

## **ST BENEDICT'S FOCUS GROUP MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

**November 21, 2022**

**Facilitated by: John Barnfield**

**Assisted by: Regina Croskery & Christine Murray**

**Total Participants: 20**

(incl. Leaders and Guests)

### **AGENDA:**

- Review of May 2022 Focus Group Session
- Review of June 2022 Strategic Planning Sessions
  - Primary Outputs - Vision Statement
  - Servant Leadership Model
- Financial Update by Louis G
- Fr Brian J gave update on Mass Attendance and initial discussions around review of Mass Schedules.
- Strengthening & Connecting Parishes (Co-Responsible Ministry). Review of working team meetings since formed in August, 2022.
- Communications Assessment – “To what degree do you feel informed of what’s going on within Parish & FOP as a whole?”
  - High (8 – 10 ex 10) 7 votes
  - Medium (4 – 7 ex 10) 4 votes
  - Low (1 – 3 ex 10) 2 votes

### **TOP PARISH NEEDS:**

- Liturgical Celebrations (9)
  - Homilies
  - Liturgical Environment
  - Welcoming

Do more to encourage congregational singing.

Leonia D notified attendees of upcoming pre-Christmas events.
- Engaging Family & Youth (8)

- Active Participation (7)
  - Readers, Eucharistic ministers, ushers/greeters, altar servers (male & female), cross holders.
  - Seek more financial contributions from under 50 parishioners
  - Picking/calling a family ahead of time for offertory
- Finances (6). Andrew Jones is St Ben's rep. on Finance Council

### **PARKING LOT ITEMS:**

- How to attract 60 & under parishioners (back-fill for older generation)
- Find ways to draw people back to church
- Have a screen to follow Mass at St Ben's, despite Diocesan "No New Screens" policy.
- Church response to residential schools situation (social justice issue).
- Invitation to schools – participation
- Stronger advertising/promotion of next Focus Group meetings (6 months??)
- Upgrading/renewal of HVAC system at St Ben's needs addressing
- Clarify situation with Capital Campaign for South End churches.

### **FOLLOW-UP/NEXT STEPS**

- Ensure info. from tonight's Focus Group is well communicated to all Parishioners
- Definite interest in reconvening a parish community group in the Spring of 2023.