

Listening Session #4
Welcoming, Connecting, and Inviting
May 24, 8:00 AM

About 25 in attendance

Verbatim notes from verbal comments as well as written responses on forms and notecards.

Working Well

- Leadership – priests continually interact with parishioners – continue to support priests to be approachable, relatable, likeable. We see that a lot with Fr. Talbot and Fr. Wil. That leads into other opportunities – success with asks and support from parishioners
- Small groups – scary, simple, lots of blessings
- Nightly Greeters who sit out here, directing traffic – story about daughter trying to access adoration and evening staff helped her get in
- Liturgical calendar updates in Flocknote
- Welcoming at doors and on Sundays
- Once you get into building and in different groups, you feel welcomed
- Sunday donuts, pancake breakfast, Bingo, Fall Festival – successful and humming even during rain – place of warmth. If someone needs to belong, they need to step forward
- School is producing amazing young people
- Greeters – when greeting
- Pancake breakfasts
- Words above the glass of sanctuary
- Father announcing who has passed
- Prayer chain
- Small groups of faith
- Our Mary Garden
- Really friendly parishioners
- Nightly greeters
- Flocknote: Fr. Talbot input info ie liturgical

Not working Well

- Activity groups – trouble access to the building
- New people – how to reach out to minorities, diverse new people – volunteers, staff

- Cliques at donuts
- Adoration chapel – hard to enter ours – better access to building
- Invite – focus on those who are not catholic – welcome and invite to events
- Charismatic service

Action Items

- Activity Groups – individuals coming up at night, making doors accessible. How can we make our building more accessible
- Reaching out to members that are diverse – how are we being welcoming
- Volunteers, and night staff – how do we make our building more accessible
- New members – what are we going to do to grab them, make them feel more welcome (brunches, dinners, ministry fairs)
- Welcoming – activities – sports. How can we welcome individuals into our church and learn about them
- Bulletins – having printed materials for those people to see. Want paper. Not comfortable using computers
- New and returning parishioners do not have Flocknotes –
- Homebound – wish we could see Sunday Mass on YouTube
- Ambassador program – how are we connecting with people.
- Can we publish prayer list in Flocknote?
- Cliques – especially with groups at donuts – we need to greet other people
- Parish ambassadors – follow ups
- Seniors – post flyers in assisted living building
- Welcome buddies – welcome board to sign in for new people and we can follow up with them and then someone could follow up with them.
- Tour of the church for new members/facilities
- Switch bulletin boards with flatscreen TV's – what's going on from Flocknote, HALO, did you know we have a historic church?
- Website – Mass intentions: search bar doesn't work
- How do you know who the new people are?
- Calendar – Mass intentions in there
- Bold ask: you would be a great small group leader
- Grace Church: Major church drive during George Floyd
- By moving bins into coatroom, we don't see the collections we are doing. We don't get to see the whole process/collection
- Screen - how many baby bottles did we bring up? How much food did we bring in?

- Can we stop clearing out things that people are bringing to see how much we are collecting – more visible?
- Birthday Bag ministry – people need to know about ministries, not communicated all the time
- More one-time events to draw new families in - smaller one time events to draw more people in: Lenten retreat, Stations of the Resurrection
- Building accessibility – we need to be able to bring people in
- Seniors – how can we draw more people in – how do we connect with seniors
- Speaker events – one time events
- Ambassadors – welcoming and connecting
- Special books or resources for people who are new – it's confusing
- Could welcome desk be out front so someone could greet when people come
- People who are not Catholic – how do we make it easy to follow along? Worship aids
- More information at the very beginning – direction at the beginning to help people to know what to do
- Help desk info desk – staff it or have a volunteer – Are You new? Do you have questions? Come and ask me.
- Youth ministry – bring together school and parish – how do we bring together. Different communities - How can we have same messaging for youth to go out to both school communities and parish communities
- Activities that involve all ages – a food drive that involves teenagers carrying food; senior citizens directing people where to bring the food. This would be a big event that lasts a weekend and then it ends. People are busy but they could give a weekend.
- Open gym nights for pick up games of basketball or other sports
- Be a welcoming presence individually
- Acknowledge families – make Cry Room more welcoming
- Easter and Christmas to be very welcoming
- Make visible ministries that are available
- Welcome breakfast or evening event
- Ministry fair
- Before Mass – Introduce self to person next to you
- Follow up phone calls
- Introductory packet (even for non-Catholics)
- Connect for coffee and donuts
- Have seniors luncheons occasionally
- Maybe a seniors Mass

- Flyers to advertise these events in seniors facilities
- Contribute to outreach programs like St. Olaf's in Minneapolis
- Do community building activity with focus on a specific feast or topic
- Parish ambassadors to mingle around coffee and donuts but also to follow up more than one time
- Have a special mass and hospitality for not only newly registered members but also for non Catholics "come and see"
- Integrate school children with parishioners
- Simple suggestion: greet at the beginning of Mass. Offer your name and get to know the faces
- New families – especially those who are not members of the school
- Engage non school/new to parish
- Info desk/welcome person to be greeted (physical location at the Help Desk)
- Ushers/People who are on guard to welcome new visitors
- Address those who are not on Flocknote/paper
- Visit/phone call with outline info for new
 - Groups
 - Fellowship
 - Seeking to understand who they are/interests/family
 - Adoration
 - Faith formation
 - OCIA
 - Tour
 - HALO
- Align welcome "buddies" to those with "like" lifestyles such as singles, divorces, widows, school/parish only
- Open house/welcome
- Encourage hospitality/welcoming spirit – new? New to you... be courageous
- Mounted TV screen in narthex – circulate info from Flocknote – make fun! Trivia/history of church
- HALO – additional info – not just snap shot for month
- Dates for year... for everything
- Mass intentions for new members/blessings
- Home blessings

Notecard Responses

- Working Well

- New leadership is a “game changer”
- Opportunity to engage with each other
- Priests interacting with parishioners: relatable, likeable, available, relationship building
- Success builds success, specially when it’s communicated
- Small groups are a “game changer”
- Promote opportunities to volunteer
- Donuts
- Communications
- How can we integrate St. Hubert school youth and non-school youth in activities
 - They seem like separate streams
- Youth small groups are working well, how can we grow them? Advertise differently?
- Please carefully consider how to schedule ongoing ministry meeting times – problematic to have OCIA, Hunt Club, and Choir all on the same night of the week
- We have a ton of great resources and information flowing – how can we simplify and make it more effective
 - Simple peg board display with small note cards about each and every ministry
- Reinstitute a help desk ambassador
- Make fellowship hall available on weekends for groups like Cursillo. We used to be able to but now are told no by staff – sorry
- More available in the evenings
- At another parish, they had a senior luncheon – very well attended and enjoyed. Father got to relate to people and I invited non-Catholic friends who got to know Father (When I would share about him) and the non Catholics would ask when the next luncheon would be. Many are single and liked meeting with other sniors
- Livestream Masses are very important, especially weekly
- I would like to see a used coat drive for homilies in the city. No money – just coats.
- We feel so good in helping the homeless with extra coats, too big or too small. Makes us feel so good when we ”do unto others as you do unto me.”
- Staff is great!
- Integrate students into weekly Mass
- Seniors – more programs
- Accessibility to building
- Welcome packets to Catholic and non-Catholic
- Parish Ambassadors
- Welcome desk

- On calendar, list all happenings – meetings, mass intentions
- Televisе mass for homebound or offer rides to/from Sunday Mass
- How to “find” new or newer families, persons
- Action – New members – welcoming packet
 - Include follow up
 - Welcoming group
 - Welcome brunch which includes ministry people
 - Ministry fair
 - Parish should contact ministries
 - Welcoming groups – activities, basketball
 - Access to our facility
- Reimplement bulletins
- Multiple ways of connecting with parishioners
- Computer access