



What Are Our Challenges and Opportunities - Synthesis - Parish Family 26

The Parish Family Advisory Council would like to thank everyone who participated and for sharing so openly in our listening sessions. Your voices paint a clearer picture of the wider community challenges, parish struggles, and future opportunities.

In our wider community we see real struggles:

The high cost of living that pushes single income families away, a more secularized and self-centered culture, and our parish family's lack of connection. Many in our wider community are over scheduled, and self-sufficient or distant from God, while our youth often lack faith formation, and our elderly neighbors face limited mobility and support. Some feel a barrier because of stereotypes geared towards our parishes. Others feel isolated, longing for more events and activities to foster connection.

Inside our own parishes we face similar challenges:

Parishioners expressed a need for more prayer, encouraging others to pray more often for the parish and wider community. Too few of us are actively engaged in parish life including attending Sunday Mass, volunteering, and participating in events or activities. There seems to be a disconnect between our Catholic schools and our parishes. Some felt we must encourage evangelization of our school families, young adults, and the wider community. Many feel we need more reverence before, during, and after Mass as well as a desire for continued faith formation for all ages and levels of catechesis. Transportation was identified as a barrier to attending Mass, events, and parish activities, especially for our elderly. Finally, communication between our campuses needs improvement, and we must strengthen our communication with parishioners regarding resources and events.

Your suggestions and feedback point to the rich opportunities we have before us:

To start, we can deepen our faith by offering more opportunities for community prayer: adoration, rosary groups, retreats, Bible study, and parish family novenas. We can improve engagement with personal invitations to small groups, shared meals, face-to-face events, and full parish family gatherings. We must take action to invest boldly in youth and young adult ministry, our schools, and faith formation to improve catechesis of all parishioners, as well as expand our outreach to the wider community. Finally, we can bring our two parishes together more visibly by offering more cross-parish events at both locations, working on clearer communication between our campuses, and ensuring all parishioners feel a sense of welcome, connection, and community.

Again, we thank you for your feedback and look forward to hearing your input as we develop our vision for who we are called to become as a parish family.