

Results of Parish Listening Sessions

This is a list of the comments recorded by the facilitators after conversation with the groups taking part in the parish listening sessions on the weekend of September 29th – 30th. Comments were in response to the issue, How does Our Lady of Grace help you to meet your spiritual needs, or bring you closer to God? (Some items on this list are apparently not responses to the questions that were asked, and rather wishes or recommendations for the future, but they are included below nonetheless.) All results from individual responses will be posted on the parish website when they are compiled. Your comments will be used by the Pastoral Council and ministry staff to help in setting priorities for the future in our parish; thanks to all who took part!

Group Responses:

Eucharist

Joy felt in church

Love and kindness of the people

Small Christian Communities (1992 to present) help people grow closer to God and each other

Large gatherings - Socials that allow us to connect with each other

Discussions on Liturgy/Gospel of the week

Have parents bring the children back to church

Build on Confirmation Program (Need to do more. e.g. Advocacy program)

Involve the young people (hold Listening Sessions for young people)

Build stronger Youth Group

Adult laity needs to become involved in bringing young people back to church

Confirmation program (involving children and families)

Hospitality

Prayer groups (Bible Study) as a form of Christian Community leads to bonding and support

Life team Masses - Liturgy and events centered around young people

Many references to "We can"

We can talk to the priests (accessible)

Witness talks - representatives from different ministries to talk to parish; include young people as witnesses.

Witness talks on faith/spiritual experiences

Sharing amount parishioners brings us closer

Small Community Groups for sharing (Small Christian Communities)

Parish Office staff and their accessibility are positives

Homilies that relate to life are helpful

Some meditative music at Holy Communion (less words) and more time for reflection after receiving communion

Music feeds my spirituality

More education on Liturgy and Eucharist

OLG is great with kids

Hold more of the extra evening activities during the day (for those that don't go out at night)

Bible discussion groups (like the one Dcn Peter used to hold)

Prayer and Education

Need to share what we already have - involvement - need to be needed

Small Christian Community

Eucharist

Feeling Welcome - Listening Session

Adult education to feed us spiritually - Scripture classes

Spiritual Direction for those who are struggling. The Sisters of St. Joseph in our convent are under utilized.

Senior Groups

Evening Masses (daily or some time during the week) for those who cannot attend daily morning Mass.

It comes from inside (within) "My involvement"

Communion Program

Bible Camp

Clergy should be present after First Holy Communions

More Clergy presence

Group Responses, continued (page 2)

Lower Altar Server age requirement
Young people can shadow Ushers and help
Family oriented parish; maintain attitude of flexibility
Music (not all) – more songs that we know
Music Hymnals with large print so seniors can participate
Music – More Harmony
Novenas and Rosary
More Eucharistic Ministers to make the Communion procession lines go faster
Homily – more presence of God
Reverence at church and in the Mass
Homily – Focus on one point rather than several at once. Adapt to today's life
Prefer quiet prayer versus as a community
Children's Mass is great!
Food pantry and pantry workers are great!
Missions – would like to see more than just at Lent
Family environment – things- programs provided at different levels
We make it work
I belong here it is my family
We are the best – we are Catholic – We should stand strong as One Big Family
Homilies should relate to everyday life
Strength from other (?) faith and sacraments
Interaction with people gives renewal
Renewal of faith – music, community, opportunities to help other people
Hospitality ; welcoming environment
Youth group is important
Belonging here feeds spirituality
Children's programs – children's choir
Adult Education
Relating to Homily
Bulletin columns are a positive
Daily Mass
Special programs including those for people who need help
Easy transition to new parish
Small Christian Community (more flexibility) -
Bible Studies
Service to others as teachers, lectors, outreach, etc.
Every week I take something home from the homily'
Belonging and working toward a common goal
Listen to opportunities
Mini-retreats (revisit)
Finding what you love and doing it
Joining and getting the connectedness
Giving of ourselves
Music feeds my spirituality
Reverence during the Eucharist feeds my spirituality/ I feel a true presence
Our Lady of Grace offers me ways to give back to the community and help others
Deacon's homilies offer a different perspective
Sense of community/ familiar faces
Belonging leads to building spirituality
The more that you give the more you get back
The people are the parish
Peaceful presence in the heart
This is how we experience God

Group Responses, continued (page 3)

Free to talk about spirituality

Embracing the opportunity to embrace God by giving back to others

Christa House

Special Education program

Bulletin- Able to find opportunities to volunteer and help others

Emphasis of Youth group brings in families

Need to feel welcomed/ need a sense of belonging

Priest being at activities

Need Sacraments

Community/hospitality keeps me coming back

Loyalty

Ministering homebound/elderly

Priest in the lobby

These sessions are a good thing. A great way to communicate

Reenergize and Reconnect

Peacefulness/ belonging

Comfort in Rituals of mass/process

Increase in support from Rockville Center

Stability in Administration

Mass strengthens us

Look for ways to share my faith

The Mission

Taize Prayer

Small Christina prayer groups

Blessing of the throat

Hospitality (Knights of Columbus)

Vacation Bible School

Kids of the Kingdom

Stewardship Fair

Children's liturgy strengthens faith with family

More support for Boy Scouts in fund raisin

Prayer groups (need to be advertised more)

Daily mass feeds spiritually (evening masses would help)

Love the Lord

Outreach Programs

Respect for Life/ \$\$ to Life Center (possible bus to Washington)

Small base Christian Community

New Confirmation program

Special Education Program

(Responses from the young people's table after the 5:30pm Mass)

Alter Serving

Children's Choir

Witness talks (alter servers)

Lecturing

Bible camp

Counseling

Kids of the Kingdom