

## HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY OBSERVATIONS FROM THE SUMMARY OF OMOS PARISH RESPONSES TO EACH QUESTION IN THE 2001 CLS SURVEY

[see the question response statistics in the attached 7-page CLS report]

*(These highlights were compiled by K. Hirschboeck. The “Analyses” reflect many of the points the committee raised during our discussions, but this is not a committee-developed document.)*

- (a) 67% attend worship services usually every week; 13% more than once a week (Question #1)

*[Analysis: 80% come to church/are participating in the liturgy weekly or more often – the liturgy is indeed the primary avenue of parish connection and the “lifeblood” of the parish-at-large]*

- (b) 36 % have been in the parish 5 years or less; 33% for 6 –20 years; 24% more than 20 years (Question #2)

*[Analysis: we have close to a 3-way split in the degree of parish identity and “institutional memory;” in our worshippers; there’s a balance between the elements of newness, stability, and longterm legacy in the parish.]*

- (c) 53% say they are *not* regularly involved in any parish group activities; 18% say there *are* no group activities in the parish; while up to 30% *are* involved in some form of parish group activities (in many cases, probably more than one activity) (Question #3)

*[Analysis: The majority of our parishioners (anywhere from 53 to 71 %) are “unengaged” in the rich variety of activities the parish offers and almost 20% seem to be either unaware of -- or have a misconception about -- the parish group activities that are available.]*

- (d) 72% say they do not regularly take part in activities *of the parish* that reach out to the wider community (e.g. visitation, evangelism, outreach, community service, social justice) (Question #4) and 75% say they are not involved in any community service, social service, or advocacy groups *not* connected to the parish (Question 13).

However, later in the survey (Question #16) worshipers stated that they have done the following over the past 12 months:

- Loaned money to someone outside your family (31%)
- Cared for someone outside your family who was very sick (22%)
- Helped someone outside your family find a job (19%)
- Donated or prepared food for someone outside your family or parish (47%)
- Votes in the last presidential election (70%)
- Donated money to a charitable organization (other than the parish) 73%)
- Worked with others to try to solve a community problem (17%)
- Contacted an elected official about a public issue (14%)

Also, later in the survey, 80% agree or strongly agree that the parish “is strongly focused on serving the wider community beyond the congregation.” (Question #47)

*[Analysis: A comparison of the results of Question # 4 & 13 with Question #16 suggests that our parishioners are indeed active in the “Corporal Works of Mercy” in their everyday lives, but may not be aware of these actions as part of their identities as parishioners of OMOS or as a ministry role that they are assuming. At the same time, there is a perception that the parish DOES reach out to the wider community, even though the individual responding may not be doing so.]*

- (e) 30% say they had much growth in their faith *mainly through the parish* over the last year; while 18% experienced much growth *mainly through their own private activities*. (Question #6). 84% agree or strongly agree that their spiritual needs are being met in this parish.(Question #9)

*[Analysis: 30% are being nourished directly through the parish while almost 20% are getting greatly nourished spiritually, but not necessarily through parish activities. Nevertheless, there’s an 84% agreement that spiritual needs are being met by the parish – together this suggests that there are multiple avenues for growing in faith at work – do we recognize / foster them all?]*

- (f) 65% spend time in private devotional activities (prayer, meditation, reading Scripture) at least once a week (45% every day or most days) and an additional 22% spend time in devotional activities “occasionally.” (Question #7)

*[Analysis: We are a “praying” parish! One can assume that not all of this prayer is happening on the parish grounds – it’s going on in people’s everyday lives.]*

- (g) 76% say they feel at ease or mostly at ease talking about their faith to others.

*[Analysis: Parishioners have an awareness of their faith and ability / willingness to share it. Do they see this as part of their call / ministry / vocation?]*

- (h) 45% say the liturgies or activities of the parish help them with everyday living to a great extent and 42% to some extent (total of 87%). (Question #21)

*[Analysis: Evidence that what happens in the parish IS connecting to everyday life of parishioners – at least on some level.]*

- (i) 67% say they have a strong sense of belonging to the parish (Question #19). However 44% say that their closest friends are *not* in the parish, 47% say that they have close friends both within *and* outside of the parish, and only 10% say that their closest friends are a part of the parish.

*[Analysis: parishioners have a good sense of belonging, but a large proportion (44%) are more socially and personally connected with those outside the parish than within the parish.]*

- (j) 50% are employed, 33% retired, 11% full-time homemaker, 8 % student, 4 % unemployed (Question #30)  
(k) 65% are married (first marriage, remarried after divorce or death of spouse); 32% are single (never married, separated, divorced, or widowed). (Question #32)  
(l) 34% are couples without children, 34% are two or more adults with children, 13% live alone, 6% are single parents (Question #7) 51% total are living in households with no children at home (Question #42)  
(m) Of those with children at home, 73% have children who participate at OMOS worship, 23% have children who participate elsewhere, and 4% have children who do not participate. (Question #43)

*[Analysis of Items j through m: multiple work / life / family identities exist in parish; sensitivity / awareness / appreciation / recognition needed for all, not just the “traditional family-with-kids” experience.]*

- (n) Ethnic origins: 64% are White/Caucasian, 30% are Hispanic/Latino/Spanish, 5% are Asian/Pacific Islander, 2 % Black/African, 2% Indian (American), 2 % Other (Question #34)

*[Analysis: Here are the statistics for our cultural/ethnic make-up – how do we address them?]*

- (o) 53% say that yes, the parish has a clear vision, goals, or direction for its ministry and mission and they are partly or strongly committed to them. 20% say yes, the parish has a clear vision/goals but they are NOT committed to them; 21% are not aware of any vision/goals/direction. (Question #49)

*[Analysis: 41% are either not committed to the parish mission or are unaware of it; better communication needed?]*

**OMOS FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE ON THE U.S. CONGREGATIONAL LIFE SURVEY (CLS)  
PROGRESS REPORT & PROPOSED UPDATE FOR THE OMOS 3-YEAR PASTORAL PLAN**

*(November 9, 2002)*

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

Katie Hirschboeck (chair), Charlie Mann, Jean Fedigan, Kathy Dehn, Bob Scala, & Bob Brauer

**COMMITTEE TASKS:**

1. Examine & discuss survey results in more detail
2. Review Sept 15<sup>th</sup> Leadership Meeting discussion results
3. Discuss & identify ways to integrate the survey results into the 2001-2003 Pastoral Plan
4. Define “Action Statements” for the Pastoral Plan
5. Plan & implement a procedure to communicate the results of the survey as linked to the Pastoral Plan to the congregation-at-large. (Epiphany 2003)

**PROGRESS REPORT & RATIONALE FOR PROPOSED UPDATES**

The Committee met on October 13th and November 3rd and completed the rest of our work through a series of email exchanges conducted over the past month. We have completed items #1 through #4 above and present the results of our efforts in this report.

After reviewing the results of the Sept 15<sup>th</sup> meeting (see attached summary) some key themes / needs seemed to be emerging from the survey results:

- engaging the unengaged parishioner
- fostering an attitude of welcoming and hospitality
- deepening a sense of awareness of one’s faith and spirituality in everyday life

Upon examining the survey in more detail, especially the 7-page CLS report containing statistics on the responses to individual questions by OMOS respondents (see attached report), the committee further identified the following apparent “paradox” that emerged from the survey:

- A large number of parishioners (up to 70%) say they are inactive or “unengaged” in the existing groups / activities / ministries in the parish
- At the same time, 65% or more say they pray regularly, 40% to 70% (or more) say they perform actions in their everyday lives that could be interpreted as corporal works of mercy (e.g., caring for the sick, feeding the hungry) and 80% participate in the liturgy at least once a week.

We concluded that perhaps we need to re-envision what it means to be “involved” or “engaged” in ministry. Not all may be inclined – or even called -- to be joiners or members of our existing parish ministry structure. However, all persons of faith are indeed called to be ministers in two very important ways:

1. Leading faith-filled lives that exemplify Gospel values “in the world”: The Ministry of Everyday Life”
2. Actively participating in the liturgy as “Ministers of the Assembly”

It is from this perspective that we approached Tasks 3 & 4 and, as a committee, produced the attached document “Proposed Update for the OMOS 3-Year Pastoral Plan. We have suggested some re-wording of items in the existing Pastoral Plan and have added some action statements in an attempt to integrate the two new themes noted above. These items are annotated with [CLS] in the proposed plan. It should also be noted that the new themes mesh well with the parish’s current focus on hospitality by allowing us to reach out more sensitively to the “unengaged” of the parish. More details about the Committee’s work and explanation of the proposed plan will be given by Katie Hirschboeck when she formally presents the proposed update.

## WHITE-BOARD SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION AT SEPT 15<sup>TH</sup> LEADERSHIP MEETING

*(Note that we didn't complete the "Pastoral Plan Section numbers for all the comments)*

Main themes that emerged from the discussion (based on number of times the issue was raised, see \*\*)

- engaging the unengaged parishioner
- fostering an attitude of welcoming and hospitality
- deepening a sense of awareness of one's faith and spirituality in everyday life

Other themes that emerged:

- Building on current strengths (leadership, faith, open atmosphere, outreach, other programs)
- Addressing high number of transfers; influx of new parishioners; balance between stability and newness
- Addressing needs of youth/young adults, those "at risk"
- Being aware of parish's demographic make-up (age, gender, with/without children, ethnicity, etc.)

| <b>BUILDING SPIRITUAL CONNECTIONS</b>  | <b>Pastoral Plan Section</b> |
|--|------------------------------|
| ** 1. Build on current strengths re: Hospitality & Welcome   | 5                            |
| ** 2. Reaching out continually   | 5 & 3                        |
| 3. Update plan as needed, strong leadership  | 1                            |
| ** 4. How to connect with those who don't attend   | 1                            |
| 5. Open atmosphere, renew programs, young adults especially  | 2 & 4                        |
| 6. Comfortable with leadership; build on strengths we have   | 1 & 5                        |
|  |                              |
| <b>BUILDING INSIDE CONNECTIONS</b>   |                              |
| ** 1. Strong sense of belonging desire greater participation among congregation  | 3                            |
| ** 2. Team participation spirit; challenge to involve others / welcome   | 5                            |
| ** 3. Welcome / fellowship with new parishioners; evangelize outside of parish   | 5                            |
| ** 4. How do we broaden our theology to use ministry in all aspects of life; integrate Catholic practice to everyday life / lifestyle    | overall                      |
| ** 5. Strong faith of people; compartmentalization (pro's & con's)   | 2                            |
| ** 6. Void between Confirmation & later adulthood; understanding of Mass obligation  | 4                            |
|  |                              |
| <b>BUILDING OUTSIDE CONNECTIONS</b>  |                              |
| 1. Huge # of transfers: school? Stability and newness  | --                           |
| 2. Be more proactive; promotion of Parish and Catholicism  | --                           |
| 3. "Come Home" sign; strong St. Vincent DePaul; resources for crisis care  | 4 & 6                        |
| ** 4. Challenges of inviting "outsiders" to Mass; large number of parishioners live outside parish boundaries; understanding of vocation | 4 & 5                        |
| ** 5. Challenges of evangelization; How do we take what we do here into everyday life?   | --                           |
| 6. High number of transfers show we are meeting needs  | --                           |
|  |                              |
| <b>BULIDING IDENTITY CONNECTIONS</b>   |                              |
| 1. Continue to harvest our youth; focus on "at risk" ages 18-22  | --                           |
| ** 2. Clear vision of parish goals; commitment level increase  | --                           |
| 3. Large number of non-OMOS boundaries; male/female leadership percent   | --                           |
| 4. No ethnicity questions on survey  | --                           |
| 5. Challenges to promote ethnic diversity in leadership / cultural understandings  | --                           |
| 6. Population of Golden Agers  | --                           |
| 7. Questions raised by demographics (i.e., so few children compared to national averages?)   | --                           |