough to merit the pastor's attention. The archbishop's intent is that this helps us focus on our call to be **missionary disciples**. Sadly, only 12% of Catholics in the US are in a relationship with the church (attending). We want to welcome back all to our worshipping community, so that together we may give thanks to God for all we have received and strengthen one another in our faith journey. We need God. This world desperately needs to reclaim God as the source and summit of their lives. Let's get busy!