

Executive Summary of Needs Assessment

Listed below are the most common themes that rang throughout the Needs Assessment. That is not to say that there were not strong, heartfelt feelings written that fell outside of the norm; but rather it is a summation of the feelings of the majority of respondents.

Number of Years as Member of St. Michael's...

- Of the 121 respondents, the length of membership ranged from less than 1 year through 85 years. It was encouraging to see a fairly even distribution of responses from newer parishioners along with those from long standing (in some cases lifelong) members.

I/We first chose to attend St. Michael's because...

- It is the local, Catholic Church.
- Has a small, community feel.
- We wanted to attend a church in our community.

An event of St. Michael's that was memorable for me was the time...

- The Sacraments (Baptism, First Communion, Weddings and Funerals etc.)
- Christmas and Easter Decorations
- Parish Mission in 2005
- The last Mass at the old church and the dedication of the new church.
- Memories of various times with both Father Gene and Father Dennis.
- Parish events such as the KC breakfasts fall festival, spring fling and VBS.
- A number of individuals have fond memories of a more traditional liturgy; while others enjoy the more progressive liturgy we have today.

I appreciate the fact that this church has really helped me to...

- Grow in faith and become closer to God.
- Feel comfortable and have a sense of belonging.

If someone new to our community asked, "What are some of the things that you really like about St. Michael's, three things I might say include...

- We like Father Dennis. He is friendly and compassionate-always has a good homily and a smile.
- The parish is friendly.
- Beautiful facility.
- The size of the congregation. It's not too big or too small.
- Opportunities for involvement.

I think people want to be actively involved in our Church when...

- When they feel welcome and are personally asked.
- When their willingness to participate is met with appreciation and support (both by staff and fellow parishioners).
- When their ideas are not pushed aside and when "negative trash talk" is eliminated.
- When the church makes a sincere effort to involve them in activities and programs.
- When specific commitments are short and well defined.
- When they are asked, when it is fun, and when they feel valued.
- When they feel part of the decision making process in the parish.

In the future, I'd like to see our Church...

- Balance programs between the youth and adults (especially senior citizens).
- Become financially stable.
- Improve the religious education program for the children.
- Better communication overall.
- Have more unity. Put differences aside and truly come together as a parish.

In addition, I think our Church has a great challenge and opportunity to...

- Pass our faith on to the next generation. Develop a strong, religious education program.
- Get current and new members to contribute time, talent and treasure. Develop real stewardship.
- Get the debt wiped out.
- Attract new people and get them involved in the ministries.