

Living Water Catholic Pastoral Council
Meeting Minutes
February 24, 2019

Attendance: Dianne Mills, Ed Mills, Ruthann Frost, Bob Taft, Claire Brewer, Jon Ayres, Kate Ayres, Matt Hale, Bill Cowie, Germaine Koomen, Meredith Smith, Rev. Scott Euvrard, Rev. Paul Soper.

Refreshments were enjoyed. Thank you to Matt Hale and Bill Cowie!

Opening Prayer read by attendees, and brief introductions were made. A warm welcome was extended to Fr. Paul Soper.

Fr. Paul is here tonight to review the results of the Disciple Maker Index Survey, taken in the Fall of 2018 by our Collaborative parishes, comparing those results to the last survey taken in 2015.

This survey of church-going Catholics has been conducted during the last 4-5 years in the US and Canada. Over 120,000 respondents from both counties, the largest one completed in the US in over 600 Parishes in 30 Dioceses, with Boston and Chicago being the largest respondents.

The Cardinal uses these results for three purposes:

1. Help Parishes understand their own situation.
2. Help the Diocese to measure success or the lack of.
3. National Data for Best Practices.

We watch the index in case things are not going well. The hardest number we have is finances. It would be easy to measure, but we do not want to use this. The life of engagement in the Parishes is what we are hoping to see. Note: We do not track individual respondents. The emails are scrubbed after the data is taken.

Our fall of 2018 Survey

- Fewer people answered the survey this time around. Perhaps more positive people answered, which might be skewing this.
- Perhaps people were afraid of identity, even though data is scrubbed.
- Last time we may have done mailings as well, per Fr. Scott.
- Fr. Scott said this survey was conducted during the time that we lost Fr. Chris and the Mass schedule changes, so people were still in flux.

Where are you on your Catholic journey?

- A 5% increase to the question that Jesus is the most important relationship in my life. This is good news and perhaps the Christ Life Program may have had something to do with it. The people in Group 4 are ready to go out and start evangelizing.
- The people in Group two, who practice their faith, but do not know Jesus personally as a friend, need someone to accompany them. They see God as a force but not as a person. They are on the threshold of trust, but have not passed beyond that.

- **Social Justice:** If we survey people in this group, as a disciple, taking care of the poor is a natural step. It is a low-threat entry point vs. Bible Study and confession.
- **The Christ Life Program mirrors the strategy:** People in Group 4 need to be sent. Those in Group 3 need to be formed and taught. Those in Group 2 need accompaniment, and Group 1 needs to be welcomed.
- **Frequent confession is a driver for growing Categories 3 or 4.**

Net Promoter Score:

- **There is movement in our parishes.**
- **How do we compare to other parishes? Ours came out higher, but we cannot compare just to Boston.**
- **Is this enough of a sample size to draw a conclusion to share with the larger congregation? We could pull out the big successes and list one or two areas to continue to focus on.**
- **Fr. Soper is sending something from Catholic leadership to study the connection between the survey and day to day life. By Christmas we hope to have the Best Practices to share.**
- **What are the top ten parishes? Perhaps people could visit to see what they do day by day.**
- **Fr. Scott indicated we are coming to the end of the Pastoral Plan, giving us what we want to focus on.**
- **Fr. Soper feels the survey is not as important as talking to our Teams and intervention. He will send these results electronically so we can make a page for the bulletin.**
- **The next survey is being redesigned so we can take it anytime we want. Fr. Soper said we have funding to help parishes take it.**

Other Business:

- **Conversation on the church crisis and Pope Francis expelling former Cardinal Archbishop Theodore McCarrick. Fr. Scott noted that 50 people participated in a Novena to pray for a resolution to this crisis.**

Closing Prayer

OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE MARCH 24, 2019 ~ Refreshments by Claire Brewer, Opening Prayer by Ruthann Frost and Closing Prayer by Germaine Koomen.

