

## Report on the Disciple Maker Index Survey

First of all, thank you to the 198 parishioners who took the time and effort to respond to the survey. Your efforts will help our community reinforce what is going well and respond to opportunities to grow in other areas. Over the past 8 years, over 200,000 people in over 1,200 parishes have taken this survey. We can examine the results from our own perspective and the values we hold, as well as by comparing ourselves to others, both in this diocese and in the United States at large.

There were basically two parts to the survey: one asked for answers from strongly agree through strongly disagree. The other asked for frequency of participation. One needs to look at both the question and the answer in analyzing the data. For example, “once a year” for participation in a retreat (good) is much different than “once a year” for participation in Sunday Mass (not so good). So, as with anything, there are various ways of looking at the data. The Pastoral Council will review the data, deciding how it can be used for our growth. I suspect that various groups will become involved, certainly the Formation and Evangelization Commission, for example. In this report, I will look at some major categories:

### COMMUNITY

On average, 87% of respondents marked “agree” or “strongly agree” to the areas under this question.

The strongest were:

- Information is readily available: 97.4%
- We are a welcoming community: 94.4%
- The community gives opportunities to serve: 93.3%

All questions had 75% or better.

### WHAT PARISHIONERS WOULD RECOMMEND TO OTHERS

On average, 83.7% of respondents marked “agree” or “strongly agree” to the areas under this question.

The strongest were:

- Our parish: 95.3%
- Our pastor: 93.2%
- Our parish school: 86.7%

All questions scored 70% or better.

### HOW GROWTH TAKES PLACE

On average, 74.1% of respondents marked “agree” or “strongly agree” to the areas under this question.

The strongest were:

- Preaching: 92.3%
- Mass: 88.3%
- Being formed as a disciple: 82.1% (tie)
- Music: 82.1% (tie)

One score much lower than the others was being taught to read the bible (45%).

### WHAT PARISHIONERS BELIEVE IN

On average, 84.9% of respondents marked “agree” or “strongly agree” to the areas under this question.

The strongest were:

- Jesus died and rose again: 95.7%
- Scripture is the word of God: 89.1%
- Eucharist is the Body/Blood of Christ: 83.8%

All questions had 75% or better.

## Report on the Disciples Maker Index Survey, cont.

On the first page of the results, four questions that are deemed crucial are highlighted, each representing a different aspect of parish life:

Question	Pius	All Parishes
<b>1. I would recommend my parish.</b>		
Strongly Agreed	67%	54%
Agreed	29%	34%
<b>2. Where are you on your Catholic Journey?</b>		
Claimed a personal relationship with Jesus	23%	33%
Growing as disciples	43%	35%
Practice their Catholic faith	31%	26%
<b>3. Is the parish helping spiritual growth?</b>		
Strongly Agreed	50%	39%
Agreed	41%	42%
<b>4. How often have parishioners shared their personal stories?</b>		
Monthly or more	14%	18%
Quarterly	13%	11%
Once or twice a year	34%	34%
Never	39%	37%

### PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM COMMENTS ON RESULTS

#### Three Strong Positives:

1. Parishioners find Pius a welcoming parish and would recommend the parish, pastor, and staff.
2. Information is readily available and easy to find, including financial transparency.
3. The parish helps with spiritual growth AND there is a desire for more spiritual growth.

#### Three Challenges or Opportunities

1. Continued growth in being formed as disciples (retreats, workshops, being taught to read the bible, understanding the beliefs of our faith)
2. Become more comfortable sharing faith, witness stories, inviting people to Mass and other events.
3. Provide more social activities and encourage participation.

### MY FINAL COMMENTS

These results are very positive as we look in on ourselves and that is great. The challenge for individuals seems to be becoming more comfortable and proactive in taking our faith out into the world around us. The challenge for our faith community seems to be equipping and supporting members so they can do that. We will work through any challenges together as a parish.

*Paul James Portland, OFS*