



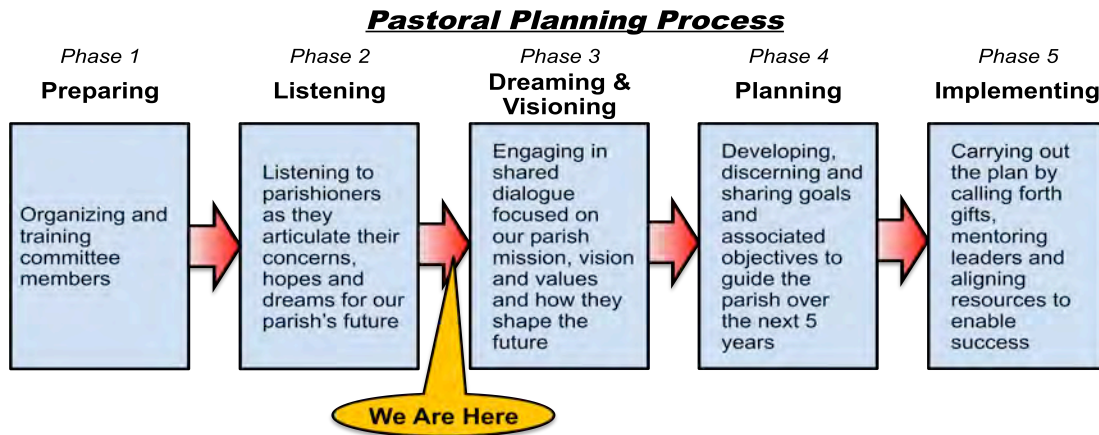
Saint Andrew Parish Parish Survey Summary Results



May 2013

Dear Friends,

As part of the process to develop our Pastoral Plan for the next five years, a survey of our parishioners was conducted during December through February. All parishioners were invited to participate and provide input on their parish experiences and on parish priorities for the next five years. We are grateful to the large number who responded and provided a valuable input into the planning process. We are now concluding the *Listening* phase of the planning process and entering the *Dreaming & Visioning* phase.



If we had to sum up the survey results in a sentence, it would be this: you like your parish, you are enthusiastic about your parish faith experience, you feel that you are a part of parish life and ministry, but there is room for improvement in a number of areas. Even though we are a very large parish, many used the word “home” to describe the feeling you have for our parish. You know your presence and participation are vital to the life of our parish, and you are happy to be part of it.

There are several reasons for this that emerge clearly in the survey responses. You like the Franciscan Friars, your fellow parishioners and the sense of community that you feel. You appreciate the many opportunities provided for growing in the understanding of your faith, the presence of a school in our parish, the different ways the liturgy is celebrated and the support provided to those in need.

Of course, there are challenges also. Your responses show some indications of dissatisfaction and various areas in need of improvement. You offered a number of recommendations in specific areas for the consideration of parish leaders. Because we are such a large parish, some of you indicated at times it can feel too big, even impersonal. And, many of you who pray here on Sundays find it difficult to get back during the week to take part in all the other activities that make Saint Andrew what it is.

Parish leadership is reviewing all of the data and feedback that you provided. The results will be one of the inputs used to shape a new vision for our parish, serve as a good starting point for some honest self-evaluation and become part of the foundation of our plan for the next five years.

Thank you again for taking part in the survey. We hope you will take some time to review the results and that doing so will make you want to become even more involved in the life of our wonderful parish.

We would also like to thank the members of the Parish Survey group that organized and conducted the survey: David Fulkerson, Linda Guminski, Kathy Henson, Bob Rearden and Darcy Sety.

Saint Andrew Parish
Pastoral Planning Committee



SURVEY SUMMARY RESULTS

The main portion of the survey was divided into two sections. The first section invited parishioners to tell us about their experience as a parishioner. This section included 31 questions, many of them providing an opportunity for narrative responses. The second section of the survey focused on priorities for the next five years. Parishioners were invited to respond to statements on 14 potential areas for future focus. Respondents provided their views on the relative importance of each of these potential focus areas.

YOUR ST. ANDREW EXPERIENCE

- **THINGS YOU LIKE.** The most frequently mentioned things parishioners like about the parish are the friars, the people and the sense of community. Many parishioners described feeling “at home” in Saint Andrew Parish.
- **YOU ARE ENTHUSIASTIC.** Parishioners who responded where almost universal (more than 85% agreeing) in their enthusiasm about their Saint Andrew Faith experience and its influence in leading them to a more spiritual life. The survey revealed those who are more involved in parish life (i.e., more connected) tend to feel more positive about their Saint Andrew experience.
- **YOU ARE INVOLVED.** Over two-thirds of respondents indicated some degree of involvement in parish life beyond Mass attendance. Many expressed a desire for more involvement, but indicated work and family time pressures limit their ability to be more involved. Scheduling has significant impact on the appeal of activities. While a variety of faith formation opportunities are offered, respondents felt their scheduling needs to be improved. Several noted limited opportunities are available specifically for our singles.
- **COMMUNITY PRESENCE.** The Social Ministry Food Pantry and Saint Andrew School were frequently cited as the most visible signs of parish presence in the larger community of Fort Worth. Some felt the parish should be more active in the community.
- **THE CHALLENGE OF BEING BIG.** A number of respondents commented about the challenge of establishing relationships with other parishioners in a large parish like ours. Many relationships between parishioners are formed through involvement in parish ministries or through Saint Andrew School. However, respondents felt the parish could do more to welcome or involve all parishioners in the wider parish community.
- **COMMUNICATION PREFERENCES.** The majority of respondents prefer communication through the bulletin or by email. Telephone calls and the parish website were the least preferred methods of communications. Difficulty in navigation and out-of-date information were cited as website deficiencies. A number of suggestions for

improving the website were offered. Use of social media (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, texting) for communicating with parishioners was also suggested.

- **WHEN AT MASS.** While most indicated the environment within the church was conducive to prayer and active participation in the liturgy, noise before and after Mass detracted from their prayer and participation. Several also commented the church facility is dark and needs improvement to provide a more uplifting worship environment.
- **INTERACTION WITH THE PRIESTS.** Parishioners desire more opportunities for interaction with the priests, especially after Mass.
- **MORE OPPORTUNITIES.** Several mentioned a desire for more retreats and a ministry fair.
- **SPANISH MASS.** Several indicated a desire for Mass to be available in Spanish for Hispanic parishioners.
- **FACILITIES.** A number of suggestions for facilities improvements were offered.

YOUR COMMENTS

Below are the most frequently submitted comments.

- Interested in more social events that foster community (104 comments)
- Like our Franciscan Friars (95 comments)
- Like the music/choir (80 comments)
- Find the bulletin to be very useful (60 comments)
- Interested in more retreats (58 comments)
- Like the people in the parish (54 comments)
- Support Social Ministry (54 comments)

THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

Based on responses, the following were identified as the top priorities for the next five years:

- Investing in youth to achieve growth in their involvement in parish life,
- Providing liturgy and music that inspire active Mass participation,
- Promoting a sense of community through activities that increase parishioner involvement, and
- Promoting social service assistance to those in need.