

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

2404 - St. Mary of the Assumption (Pylesville)

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?

- Carmelite Monastery
- dallastown pa (2 instances)
- FL, AZ, TX, DE/MD Line
- FL, AZ, TX, DE
- immaculate heart of mary, st josephs fullerton, our lady of fatema, st stephens bradshaw etc. because of work schedule and we only have a 4pm Sat mass.
- Luray, VA
- Only when travelling
- Our Lady of the Valley, Luray, VA
- seaford,md
- Sheffield, PA Kane, PA and when on vacation st anthony of padua in lancaster pa.
- st anne bethany beach in the summer
- St Elizabeth Am Seton
- St Margaret, Bel Air
- St sqnaties
- St. Francis De Sales
- st. igatius
- St. Ignatious Forest Hill
- st. ignatious (2 instances)
- St. Ignatius, Forest Hill
- St. Ignatius, Hickory (2 instances)
- st. ignatius (5 instances)
- st. ignitius
- st. ignitius
- St. John Newmann, Ocean Pines, MD
- St. Lukes in ocean city md
- St. Margaret, Bel Air
- St. Margret's in Bel Air
- St. Mark Fallston
- St. Mary of the assumption

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- St. Vincent Depaul Roshier NY, Holy trinity, Naticoke pa,
- Stella Maris

Q10: Race/Ethnic Background

- Italian

Q11: Languages spoken at home

- Italian

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

- All children went through parish training and completed it.
- not yet, only 3 years old
- under 3 yrs old, through our stories and practices

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?

- Catholics that give false teachings
- not enough time - too many other commitments - work, school, etc.
- not enough time- too many other commitments work, school, etc
- They are my grandchildren. It is difficult when parents do not share the same value of teaching the faith
- Time, over demanding schedules with work, school, sports, etc

Q15: How would someone know you are a Christian?

- Action first words if necessary
- by example
- I am a minister
- I discuss things I heard on Lighthouse CD's
- I help when able
- I seek ways to be closer to God
- I wear a 4-way medal

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- I wear a cross often
- I wear a crusifix
- k of c charity, unity, fraternity
- KofC charity, unity, fraternity
- Make the sign of the cross at lunch at work and with friends
- Member K of C
- talk about working with church activities
- teach religious education

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

- Depends on the individual situation
- My faith is strong (*2 instances*)
- So we have to keep keeping on with Christ
- Some do not believe.
- The church's inflexibility and intolerance

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

- Don't know how to ask
- Encourage others to maintain faith
- Past, God was there for me
- past, present, God was there for me
- Walking the talk

Q19: Think of a person who you know has left the Catholic Church or is thinking about doing so. With that person in mind, which of the following do you believe are the 2 or 3 most important reasons they left or might leave?

- Always seems to be about \$. But like I would explain to them in scripture we are to share back to the church that's what God has freely blessed us with. The clergy sex abuse is a small and easy scape goat. When I remind them that sin is sin and hold a mirror to them they shut up.
- Being a sinner like all of us but not understanding God's forgiveness and always wantings us to try again

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- Believe we honor mary and the saints too much
- blaming God for not fixing a difficult situation
- Children received all sacraments through confirmation moved on to college, no reason to attend
- College influenced
- Costs included- charging for rel. ed must be accurated for in collection
- Disatisfied with some of the staff
- Dissatisfied w/ some of the staff
- Doesn't want to take the time
- don' t know anyone
- feels the church is always asking for money.
- I don't need go church - Receive Comm
- Interaction with church workers who are rigid and dont present alternatives to welcome those who have left back into the life of the church
- Misuse of esp. costs for peodophile priests, i.e. court costs, transfers, payouts or lavish excess on diocese level
- Money, money, money
- N/A
- none
- not sure the reasons
- Position that church is a money makin organization
- Readings are repeated over a cycle. Lack of complete bible teaching during mass. Bad homilies.
- Stupid or biased priests in ocean city md had several bad experiences.
- The church's inflexibility and intolerance
- Work, different priorities based on social/ age group

Q20: Think of a person who you know has left the Catholic Church or is thinking about doing so. With that person in mind, which of the following do you believe are the 2 or 3 most important reasons they left or might leave?

- acknowledge that even the clergy are not perfect.
- Acknowledge they continue to embrace a christian life and a christian religion
- Again action in place
- don't know anyone

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- Invite to attend RGIA program
- Join K of C
- She attends mass with us when visiting. Treated poorly when asking for help

Q23: There are many ways that people grow in their spiritual life and practice aside from going to Mass. Please check the ways in which your spiritual life is nourished.

- Active pro-life
- Attend Man Hour occasionally
- catechist
- ChristLife, The Word Among Us, LLighthouse CD's
- consider my spiritual views when dealing with issues or problems
- Email connections - morning coffee
- EWTN
- Helping the poor and sick
- I pray to the Blessed Mother every day
- Just helping when I can
- Knights of Columbus
- Listening to reg. radio
- listening/caring
- Man Hour every Sat morning
- Order of Carmel Discalced Secular
- participating in music ministry
- Prayer chaw-sick-needy parish
- regular family discussions
- Religious orders - Food Bansluset
- Surrounding myself with fellow believers and those who support my faith
- Teaching religious education to 5th graders
- Those the lord places in my path that need love and understanding, food clothes
- Watch EWTN
- Youth ministry, scouting

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Q24: What is the one thing you could do to enhance your spiritual life?

- Allow daily mass more often
- apply teachings of jesus
- ask the Holy Spirit for help
- Attend a study group
- Attend Bible study if time permitted
- Attend ChristLife program
- Attend mass more often during the week
- Attend mass regularly
- attend study groups
- Be better a refocusing throughout the day on Christ as the real purpose and the only judge of my life. Life gets too cluttered with busyness, the Devil at play.
- Be kinder and more christ-like
- Be more forgiving (*2 instances*)
- Be more generous
- Be more involved
- Become more active
- Become more actively involved
- become more involved with church activities
- become more involved
- Better church attendance
- Continue 21, 22, 23
- continue doing what i am doing
- continue numbers 21, 22, 23
- continue to evaluate/study
- daily prayer (*2 instances*)
- dedicate a consistent block of time for prayer
- Do more in number 23.
- Do more reading (*2 instances*)
- Donate my excess clothing to those in need.
- Don't know.
- dont know
- expand personal prayer time

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- Find time for Christ Life
- Get back to church
- go on retreat, get spiritual
- Go to 6 a.m. Communion service
- go to confession (*2 instances*)
- help others
- I don't know
- If I could enhance a stranger to a good spiritual life
- Immerse myself in prayer more frequently.
- Improve personal prayer
- increase daily scripture reading & prayers
- Join a study group
- Just simply trust God more!
- Keep praying
- keep trying (*2 instances*)
- Learn more self-discipline to follow in Jesus's footsteps.
- Leave my job sooner to study sooner for my late vocation call!
- Listen better and remember what I heard.
- Listen I church / be there
- Make more time for prayer
- man-hour, facilitate communion service one day a week
- Meditate on scripture daily
- More church involvement, try and get along with spouse- marriage is in disarray
- More inter piece
- more outreach/ helping others
- More prayer and scripture readings and study groups
- more prayer at home
- more prayer (*2 instances*)
- more prayers
- more reading
- More reflection on the scriptures
- More time for reflection
- More time in contemplation.

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- Participate in service type activities. That is faith in action.
- Practice your faith
- Pray more - Needy - World - Peace Pope, etc
- Pray more (*7 instances*)
- Pray my rosary more often
- Pray the rosary more often
- pray
- prayer
- Probably do more works of kindness
- read and pray
- Read Bible more, refer to scripture
- Read Bible more. Attend mass more often than weekly, Saturday or Sunday
- Read bible more
- Read more literature about Catholicism
- Read more scripture and pray more
- Read more scripture readings
- Read scripture more
- Read the bible more
- Read the bible (*2 instances*)
- read the Scriptures
- Reading scripture
- Retreat
- retreats
- Set aside 10 minute each day to be still and listen
- Small group gatherings, not on specific issues.
- Spend more time in bible study
- Take more time for Eucharistic adoration and to pray the rosary
- Take time to find Jesus every day
- Think of Jesus more
- To become more knowledgeable of the scriptures
- Volunteer more often
- volunteer more
- Wish I could attend daily Mass and bring communion to home bound

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- Work and pray to get closer to Christ every day
- work with those in need

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

- ?
- Additional volunteer opportunities
- Adult religious education
- Be more tolerant and inclusive. Some homilies are divisive.
- Be more welcoming
- be there for me and others
- Better homilies
- Bring back altar bells for mass
- Bring back old custom of ringing bells at consecration , have general confession at Christmas and easter
- Christ Life
- continue doing the things they are doing
- Earlier times for events
- Emphasize the love of Christ for everyone!
- encourage
- Enliven music & sermons
- get back to the word of the bible
- Give background to scripture
- Have - more earlier pay time than night
- Have a follow up to the three Christ Life series.
- Have a welcome team (and) let older folks know to welcome new people not ignore them
- Have more times for adoration
- Have outside speakers and music
- Have seminar for young adults/ couples
- Hold basic bible study in evenings
- I should join more in parish activities

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- I strongly feel prayer groups should be formed to pray at home for Christians and missionary success. The Pope has it right. We are in WWII. It's just a religious war. Christians all need to fight this together with prayers.
- More community/parish events
- more group discussions
- More Novena's & Rosary Songs
- more small group activities
- More spiritual direction programs
- my church is fine I need to get back
- my parish app will do this I think
- My parish offers opportunities....It is up to me to take the first step
- N/A (3 instances)
- not sure at this time
- Not sure.
- Not sure
- Nothing they do very good job
- Nothing, the parish offers so many opportunities to participate in parish life both at the Church and at events outside of the Church. I participate in a men's groups but finding time between family events and Church events gets more and more difficult.
- Offer 24 hour adoration, bring back the later mass on Saturday or move it to a later time. But they are always there for me.
- offer adult mission trips
- Offer an earlier mass on sundays or later mass on saturdays
- Offer Bible study class more often.
- Offer confession more often
- offer more masses events
- Offer more opportunities for "drop in" for those that do not work 9 to 5 & can't make a schedule commitment
- offer more opportunities to participate in community outreach
- offer more opportunities
- Offer various religious studies.
- Remove Father Kunkel.
- Re-open the Parish clothing Donation Center. Resume anonymous adoption of family at Christmas
- Request a priest/pastor who has more spiritual energy

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- Scripture readings/study groups- young adults
- small group discussion
- st marys does a good job, issues are not parish related
- St. Mary's offers many opportunities. It is an active parish.
- Talk at mass while we are all together
- Teach one of our deacons public speaking in his homilies
- Teach why we believe what we believe
- Teaching from the pulpit, more opportunities for prayer
- the mas to be more inviting and celebratory
- The Parish as a whole is doing a great job. Many good leaders.
- The parish does a good job offering different avenues, need to take advantage of these more.
- They have everything I need, I just need to make the time.
- They offer opportunity
- Theyre great its me
- We have a wonderful pastor who is open to people starting new programs. He also is a champion for them. We do need to have more funds to provide these program. Our parish is small and rural, one of the reasons I love it, but unlike the larger parishes our collections do not provide much support. We are asked to raise funds for our own programs when we start them. The Holy Spirit has provided.
- would like to have more spiritual guidance

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

- Advertise RICA for Catholic's that have left the church - A new program for returning to the Catholic church
- Announcement at mass and in bulletin for Sat. Man Hour. Update website (Parish)
- babysitting
- become more tolerant and inclusive
- Book discussion groups focusing on spiritual
- catechize whole families; parents along with children; year of mission for youngsters, similar to LDS model; Archdiocese vocation director position for all vocations
- Contine to grow ChristLife and have follow-up program once people complete ChristLife
- Discussion groups, centered on age stratification can ber very relevant

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- find specific, tried and true ways to hold onto our young adults
- Foctober, Octoberfest, italian night, allow alcogol a events-came into this centruy- all other catholic churches do.
- For young adults out of highschool. Ice skating, roller blading, bowling, hikes
- get rid of online training that is not effective.
- Get the pastor to take a more active part in it
- God's house shouldnt be thought of as a market place; but a "welcoming oasis" would be a catch as a spocial place to com together other than after or for mass. Most or som parishes have a coffee shop line of thought a small canteen to refresh that would be the oasis to the adoration 24 hr chapel or fixed up area. youth came adore and later meet and discuss
- Groups to discuss current tense situations
- Have passionate people speak on the subject
- It is important to involve young adults in our plans and work so it can be carried on long after the more mature adults can no longer keep working for the church
- Learn more about catholic dogma, may have no concept of the teachings
- Let single people participate in carrying offering to the altar
- mens group events
- More outreach for the young adults in the parish
- Music, casual atmosphere
- needs to give more thought to this
- Offer an online course with an opportunity to meet for discussion
- Offer Bible study classes more often.
- offer more adult friendly social gatherings
- offer more opportunities for "drop In" for those that do not work 9 to 5 & can't make a schedule commitment
- offer more opportunities on sunday mornings
- Offer more variety of bible studies
- Offer programs during the day time as well as at night
- offer service opportunities with a spiritual dimension
- Outside music from other churches or regular bands
- provide oppurtunities for pilgrimages, and bible study groups
- see above
- Simplify
- Some daytime discussion group or study

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- Speak the truth about what is in the Bible
- teaching/ practicing liturgy of the hours
- They have good attendance and Christ Life Small good attendance at Bible study
- train those who teach in group dynamics and discussion facilitation
- Young adult activities to bring parishioners together with religious aspect bowling casual dances, etc

Q27: There are many reasons why people may not attend church everyweek. Other than the occasional illness or vacation, please seelct 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.

- Caring for grandchildren
- Christ has disappeared from people's lives today
- I am hearing impaired and the parish does not offer services for that
- I have no problem. I dont know about other people
- laziness
- need to replace parish priest. Know of many that have left because of Father Kunkel
- NONE
- People are busy. they dont set aside the time for it.
- Perhaps they don't make it a priority
- Remember the ??? (who support the parish)- needs
- too lazy

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

- I am so glad that all of these controversial issues were included!
- I think I could get support from my Priest and Parish about anything
- it's my life line already
- Just being here
- Keeping adult children in the faith
- more tolerance and inclusion of different viewpoints
- need elementary school-we have the building

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

- Hope to be more involved
- I am old and do what I can
- i contribute as much as my schedule allows
- I did contribute time and talent years ago during an appropriate period in my life - to do so now would not allow me to put my heart in it.
- i dont contribute my time and talent to the parish, gained most fulfillment spiritually by helping but havent in some time
- I give my time & talent when needed
- I have decided on which formal church group I will participate in.
- I used to do many things but I am 84, I only count collection and sing in choir
- I would like to contribute my time and talent to the parish but i do not know how. I need to find the application that fits me best.
- I would like to contribute my time and talent to the parish more but I am too busy. Somewhat this one, but not a question of too bust just exhaustion from long hours driving to work and the labor intensiveness of my job. The extra time is used for studies for my late vocation
- I, and my wife, are too sick to volunteer - have strange sleep habits
- Scouting
- to all
- Whenever I try to be more active people in the parish threy try to consume all of my time with menial tasks or busy work.

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?

- clergy supports
- just right
- mass schedule (Sat. & Sun.)
- None of the above
- such as parish nurse

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- Unsure due to location/drive time
- Use more symbology

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

- Churches close by
- Dont like the "new" parking arrangement. Liked the old one better.
- Dont think we need to collaborate with another parish as long as we have a pastor.
- I believe the Priest at our local hospital should come around to the parishes He serves and say a Mass there, at lease 2 times a year. This way when he shows up in our loved ones hospital room we know who he is, and can said... heard him preach.
- I'm not sure if they are collaborating or not...If not, I suggest St. Ignatius or St. Margarets in Bel Air, MD
- Keep a registry of special talents, abilities or prior work experiences
- My parish is in a 'rural' area and sharing ministries is not practical. The drive to another parish is too long for most folks.
- N/A (2 instances)
- No - keep the parish as it is. I am satisfied with the parish.
- No, but having thoughtfully completed this survey, I see no reassurance that my answers really matter and will be considered. Moreover after spending much time on previous ones, I saw no follow up/ implementation.
- No, satisfied with our parish.
- no (12 instances)
- None
- Nope
- not at this time
- nothing at this time
- So glad to see the church list all of the things in number 35. I think theyre all important! // St. Ignatious, St. Margaret and Prince of Peace and my suggestions of churches to collaborate with
- St. Ignatious Church in Hickory
- St. Ignatious Hickory, St. Margarets Bel Air
- St. Ignatious (2 instances)
- St. Ignatius (Hickory), St. Mark's (Fallston), or St. John's in New Freedom, PA. Realize St. John's is in another diocese, but it is located geographically close to St. Mary's and, perhaps, evangelize better engaging more people.

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- St. Ignatius Hickory, MD
- St. Ignatius Hickory
- St. Ignatius or St Margaret
- St. Ignatius, Hickory (2 instances)
- St. Ignatius, St. Margaret
- St. Ignatius (2 instances)
- St. Mark's, Fallston
- There have been times when I felt that on special circumstances (lights on lent) It would have been helpful for a retired or resident priest from a neighboring parish to have lended a hand
- there is already some communication between St. Ignatius and our parish due to the ChristLife program, but not sure if they are a good fit. In any case, the ministry leaders would be willing to work with anyone we are placed with. Merging organizations and teams is always fraught with transitional discomfort. I personally look forward to it.
- To Many Envelopes
- We should think of ourselves as one big family love Jesus

Youth Survey Q12: What is the one thing you personally could do to follow Jesus more?

- attend a youth group
- attend church more often
- attend mass more regularly
- attend mass more than one time a week
- attend more classes
- be kind
- community projects
- get my family to pray at meals
- go to church more with family
- go to church more
- go to church
- go to mass more frequently
- go to mass more often
- help others more
- Help people in need

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- I could go to mass more often
- i pray i God and help those in need
- judge people less
- Listen more at church
- pray every night in bed
- pray more/read the bible
- pray more (*18 instances*)
- Pray
- read the bible more often
- read the bible (*2 instances*)
- save the rosary
- say the rosary
- talk about him freely
- talk to him when I need him
- teach people about God
- Tell people about Jesus
- work on my attitude

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

- be kinder to people that are different
- doing everything right
- explain readings easier
- family faith gatherings
- group activities
- have a group where you go and teach people
- have a more interactive Mass
- have faith filled clubs
- have mass during CCD
- have more gatherings
- have more religious based activities
- Have more youth based activities
- having mass during CCD

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- help rejoice
- help understand some of the readings
- hold adoration more
- it helps me out alot
- more opportunities to serve the less fortunate
- more social groups about jesus
- not sure
- nothing, they are covered all the bases
- Pray more during mass
- pray more
- relate to teenage things more
- talk about jesus
- volunteer work
- welcome more children
- youth activities after school

Youth Survey Q18: What types of issues are you dealing with at school, with your friends or family, or with your faith that people in the parish might be able to help you with?

- being taken advantage of, body shaming
- coping with loss
- family stress, peer pressure
- family
- getting used to my teachers
- Give me more faith to believe in myself
- Grades in Algebras 1
- grades
- My teacher doesn't like me and doesn't treat me with respect
- none
- stress (3 instances)
- time management
- trust issues