

ST. MARY MAGDALENE CATHOLIC CHURCH

PARISH SURVEY – OCTOBER 2009

SURVEY RESPONSE – Excluding demographic and other inquiries there were 49 questions covering 18 topics. On average, there were 1,120 responses per the 49 questions ranging from a high of 1,157 to a low of 1,076. It is estimated that our response rate was about 30% of the registered families. The following are the demographics of the survey responders.

DEMOGRAPHICS

STATUS IN THE PARISH - Of the 1,114 who responded to the question asking for their status in the parish, 80.3% (894) indicated they were registered parishioners, 17.2% (192) were regular not registered members and 2.5% (28) were occasional visitors.

AGE CATEGORY - 3.7% (41) were in the 16 to 25 group, 10.9% (122) were 26 to 35, 25.2% (283) were 36 to 45, 26.1% (293) were 46 to 55, 16.5% (185) were 56 to 65 and 17.6% (198) were older than 65. There were 1,122 total responses.

MARITAL STATUS – 73% (817) of the 1,124 responders to this question are married while 9% (106) were single (never married), 7% (81) were separated, 6% (67) were widowed and 5% (53) were divorced.

CHILDREN IN THE HOUSEHOLD – There were only 750 responders to the question asking for the number of children in their household. Of the 750, 22.0% (166) had no children. Of those with children, 19.9% had one child, 34.1% had two children and 24.0% had three or more children.

LENGTH OF TIME AT PARISH – Of the responders, 25.7% (284) have been at the parish less than two years, 32.1% (356) more than two and up to five years, 21.0% (233) more than five years but less than ten years and 21.2% (235) over than ten years. Nearly 58% of the responders have been at the parish less than five years.

MASS ATTENDANCE – 931 (83.2%) of the total 1,119 responders of the question “How often do you usually attend Mass” attend every Sunday. Another 167 (14.9%) attend 2 or 3 times a month, 20 (1.8%) attend once a month and only 1 (0.1%) attends on Special Occasions.

HOW ATTACHED DO RESPONDERS FEEL TO THEIR PARISH – Of the 1,109 responders to this question 527 (47.5%) feel Very Attached and 492 (44.4%) feel Somewhat Attached. The two responses represent 92% of the total vs. only 8% that had No attachment or were not sure.

HOW ACTIVE ARE RESPONDERS IN THE PARISH – Of the 1,106 responders, 94 (8.5%) are Very Active, 233 (21.1%) are Highly Active and 384 (31.5%) are Somewhat Active. These three represent 61% of the total, thus 70% of the responders who were Very Attached or Somewhat Attached are Active in the Parish.

MONTHLY OFFERTORY TO SMM - Please refer to the survey results (excel document) located on the website. Responders to the survey were disproportionately higher in the three lower offertory groups than the two higher groups.

SURVEY QUESTIONS

The following are comments on the 18 topics covered by the 49 questions in the survey. Attached is a recap of the 18 topics showing the percent that each of the response options received. As indicated above, on average, each of the 49 questions had 1,120 responses.

Overall, 53.1% of the responders *Agreed* with the statement in the question, 9.4% *Disagreed* with the statement in the question, 23.9% were *Uncertain* while 13.6% felt that the question *Does Not Apply* to them.

In the Does Not Apply response option, some of the topic responses were quite high because the older age groups felt that topics dealing with children did not apply to them and this resulted in distortion of the other three response options. Therefore the Agree, Disagree and Uncertain options were recalculated eliminating the Does Not Apply responses.

LITURGY - This topic includes 5 of the 49 questions. The individual questions deal with the Mass, the Music during the Mass, the Homily, the Family's participation at the Mass and the Church environment. This topic had the highest Agree percent (89%) of the 18 topics in the survey and all 5 questions had an Agree response of over 80%.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION – There is just one question and it deals with whether or not there are sufficient opportunities to receive the sacrament. The Agree response is 63% and the Disagree response is 14%.

HOSPITALITY, FEELING WELCOMED – This topic has 3 questions and they ask whether or not the parish exhibits a spirit of warmth & hospitality at Mass & events, whether newcomers feel welcomed and integrated into the parish, and would responders like to see a Welcome Committee in the parish. The responses to the 3 questions were quite diverse. The

first question, asking if the parish exhibits a spirit of warmth & hospitality had an 81% Agree response, while the second question that asked if newcomers feel welcomed and integrated into the parish had only a 48% Agree response. Thus it appears because of this 48% response plus a 32% Uncertain response about newcomers, two thirds (66%) of responders would like the parish to have a Welcome Committee.

WOULD PARISHIONERS LIKE MORE SOCIAL EVENTS TO BUILD CHURCH FAMILY – This topic has just the one question. Almost two thirds of responders Agree with having more social events to build Church family. However, 25% are Uncertain. The older the responder, the higher the Uncertain response. 19% of the 45 and younger responded Uncertain while 29% of the 46 and older responded Uncertain.

FEELING A SENSE OF BELONGING & BEING ENCOURAGED/INVITED TO GET INVOLVED - There are two questions to this topic. The first asks if the responder feels a sense of belonging and a sense of community in the parish. The second asks if parishioners are encouraged and invited to get involved. The Agree response of 67% for the first question was about 11% lower than the 78% Agree response for the second question.

ADULT PROGRAMS / STUDIES / COUNSELING – There are seven questions to this topic. Please refer to the survey results (excel document) located on the website. No single question had a 50% or more Agree response in this area.

STAFFING – This topic, which has three questions, deals with the parish staff. The first question asks the responder if they feel the parish needs a staff member to expand SMM's adult programs. The second asks, is there sufficient qualified staff (paid and volunteer) to meet the parish's need and the third asks, is the parish staff accessible, responsive and welcoming. The first two questions have less than a 50% Agree response and both have a greater Uncertain response than an Agree response. Responders to this topic do however give a 64% Agree response that the staff is accessible, responsive and welcoming.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM – The first of two questions asks the responder if they are aware that the parish has a Sunday school program for K3 – K5 children and the second question asks if they are satisfied with the religious education program for K3 – 5th grade children. Because there was a high percent of the responders in the Does Not Apply option that were 46 or older, we eliminated those responses and recalculated the Agree, Disagree and Uncertain response percents. In the first question 84% were aware of the program and in the second question two thirds (67%) were satisfied with the program.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY – The first of two questions for this topic asks if the responder's children attend this liturgy when available and the second question asks the responder if they would like the children's liturgy all year long. Again, because a high percent of the Does Not Apply responders were 46 or older, we recalculated the Agree, Disagree and Uncertain

response percents. In this recalculation, 67% of the responders agreed that their children attended the liturgy and 66% agreed that they would like the liturgy all year long.

SATISFIED WITH PROGRAMS AND MEETING SPIRITUAL NEEDS OF MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS AND TEENS – This topic has one question regarding Middle School students and one question regarding teens. The first asks the responder if they are satisfied with the variety of middle school programs at SMM and the second question asks the responder if the parish does an adequate job of meeting the spiritual needs of the teens. Similar to the above two topics this topic was recalculated. In the question dealing with the middle school program, only 44% were satisfied with the variety of the program. In the question dealing with the teens, 57% felt that an adequate job of meeting the spiritual needs of the teens was being done. For both the middle school students and teens there is a high level of uncertainty in being satisfied and being adequate in meeting needs.

PROVIDING CHILDCARE & PROVIDERS BEING ENGAGED – There were two questions for this topic. The first asked whether or not the parish did a good job of providing childcare for church functions and the second asked if childcare providers are engaged and play with the children. Once again we recalculated these two questions. The recalculation said that 60% thought that the parish does a good job of providing childcare and 42% thought the childcare providers were engaged and play with the children. There was a 34% Uncertain response to the first question and 54% Uncertain response to the second question.

PARTICIPATION IN SPORTS PROGRAMS – This single question asked whether or not the responder's children participate(ed) in the church sports programs. Here again we recalculated the question responses. The recalculated response indicated that 30% participate(ed) while 57% did not.

STEWARDSHIP – There are four questions in this topic. The first asks whether or not the parish leadership promotes the scriptural basis and theology of stewardship. The second indicates the responder understands how to live as a Christian Steward. The third indicates the parish does a good job with outreach to the poor and the fourth indicates our parish demonstrates an understanding of the scriptural tithe. The composite response to the four questions has a 65% Agree response to only a 5% Disagree response, with a 26% Uncertain response.

ONE FAITH ONE FAMILY CAPITAL CAMPAIGN – This question asks if our parish responded generously to the OFOF Capital Campaign. The Agree response was 32%, nearly double the 17% Disagree response.

COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA – This topic has three questions. The first states that the parish bulletin provides adequate information. The second states that the church uses all available media to convey its message and the third states there is good communication from parish leaders to church members. The first question regarding the Bulletin has a healthy 83%

Agree response compared to a 10% Disagree response. The second question has a 39% Agree response compared to a 17% Disagree response and 43% Uncertain response. The third question had a 59% Agree response compared to a 13% disagree.

SMMCC VISION & PLANNING – There are three questions in this topic. The first question states that the responder is familiar with the mission and goal of SMM. The second states that the responder is aware of the parish plans for the future needs of this community. The third states that the responder feels adequately informed about the planning process. There is a 53% Agree response to the first question compared to a combined 46% Disagree/Uncertain response. The second question has a 39% Agree compared to a 60% combined Disagree/Uncertain response and the third question has a 28% Agree compared to a 70% combined Disagree/Uncertain response.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS – This topic has three questions. The first states that the buildings and grounds are maintained and in good condition. 91% of the responders Agree. The second states that the buildings and facilities are adequate now for parish needs. 61% of responders Agree compared to 38% combined Disagree/Uncertain. The third states buildings and facilities will be adequate in five years for parish needs. Only 29% Agree compared to 70% combined Disagree/Uncertain.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE (CDC) – This topic has four questions. The first question states that the responder is aware that our parish has a CDC preschool on site. As stated earlier with other topics, because there was a high percent of responders in the Does Not Apply option that were 46 or older, we eliminated those responses and recalculated the Agree, Disagree and Uncertain response percents. 84% of the responders Agree with the first statement. The second question states that the responder feels the preschool program is an asset to the parish. 78% of the responders Agree. The third states the CDC is housed in a facility that adequately meets preschool children's needs. 47% of the responders Agree and 47% are Uncertain. The fourth states that the responder personally endorses the CDC and feels that it needs parish support as well. 69% of the responders Agree.