

## **Draft Report of the Saint Isidore Parish Survey**

Dear Parishioners of St. Isidore Church,

What follows is the final report of the parish survey.

### **Introduction**

The Saint Isidore Parish Finance Council asked the parishioners to complete an anonymous survey at home or online from Saturday, April 15th to Sunday, May 21st. A total of 60 surveys were completed and returned.

The survey consisted of two parts, the first part consisted of check off or circle the answer to a specific question and the second part consisted of open ended responses. Below is the results of the survey with the specific questions answers listed first followed by a summary of the open response answers.

The summary of the open response answers only highlight the comments that were listed most often. As there were over 340 responses to the open ended questions, it is clear not all the responses can be listed in this report.

### **Specific Questions**

#### **1. How long have you been a member of St. Isidore Parish?**

Fifth-four parishioners answered this question. The answers ranged from being a member of the parish for one year to sixth-two years. Many parishioners who answered this question have been a member of the parish between fifteen and thirty years.

#### **2. Do you regularly attend Mass at St. Isidore?**

Fifty-three parishioners stated they regularly attend Mass at Saint Isidore.

#### **3. How do you receive information about the parish?**

Most of the respondents (53) stated they received information about the parish by reading the weekly bulletin, announcements at Mass was second with forth-six respondents. These were followed by Collaborative emails (33), the website (27), and word of mouth (24).

#### **6. Do you financially support St. Isidore?**

Fifty-three of the sixty parishioners who responded to this question stated they financially support the parish.

#### **7. If yes, how do you contribute?**

Of the fifty-three parishioners who answered yes to the question 6 forty-nine parishioners use in-pew baskets when making a donation. Forty-two parishioners have made a donation to the Grand Annual collection either this year or in past years. It does appear almost all the respondent use more than one means of donating to the church with Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) being third most popular with twenty-six of the respondents stating they use this method to donate.

#### **8. Do any of the following limit your ability to give, or continue or increase your current level of giving?**

Of the eight choices list in this question only two responses stood out. Nineteen of the parishioners stated they are concerned about the Parish's survival. Sixteen parishioners listed the are unable to do so because of my current financial situation. The other choices had ten or less responses with "I don't think the parish needs the money" recording zero responses.

#### **Open Ended Response Questions**

The second section of the survey had a series of open ended questions to allow parishioners to share their thoughts and opinions about the parish. These questions generated over 340 responses. Many of these were thoughtful and eye opening. Below are the questions along with some of comments that were shared with the PFC.

#### **4. What are the strengths of our Parish?**

This question had the largest number of responses. Forty of the respondents stated the Parish Community and the People were the major strengths of the parish. Followed by having Father Jeff and Deacon Charlie as our pastor and deacon. Many parishioners found their homilies uplifting along with each being easy to approach. This was followed by the greeters at the weekend Masses and the volunteers who help with the garden and hospitality after the 8:45 Mass. The other strengths are the choir and the selection of music, and programs offered, such as Children Liturgy of the Word, First Reconciliation and First Communion. The Sunday Hospitality after Mass did receive a number of positive responses.

#### **5. What is missing from or unsatisfactory at our Parish that you need or want?**

The lack of events and volunteers to run these events generated the most responses. Parishioners made it clear they want to take part in more activities at their church. Many parishioners wrote they missed both the Italian and Irish nights. They also stated they missed Lessons and Carols which was held just before Christmas. Included in the Lessons and Carols was the cookie swap, which was a very popular activity.

The second most response had to do with the Liturgy. Some parishioners would like the church hall to be available after a funeral to the grieving families. Others want more services held at the church such as Taize, Stations of the Cross during Lent and having the Easter Vigil alternate between the two churches.

Suggestions were made to bring back the little books for Advent and Easter along with establishing a religious library.

Many parishioners believed the parish was becoming a satellite church and losing its parish identity.

**8. Do any of the following limit your ability to give, or continue or increase your current level of giving? The responses below were listed under other in question 8.**

Many parishioners stated they would give more if they were assured the parish would be here in the future. Others stated they try to give the best they can, but they are living on a fixed income.

**9. What would be helpful to you to better understand the parish financial situation?**

In this last specific question nineteen parishioners would like a presentation at Saint Isidore updating our financial situation. This option was the most popular of the choices listed. The second most popular choice was many parishioners would like additional financial information published in the bulletin throughout the year.

**10. Please add any comments you believe will be helpful.**

Again most of the comments dealt with the lack of activities in the church and the need for more volunteers to run these activities.

**Conclusion**

Parishioners are eager to participate in a more active parish. Our financial health is tied to parishioners faith in the future of an active parish.

Sincerely,

Parish Finance Council Parishioners: Bill Oberlies, Glen Bunnell, Charlie Corley, Dave Goulet, Tom Moroney, and Rosario Rizzo