

Summary of Parish Survey Results

In the spring of 2008, the Parish Council aspired to get a better sense of the “pulse of the parish” and to help us plan programs and initiatives for our community. We wanted to know what kinds of activities and opportunities for exercising and deepening faith are important to parishioners, as well as what does Newman does and what could be improved. The survey was available in two formats, on-line via Surveymonkey and in hard copy available at the reception desk. Below is a summary of the survey results. Hard copies of the entire survey including all of the comments are available for review at the reception desk.

Total Started Survey: 298
Total Completed Survey: 264 (88%)

Age ranges of respondents:

	Percent Response	Count
18 and under	2.70%	8
19-25	23.31%	69
26-35	14.19%	42
36-45	9.80%	29
46-55	17.23%	51
56-65	19.59%	58
65 and up	13.18%	39
		Total responses: 296
Student respondents:	36.04%	102
Non-students:	63.96%	181
		Total responses: 283

The Pastoral Council identified the following as possible characteristics of a vibrant faith community:

- Spirituality** (opportunities for deeper prayer and reflection)
- Liturgy** (Sunday & Daily mass as well as liturgical celebrations)
- Youth Faith Formation** (activities & resources to help us to experience, understand & live our faith)
- Adult Faith Formation** (activities & resources to help us to experience, understand & live our faith)

Leadership (how the parish recognizes, develops and sustains potential leaders)

Hospitality (a sense of welcoming and inclusiveness for all)

Small Christian Communities (opportunities for smaller groups of parishioners to do faith sharing on a regular basis)

Diverse Cultures/Gifts (the recognition and incorporation of diversity into parish life)

Stewardship (opportunities to give time, talent and treasure back to the community)

Social Ministry (opportunities to bring about social change and respond to injustice)

Evangelization (how we foster conversion, communion & solidarity in our community)

Survey participants were asked to rank characteristics that were of most importance:

	unnecessary	not important	important	very important	absolutely essential	not applicable
Spirituality	0.4% (1)	1.8% (5)	23.7% (66)	26.6% (74)	45.3% (126)	0.7% (2)
Liturgy	0.0% (0)	0.7% (2)	7.5% (21)	17.2% (48)	72.7% (202)	0.0% (0)
Youth Faith Formation	0.4% (1)	4.0% (11)	20.9% (58)	29.9% (83)	30.6% (85)	11.1% (31)
Adult Faith Formation	0.0% (0)	3.2% (9)	27.7% (77)	38.5% (107)	24.8% (69)	3.2% (9)
Leadership	0.7% (2)	9.3% (26)	37.4% (104)	29.9% (83)	18.7% (52)	1.1% (3)
Hospitality	0.4% (1)	1.2% (3)	13.7% (38)	32.4% (90)	50.0% (139)	0.4% (1)
Small Christian Communities	0.7% (2)	12.9% (36)	40.4% (112)	27.3% (76)	15.5% (43)	0.7% (2)
Diverse Cultures/Gifts	2.1% (6)	9.3% (26)	33.8% (94)	24.5% (68)	27.3% (76)	0.4% (1)
Stewardship	0.0% (0)	1.8% (5)	29.5% (82)	42.1% (117)	24.1% (67)	0.7% (2)
Social Ministry	1.1% (3)	4.3% (12)	28.8% (80)	33.5% (93)	29.9% (83)	0.7% (2)
Evangelization	2.9% (8)	12.9% (36)	41.0% (114)	24.8% (69)	14.4% (40)	0.7% (2)

Total responses: 278

Survey participants were then asked to rank how well Newman/Holy Spirit Parish realizes these characteristics:

	very poor	poor	satisfactory	well	very well	not applicable
Spirituality	0.4% (1)	2.3% (6)	23.1% (61)	37.5% (99)	27.3% (72)	6.8% (18)
Liturgy	0.8% (2)	0.0% (0)	9.5% (25)	21.6% (57)	64.0% (169)	1.5% (4)
Youth Faith Formation	0.4% (1)	5.3% (14)	9.8% (26)	17.8% (47)	15.5% (41)	47.0% (124)
Adult Faith Formation	0.0% (0)	6.8% (18)	18.2% (48)	27.3% (72)	21.2% (56)	25.0% (66)

Leadership	0.4% (1)	4.2% (11)	24.6% (65)	15.5% (41)	10.6% (28)	41.7% (110)
Hospitality	0.4% (1)	6.0% (16)	19.3% (51)	29.5% (78)	39.4% (104)	2.3% (6)
Small Christian Communities	0.4% (1)	4.2% (11)	22.3% (59)	26.1% (69)	15.5% (41)	29.5% (78)
Diverse Cultures/Gifts	1.5% (4)	5.7% (15)	22.7% (60)	30.7% (81)	19.3% (51)	17.4% (46)
Stewardship	0.0% (0)	5.3% (14)	22.0% (58)	40.5% (107)	14.8% (39)	14.4% (38)
Social Ministry	0.4% (1)	7.2% (19)	24.6% (65)	27.7% (73)	20.5% (54)	17.0% (45)
Evangelization	0.4% (1)	6.4% (17)	25.4% (67)	24.2% (64)	11.0% (29)	30.3% (80)
				Total responses:	264	

With regard as to how participants find out about what is going on at Newman, they indicated the following:

	Percent Response	Count
Bulletin	77.48%	203
Pulpit announcements	75.57%	198
Website	36.64%	96
Hospitality table/Postings around the building	27.10%	71
Word of Mouth	28.63%	75
Student email	14.12%	37
		Total responses: 262

We then asked how participants PREFER to get information:

Newsletter	17.00%	43
Email	49.41%	125
Bulletin	62.06%	157
Website	39.92%	101
		Total responses: 253

The remaining sections of the survey invited participants to include their comments and feedback:

What do you value at Newman: (*synopsis of roughly 203 comments*)

Liturgy and many opportunities to worship	41%
Welcoming, inclusive & accepting community	22%
Active engagement in Newman programs & ministries	16%
Intellectual & spiritual growth	6%
Social justice/social service	5%
Progressive/informal faith community	4%
Vibrant community	3%
Connection to Paulist priests/mission	3%
Diversity of community	1%

What is missing at Newman (*synopsis of roughly 173 comments*)

Sense of community/parish-wide events	18%
More opportunities for social service & social justice issues	12%
Connection to the larger church/more traditional liturgical practices & hymns	11%
Engaging, creative liturgy & homilies	9%
Programs for adult education & singles	9%
More opportunities for small groups, bible studies	6%
More opportunities for reconciliation, spiritual direction	6%
More opportunities to engage junior and high school students	5%
More opportunities for voices & perspectives of people of color & women	5%
Means to get better connected to the community	3%
Programs for married couples and families	3%
Programs for those unsure in their faith	2%
Women's ministry	2%
Men's ministry	1%
Outreach to new parishioners	1%
Commitment to growth of people & resources	1%
Programs for young adults transitioning from college	1%
Stewardship of time/talent/funds	1%