

St. Charles Borromeo Parish Report June 5/6, 2010

A year ago, the members of our parish council recommended that we participate in the ENGAGED CHURCH approach to parish life developed by the Faith Based Division of the Gallup Organization. It is based on the parable of the **Sower** (*Matt 13:1-9, Mk 4:1-9 and Lk 8:4-8*). There are three components to this approach (1) A leadership segment to assist the pastor as the earthly sower (2) A Strength Finder Profile to assist each member of the parish in developing his or her God given gifts, representing the seed, (3) the parish survey called the ME-25 {Membership Engagement Survey of 25 questions} to help assess the growth and fruitfulness of the parish.

Based on their research, Gallup noted that the **Spiritual Health** of the parish is comprised of two separate but interrelated elements: the **spiritual commitment** and **member engagement of parishioners**.

Spiritual Attitudes + Spiritual Behaviors = **Spiritual Commitment**
Spiritual Commitment + Member Engagement = **Spiritual Health**

Spiritual Health leads members to a greater degree of life satisfaction; more frequent invitation to others to come to church; an increase in serving and giving to carry on the mission of Christ.

During Lent we responded to the Gallup Membership Engagement survey[ME-25) as well as a survey developed by the Archdiocese. The detailed results of these surveys are available to all parishioners at the main entrance of the Church. The 1385 parishioners who responded to the ME-25 survey indicated that they are highly committed in terms of their Spiritual Attitudes and Spiritual Behaviors which together result in **spiritual commitment**.

According to Gallup research there are three levels of Membership Engagement: {1} Those who are **Actively Engaged**; {2} Those who are **Not Engaged** and {3} Those who are **Actively Disengaged**. On average the first time the members of a Catholic parish take this survey they score 16 % for those who are Actively Engaged. We scored 27%. The score for those Not Engaged is 49%. We scored 45%. The score for those Actively Disengaged is 35%. We scored 27%. During this coming year we will build on our strengths and begin to address in a systematic way what we need to do to become a more Engaged community.

An analysis of the Archdiocesan survey indicated that 1409 parishioners scored high on statements related to Spiritual Attitudes and Behaviors. For instance 90% of St. Charles parishioners Strongly Agreed or Agreed with the statement "I am committed to growing spiritually". This statement was frequently related to many other statements. When we think about it this is understandable. Being a Catholic is a Way of Life. Being Catholic is choosing to live as Jesus taught in the Church community which is guided by the Pope and Bishops, celebrates the Sacraments and supports its members in Living a Life of virtue. Desire is the first step toward reaching any goal, whether it is playing on a team, getting an education or become a Disciple of Christ in fact as well as in name. Likewise 90% responded that "Their faith guide the way they act in their community and workplace." Similarly 90% indicated that "Their faith gives them an inner sense of Peace." 63% of parishioners indicate that "they have good friends in the parish" and 68% say that "the parish in an important part of their life". Knowing that all is gift 80% respond that "Stewardship (giving God thanks and then returning a portion of my time, talent and treasure) is important in their life".

A number of adults, 437 indicate that they have not been confirmed and some 133 couples indicate that have not had their marriage celebrated in the Church. Confirmation completes one's initiation into the Church and all Catholic couples should be married in the Church. This Fall, I'll extend an invitation to all involved to celebrate these sacraments in the Church.

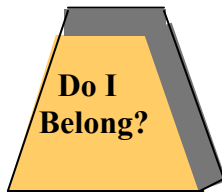
THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THESE SURVEYS WHICH WILL HELP US
GROW **AS A PARISH COMMUNITY**.

Membership Engagement is indicated by twelve (12) specific items of engagement that are grouped into one of four (4) specific hierarchical dimensions of engagement. The four dimensions are progressive beginning from the bottom of the pyramid and build on one another. The accompanying items of engagement are visually represented by the diagram below.

Items of Engagement



12. In my parish I have opportunities to learn and grow.
11. In the last six months, someone in my parish talked to me about the progress of my spiritual growth.



10. Aside from family members, I have best friend in my parish.
9. The other members of my parish are committed to spiritual growth
8. The mission or purpose of my parish makes me feel my participation is important .
7. As a member of my parish my opinion seems to count.



6. There is someone in my parish who encourages my spiritual development.
5. The spiritual leaders in my parish seem to care about me as a person.
4. In the last month, I have received recognition or praise from some on in the parish.\
3. In my parish, I have the opportunity to do what I do best.



2. In my parish my spiritual needs are met.
1. As a member of my parish, I know what is expected of me.

As the above graphic indicates, the first dimension of engagement (the base of the pyramid) fulfills the needs of the individual parishioner and, progressing upward through ever-increasing degrees of active engagement, the parishioner moves from the "I" to the "We" of our church community. Parishioners who find themselves in this dimension of engagement are self-initiated and the focus of their spiritual commitment and growth is directed towards the life, mission, and purpose of the greater parish community of furthering the work of The Church.

The ME25 assessment survey we filled out last Lent 2010 asked you to respond to twenty-five specific questions on a scale of 1 to 5, wherein (1) represents "strongly disagree" with the survey statement, while (5) indicates that you "strongly agreed" with the survey statement. The survey questions assess the following:

- ◆ 4 questions that address spiritually committed attitudes
- ◆ 5 questions that deal with the spiritually committed behaviors
- ◆ 12 questions that measure member responses to the 12 items of engagement
- ◆ 4 questions that ask members to respond to the outcomes of spiritual health.

Note: Additional demographic questions complete the survey.