

Written Responses to the *Be Missionary Disciples* Survey (2015)

1203 - St. William of York

These written responses should be read in conjunction with the accompanying survey report.

Q2: Other than your home parish, which other parishes do you attend?

- Basilica, or St. Ignatius
- Jenkina Senior Life Community, St. Agnes, Catonsville
- Sometimes Monastery & St. Augustine
- St Agnes (2 instances)
- St Marks
- St. Agnes, Baltimore, MD
- St. Agnes, Catonsville
- St. Agnes, St. Augustine
- St. Agnes (3 instances)
- St. Bartholomew's Episcopal
- St. Elizabeth/OLOA
- St. Luke's - Ocean City

Q10: Race/Ethnic Background

- African- African

Q11: Languages spoken at home

- Africana
- German, Dutch
- Kinyarwanda

Q13a: If you have children under 18, how do your children receive a religious education?

- Catechess of the God Shepherd

Q13b: If you have children under 18, which of the following faith-based activities do you do with your children?

- Set example - children under custody orders - mother not supportive

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Q13c: If you have children under 18, what do you feel are the greatest challenges you face in passing the faith on to your children?

- children under duress - mother doesn't support Catholicism
- Faith, like a mustard seed, starts small, requires nurturing, and grows slowly. The culture, and many times the Church too, emphasizes things big, easy and fast. Our children are surrounded by things that are instant (smartphones, internet, fast food), but this is contrary to faith, which is relationship based. Relationships are slow to form if they are to be deeply rooted. Consequentially, building genuine friendships with other families and fostering true community, all centered on faith, is very difficult. Quite often, as parents, we can feel little support in raising our children

Q15: How would someone know you are a Christian?

- Home environment is symbolic of Faith
- I frequent the O S B monastery and share in their programs. I am a Holy Union Associate and live the Charism of the community.
- Live my faith
- Please REVIEW the presentation of this online question. "None of the above" appears as the first option, and "Other" is the 3rd option, as I am taking this survey!

Q17: What do you feel are the greatest obstacles to being able to talk about faith with others?

- Frowned on at work
- I do not feel comfortable in social settings. Do not attend events
- I don't have a problem speaking about my faith & I find it encourages others to talk to me.
- I don't see obstacles
- I live alone
- Resistance from people
- There is a hostile atmosphere when speaking on faith matters these days, and it's hard to break through that

Q18: What does the term "evangelization" mean to you?

- I really don't know

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- Be able physically to go to church more often since I can't make on train after dark
- Be more consistant in time spent in personal prayer. Pray in group settings- interceding for others. Read more spiritual material, incorporate more meaningful Christian music into my daily life and prayer time.
- Become more humble
- Become more involved
- Centering prayer daily
- Commit more time to prayer
- Devote more time to it.
- find a faith-filled companion who shares the belief system and is willing to grow together in spirit
- Find more time to participate in group study, such as adult faith formation classes.
- Get a spiritual director
- Get back to being in a Bible study group. Hard to do these days with the time constraints of my family and jobs.
- Get husband involved with/ small group of men his age
- get involved in some type of service
- Get involved more in parish life
- Get more involved
- Give Jesus 30 minutes of my day without thinking of things that need to be done
- Go to confession regularly
- Go to mass more frequently
- I am a former member of a religious community. My faith and prayer life are very vital to me. I go for spiritual direction monthly. I contribute to the needs of the poor according to my means. To grow in my relationship with God is vital to me.
- I feel I have taken major steps by attending mass daily
- I should read the bible more
- Increase prayer and bible study, and, in particular, join one of the small groups that have been created in our parish
- join a discussion group
- Keep Jesus Christ in my life, Attend Mass regular
- Live it better
- More frequent confession
- move past my fears and anxieties under the power of Jesus' grace.
- Participate in adult faith formation mettings

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- Participate in missions and offerings at my parish.
- Participate in parish-offered studies, devotions, etc., now limited due to personal physical limitations.
- Participate more in parish activities.
- Personal relationship with God
- Pray more fervently consistently
- Pray more (2 instances)
- Put Jesus in the center of my life
- Reduce the busyness of my life, create more personal time for reflection and prayer
- Spend more solitary time Just listening for the Holy spirit to help me be more open to the messages that I need to increase my faith and love of Jesus and the rest of the Trinity.
- Spiritual reading
- Start going to Confession on a regular basis
- take more time for spiritual life /

Q25: What is the one thing the parish could do to help you enhance your spiritual life?

- Be more charismatic in prayer
- Be more welcoming/friendly
- Better music- preparation & execution
- Continue to improve the quality of worship music and the quality of Adult Faith Formation.
- don't know
- Focus attention on improving the quality of music at weekend masses. St. William of York is making great strides toward this end, but there is much more to be done there and at other small churches where I have visited throughout the area. Music is a vital component of good liturgy. It nourishes people in a unique way of which they may not even be aware. However, when people depart from a liturgy whose musical component is lacking, they leave with a sense of longing which has yet to be fulfilled.
- Have more interesting activities that are timely. Have homilies that are relevant to the times
- Have more spiritual activities
- Having a monthly confession time on a weeknight (maybe Tuesday). Saturdays are hard to get to with small children
- I am not sure at this time, other than give support in the areas mentioned above.

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- I feel the parish is doing a very good job of providing prayerful opportunities.
- I have enough activities that allow my active participation currently
- I think my parish is trying to promote what Pope Francis is asking, to make the gospel a living reality and to be a welcoming community.
- I'm not convinced there is much more the parish can do beyond the many opportunities that already exist
- I'm not sure the task is yours but how parishioners respond to your concerns
- Invite other Christian Denominations and other religions to events so we can get to know them and maybe even participate in there lives and ministries
- It meet my needs
- Keep our parish church open
- keep providing opportunities for growth
- Let me feel welcome again in the R.C. community. I grew up in the old All Saints parish on Liberty Heights Avenue sixty years ago. We moved to the County when I was twelve and as I discovered my sexuality in junior high and senior high schools I felt unwelcome in church, even back then. It's worse now.
- Make church a popularity logo - not a requirement - or be told their life is negative
- more dynamic worship
- More occasions for prayer at St. William /
- More opportunities for adult faith formation
- Music is very important to the mass. Having the same type of music at mass every week would be very helpful, i.e. contemporary group on Sunday and choir on Saturday.
- Need more relevant homilies. The people in church need to be encouraged in carrying out the message of the church. The homilist doesn't need to tell us the importance of going to mass-we're here. Tell us we are doing the right things. Checkout why the televangelist are growing so rapidly.
- Not rotating priests
- Offer gatherings right after Mass.
- Pray for me and keep Family faith groupe.
- Relate biblical events to life today
- Satisfied currently
- Schedule faith formation meetings at a convenient time
- Social networks by age and gender
- stop asking for money, money, money
- They offer a lot of opportunities already, but I am not able to (or have not made it a priority) to take advantage of many of them.

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- To have a French priest for confession
- Young adult program

Q26: Do you have any specific suggestions for ways to improve or broaden the appeal of adult faith formation opportunities in this parish?

- Apply the gospel to life today in the sermon and loud speakers
- Become more positive in community - Parishioners are not bad people
- Continue to support Adult Faith Formation sessions
- Have adult faith formation meetings at a convenient time
- Have someone speak about them at the masses
- I am not familiar with members and their individual faith journey attending mass could be a habit or a fulfilling experience
- I didn't choose to be gay.
- I would like to see our current AFF program receive more support (from the pulpit, etc.)
- More opportunities in week-days
- No. When we have taken time to attend adult faith formation at St. William of York, the experiences have been excellent.
- Provide good speakers, allow for more life-faith sharing
- Publicize all groups that have formed at both churches, St. Wills and St. Agnes and topics being discussed
- publicize it more
- The parish is taking many steps at present in this area
- There are many long time members in our parish. we are making progress in sharing a pastor w/ St Agnes. How we change the attitudes of our people is a real challenge. Wish I could offer a solution.
- we're working on it.

Q27: There are many reasons why people may not attend church everyweek. Other than the occasional illness or vacation, please select from the list below the most common reason(s) why you or people you know might not attend church at this parish on any given weekend.

- Again, please take a look at how this presentation appears. "Other" appears as the second option as I am taking the survey.
- Bad music

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- can not speak for others
- None of these apply
- Occasional distractions in daily life that may interfere with making Mass weekly
- People don't feel the need for God's help and they probably are turned off by the never ending need for more money to give to some forever coonery
- The "Church" is not welcoming
- Time

Q35: In which of the following areas could the parish give you the most support, either now or in the future?

- Housing
- I have no specific needs at present
- support for single life
- the parish is not the most important support for my spiritual life and support

Q37: How would you characterize your experience in contributing your time and talent to the parish?

- Because of depression and inability to get around, I don't contribute my time and talent
- Health issues prevent me at this time
- I am getting older and do not have the energy.
- I contribute financially to church support and outreach service
- I donate food at Christmas, the turkey collection but have to omany outside violence effort now to commit to any others

Q43: There are many reasons why some parishes might choose or need to work collaboratively with other parishes. Based on your experience, in which of the followin g areas would it make the most sense to work collaboratively with another parish - to achieve a better experience, higher participation, or cost savings?

- Embrace diversity in ALL forms
- Parish already shares many of above with St. Agnes
- We already do collaborate on these.
- We are already teamed with St. Agnes parish toward collaborative achievement.

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- We do work with another parish

Q44: Do you have any suggestions for other parishes that this parish ought to consider collaborating with?

- Active immigration outreach / Enhance the roll of women in the church.
- Already twined with St. Agnes
- clothing and food drives for the poor and needy.
- No (*8 instances*)
- None
- Not at this moment - we are already 'linked' to a larger parish by necessity - not enough priests - shared pastoral responsibilities - two distinct parishes can be challenging, however
- St. Agnes / St. Mark
- St. Agnes- already doing so
- St. Agnes
- St. Bernadine and St. Joseph Monastery churches, which in a practical way we might have more in common with in terms of neighborhoods and the building of the Uplands/Edmondson Village area.
- St. Mark
- St. Mark's - Catonsville
- St. William of York has excellent collaboration with St. Agnes Parish, the sister parish
- Think outside the box, do not fear change
- This strike me as a very thoughtful survey. Please share the results w/ us! I am pleased and impressed that the Arch is asking these questions!
- We already collaborate with St Agnes. It may be good to initiate a collaboration with St Bernadines, a predominately black parish.
- We already have a sister parish that we collaborate with.

Youth Survey Q8: How do you learn about your faith?

- Church, Homily

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Youth Survey Q9: Which of the following faith-based activities do you participate in?

- Attend prayer meetings

Youth Survey Q13: What is the one thing your parish could do to help you follow Jesus more?

- Have more kid comprehensible Homilies

Youth Survey Q14: There are many reasons why people might not attend church. Other than being sick or on vacation, what are the most common reasons why you might not come to church?

- I never miss it!