

# PARISH SELF-STUDY PARISHIONER SURVEY



*AN OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE  
BY FORMING THE FUTURE*

## Parish Self-Study Parishioners' Questionnaire

The purpose of this study is to provide the pastor and the parish pastoral council with information which will help them learn more about parishioners' needs and how you view the role of your parish in contemporary society. Please do not put your name on this questionnaire. Your answers will be kept anonymous. Neither your pastor nor anyone else in your parish will know who provided the responses.

***Directions:*** Please answer all the questions in the order in which they appear on the questionnaire. Please read each question carefully. For most of the questions you will CIRCLE one answer only. Some questions ask you to write your answer in your own words. If you read all directions carefully, you will probably not have a problem.

1. Write the name of the parish you attend most frequently.

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Do you live within the territorial boundaries of the parish you attend most frequently? (circle the number of your answer)

1. Yes      2. No    3. I DON'T KNOW

3. If this is not your territorial parish, what is the reason you attend Masses at this parish? (circle the number of your answer)

1. PERSONAL ("ethnic") PARISH (PREFER LANGUAGE OR CUSTOMS)
2. SPECIAL LITURGIES (FOR EXAMPLE, THE MUSIC OR HOMILY)
3. FAMILY OR FRIENDS COME TO THIS PARISH
4. I HAVE ALWAYS COME TO THIS PARISH
5. OTHER (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

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***Directions:*** For all the rest of the questions, please make sure you are referring to the parish you attend most frequently—the one you listed in question 1 above. In the next seven sections, several essential elements of a parish are described. First read the descriptions then read the statements and circle the one number under each statement that best describes your feelings about the statement.

## WORSHIP

*“They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers.” (Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 2:42)*

*“The liturgy is the outstanding means by which the faithful can express in their lives, and manifest to others, the mystery of Christ and the real nature of the true Church.” (Vatican Council II, Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, #2)*

**(Circle only one number under each statement that best describes your feelings. If you never attend Sunday/Saturday evening Mass check here \_\_\_\_\_ and skip to number 10)**

4. The readings at the Sunday mass at my parish assist me in understanding my faith.

1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....	5
Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

5. The prayers at the Sunday Mass at my parish assist me in strengthening my faith.

1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....	5
Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

6. The music at the Sunday Mass at my parish enhances the liturgy.

1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....	5
Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

7. The environment of the Sunday Mass at my parish helps my active participation in the liturgy.

1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....	5
Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

8. The preaching at the Sunday Mass at my parish assists me in making a connection between my faith and the way I live.

1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....	5
Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

9. The celebration of the Sunday Mass at my parish fosters a sense of community among parishioners.

1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....	5
Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

10. I attend other forms of community worship in my parish besides Sunday Mass.

1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....	5.....
Strongly	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly
Agree				Disagree

11. There are many worship opportunities provided by my parish.

1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....	5.....
Strongly	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly
Agree				Disagree

12. The worship life in my parish assists me in living out my faith daily.

1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....	5.....
Strongly	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly
Agree				Disagree

13. Please include any comment you wish to make concerning aspects of Worship in your parish.

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**PLEASE TURN THE PAGE FOR ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS**

## CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

*"... the parish is constantly attempting to become a community of faith. Its achievement can be measured by the specific ways people acknowledge the identity they have in common and demonstrate the responsibility they have for one another. These evidences of community are in turn reflections of the even deeper communion with God that is theirs because of Christ's gift of the one Spirit." (The Parish: A People, A Mission, A Structure, NCCB - The Committee on the Parish)*

*This term as used in the modern Church does not mean, as is commonly understood, those persons living in one locality. Rather, this means those people with a common interest and bond of faith and love through which they individually and collectively strive for salvation. (The Catholic Encyclopedia, Nashville, TN, Thomas Nelson, Inc., 1987, p. 127).*

**(circle only one number under each statement that best describes your feelings)**

14. The parishioners in my parish provide an atmosphere of welcome, hospitality and belonging for other parishioners at Church services.

1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....	5.....
Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

15. The parishioners in my parish provide an atmosphere of welcome, hospitality and belonging for other parishioners at parish community functions.

1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....	5.....
Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

16. The parishioners in my parish provide an atmosphere of welcome, hospitality and belonging for non-parishioners at Church services.

1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....	5.....
Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

17. The parishioners in my parish provide an atmosphere of welcome, hospitality and belonging for non-parishioners at parish community functions.

1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....	5.....
Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

18. The parishioners in my parish welcome and support other parishioners who are separated or divorced or single parents.

1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....	5.....
Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

19. The parishioners in my parish welcome and support other parishioners from various age groups (young, middle aged, elderly).

1.....2.....3.....4.....5  
Strongly Agree Undecided Disagree Strongly  
Agree Disagree

20. The parishioners in my parish welcome and support other parishioners and other people of different racial and ethnic backgrounds.

1.....2.....3.....4.....5  
Strongly Agree Undecided Disagree Strongly  
Agree Disagree

21. Please include any comment you wish to make concerning aspects of Community in your parish.

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**PLEASE TURN THE PAGE FOR ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS**

## EVANGELIZATION

*“Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature.” (Mark 16:15)*

*“Evangelizing means bringing the Good News into all strata of humanity, and through its influence transforming humanity from within and making it new...” (On Evangelization in the Modern World, Pope Paul VI)*

**(circle only one number under each statement that best describes your feelings)**

22. Parish clergy encourage parishioners in their homilies to live and share their faith in their families, workplaces and neighborhoods.

1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....	5
Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

23. Parish clergy welcome and seek to reunite inactive and alienated members.

1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....	5
Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

24. Active parishioners engage in activities to encourage reuniting inactive members of the parish.

1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....	5
Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

25. Parishioners reach out and welcome all people, especially those who do not belong to any church.

1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....	5
Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

26. Please include any comment you wish to make concerning aspects of Evangelization in your parish.

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**PLEASE TURN THE PAGE FOR ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS**

## TEACHING

*“Then Jesus approached and said to them, ‘All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And, behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.’” (Matthew 28: 18-20)*

**(circle only one number under each statement that best describes your feelings)**

27. The Parish fulfills its responsibility for the continuing formation of all its members.

1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....	5
Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

28. I believe the teachers of religion in the parish religious education programs are well trained.

1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....	5
Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

29. Sufficient programs and resources are provided for the religious education of adults.

1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....	5
Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

30. I believe that Catholic parents have a responsibility to provide for the religious education of their children.

1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....	5
Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

31. The parish has an organized program of religious education for all parish children.

1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....	5
Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

32. The parish religious education programs include options for those who have physical or mental impairments.

1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....	5
Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

33. The parish provide religious formation for its youth and young adults.

1.....2.....3.....4.....5  
Strongly Agree Undecided Disagree Strongly  
Agree Disagree

34. Please include any comment you wish to make concerning aspects of Teaching in your parish.

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**PLEASE TURN THE PAGE FOR ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS**

## SERVICE

*“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.” Then the righteous will answer him and say, “Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?” And the king will say to them in reply, “Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.” (Matthew 25: 35-40)*

*We are one human family, whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic and ideological difference. We are our brothers’ and sisters’ keepers (cf. Gn 4:9) .... “Loving our neighbor” has global dimensions in an interdependent world.” (“A Century of Social Teaching,” NCCB, 1990)*

**(circle only one number under each statement that best describes your feelings)**

35. Parishioners in my parish respond to the Gospel message to serve the poor through parish programs.

1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....	5
Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

36. Parish groups/organizations exist to provide help to parishioners in need.

1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....	5
Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

37. Parish groups/organizations exist to provide help to people other than parishioners who are in need.

1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....	5
Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

38. Parishioners are encouraged by the pastor to help the poor in the Archdiocese.

1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....	5
Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

39. Parishioners in my parish discuss issues of justice and equality.

1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....	5
Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

40. The parish has groups/organizations which provide me with opportunities to address my concerns regarding peace and justice.

1.....2.....3.....4.....5  
Strongly Agree      Agree      Undecided      Disagree      Strongly Disagree

41. Please include any comment you wish to make concerning aspects of Service in your parish.

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**PLEASE TURN THE PAGE FOR ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS**

# LEADERSHIP

*“To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit. To one is given through the Spirit the expression of wisdom; to another the expression of knowledge according to the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit; to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit; to another mighty deeds; to another prophecy; to another discernment of spirits; to another varieties of tongues; to another interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit produces all of these, distributing them individually to each person as he wishes.” (Corinthians 12:7-11)*

**(circle only one number under each statement that best describes your feelings)**

42. The purpose and goals of the parish are communicated effectively to the parishioners by the pastor and others who work at the parish.

1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....	5.....
Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

43. The parishioners know and understand the purpose and goals of the parish.

1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....	5.....
Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

44. Parishioners and priest(s) of the parish work together to accomplish the purpose and goals of the parish.

1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....	5.....
Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

45. My parish provides opportunities for lay people to have leadership positions and responsibility.

1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....	5.....
Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

46. The pastor and others who work in the parish appear to me to have a good working relationship.

1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....	5.....
Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

47. Please include any comment you wish to make concerning aspects of Leadership in your parish.

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**PLEASE TURN THE PAGE FOR ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS**

# STEWARDSHIP

**SCRIPTURE:**

*"In generous spirit pay homage to the Lord, be not sparing of freewill gifts. With each contribution show a cheerful countenance, and pay your tithes in a spirit of joy. Give to the Most High as he has given to you, generously according to your means." (Sirach 35:7-9)*

**(circle only one number under each statement that best describes your feelings)**

48. Parishioners know the sources and the amounts of the income and expenses of the parish.

1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....	5.....
Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

49. The money, buildings and staff of my parish are sufficient to accomplish the goals of the parish.

1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....	5.....
Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

50. The parish operating budget provides money to support the activities I believe the parish should be doing.

1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....	5.....
Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

51. Parish facilities appear to be properly maintained.

1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....	5.....
Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

52. Parish facilities appear to me to be adequate for worship and parish programs.

1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....	5.....
Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

53. Please include any comments you wish to make concerning aspects of Stewardship in your parish.

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***Directions: Often the parish might be better able to help and support the people if more were known about their backgrounds as well as their perceptions of parish life. Please describe yourself by answering the following questions.***

54. Your sex (circle number)

- 1. MALE
- 2. FEMALE

55. What is your present marital status? (circle number)

- 1. NEVER MARRIED
- 2. MARRIED
- 3. SEPARATED
- 4. DIVORCED AND NOW SINGLE
- 5. DIVORCED AND NOW REMARRIED
- 6. WIDOW OR WIDOWER

56. What was your age on your last birthday? (circle number)

- 1. UNDER 18
- 2. BETWEEN 18 AND 34
- 3. BETWEEN 35 AND 50
- 4. BETWEEN 51 AND 65
- 5. OVER 65

57. What is your race? (circle number)

- 1. ASIAN
- 2. BLACK
- 3. NATIVE AMERICAN
- 4. WHITE

58. Are you of Spanish/Hispanic origin? (circle number)

- 1. YES
- 2. NO

59. Please indicate the highest level of education completed. (circle number)

- 1. 8<sup>th</sup> GRADE OR LESS
- 2. SOME HIGH SCHOOL
- 3. HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE
- 4. SOME COLLEGE
- 5. COMPLETED COLLEGE
- 6. SOME GRADUATE WORK
- 7. POST GRADUATE OR PROFESSIONAL DEGREE (M.A., M.D., Ph.D.)

60. What are the three most important activities the parish should be doing? (Whether it is currently doing them or not.)

**(write your answer to the following question in the blank provided)**

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61. About how often do you attend Mass on Sunday/Saturday evening? (circle number)

- 1. WEEKLY
- 2. 2-3 TIMES A MONTH
- 3. ONCE A MONTH
- 4. SEVERAL TIMES A YEAR
- 5. NEVER

If you attend once a month or less (or even if you never go), why don't you attend Mass more frequently?

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62. About how much did you and your immediate family contribute to your parish last year? (*circle number*)

1. \$1,000 AND OVER
2. BETWEEN \$500 AND \$999
3. BETWEEN \$250 AND \$499
4. BETWEEN \$50 AND \$249
5. LESS THEN \$50

63. In which category below would you put your total family income (from all sources before taxes) for last year? (If you are a dependent, then estimate the income of your family. If you are married, include your spouse's income.) (*circle one number*)

1. UNDER \$10,000
2. BETWEEN \$10,000 AND \$29,999
3. BETWEEN \$30,000 AND \$44,999
4. BETWEEN \$45,000 AND \$59,999
5. \$60,000 AND OVER

Is there anything else you would like to tell us about the kind of parish in which you would like to be a parishioner? If so, please use this space for that purpose.

Also, any comments you wish to make that you think may help the pastor and parish pastoral council understand what parishioners want from their parishes will be appreciated either here or in a separate letter.

**Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire. Please return it to the parish rectory in the return envelope provided.**