

St. Peter Parish Survey Results as published in December 10th Bulletin:

Dear Parishioners,

On the weekend of October 21st-22nd, the people of St. Peter Parish took the ME25 (Member Engagement) Survey by the Gallup organization. It consisted of 25 statements plus some statements that measured our demographics.

The survey itself measured three different categories: Individual Spiritual Commitments, Member Engagement and Life Satisfaction. The 693 people who took the survey answered on a scale of one through five, one being “strongly disagree” and five being “strongly agree.”

The survey gave the results for our parish as well as the database Gallup comparison for other Catholic parishes and other faith groups. Here are some of the results:

Individual Spiritual Commitments - St. Peter Parish recorded 4.21 out of 5.0. This category surveyed areas such as: Daily worship/prayer, Faith affecting every aspect of life, Faith as a source of inner peace, and Faith giving me meaning and purpose. The overall Catholic and faith groups scored 4.18.

Member Engagement - St. Peter Parish scored 3.69 out of 5.0. This category looked at statements like: *I am getting my spiritual needs met, someone cares for me at church, my opinions count, and someone has asked me*

“Am I growing?”. The overall Catholic group was 3.63 and other faith groups were 3.64.

Life Satisfaction also referred to as Outcomes - The scoring was listed a bit differently. Below shows our rating compared to the other groups:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Our Parish</u>	<u>Catholic Overall</u>	<u>Faith Overall</u>
Extremely satisfied with their personal lives (Rating 4 or 5)	76%	75%	75%
Inviting someone to participate in the parish (Last month)	24%	31%	31%
Giving more than \$2,000 to the parish	18%	25%	28%
Volunteering and serving in our community (Our parish indicated 47% volunteer one hour or more a week.)	47%	54%	55%

The demographics had some interesting results. 86% of people indicated that they had attended Mass the week before. The comparisons indicated that 83% of Catholics and other faith groups attended church. Our parish seemed more stable also. 65% have been members for 10 years or more. This compares with 50% of other Catholic and faith groups.

The demographics also indicated that we are older. 68% of people are 55 or older. This differs from the 48% of Catholics/other faiths who are 55 or older.

Those are the numbers. What do they mean? It seems to me that our parish has many committed parishioners. However, we need to grow. Areas we scored low in tell me that we need to connect more with each other, learn to invite others to our parish and give more of ourselves in time, talent and perhaps treasure.

Finally, North Ridgeville is a city with a fair amount of new construction. However, our parish is older and has many long time members. These statistics give us a path for our mission. Our parish needs to bring people to Jesus Christ so that they can join us at the Eucharistic table. Let us pray for each other that we would find new ways to draw others to Jesus Christ and his Church.

Fr. Bob Franco