

Immaculate Conception Parish Survey (July, 2020)

Section 1: Parish Vision and Mission: A rural Christian family, inspired by Mary to provide a loving spiritual home for all

How is our parish doing in realizing the vision of Jesus Christ for our parish or its own mission statement?

1. It is doing great. We just need more of the young people to continue coming to Mass. The spiritual feeling here among the members is the best, but everyone has to put forth an effort to attain that and keep it.
2. I feel that we are working toward making our vision statement reality by communicating more with the parishioners.
3. Just having so many friendly people willing to help / answer any question you may have. People sharing and inspiring the vision of Jesus and Mary through service and educational opportunities.
4. I feel we are reaching out to those in need for the most part but so much more needs to be done to make people feel invited. It's great we are finally going out to reach out to the sick and those in need which hasn't been done – so sad. With all the garden and extra food – things like food, clothing for homeless – youth involvement – people need to feel valued and loved.
5. I think it is doing well.
6. Actually I think we are a very giving and generous parish. The problem is the same people have to do everything. We're also an elderly parish which makes it hard for that to change over.
7. No response
8. I love the mission statement and I [applaud] Rose and her daughter for all the hard work they put into it. Our church is our spiritual home for our parishioners as well as those that visit and come to our Mass on Sunday. I feel everyone needs this in their life, to feel closer to God in one way or another. I do believe that people like to come and listen to a homily that is meaningful with what is happening in our world today. I have heard that most don't like handouts to read or follow along with, they just want to hear how to cope and deal with what is going on in this sad world of ours. They need inspiration and hope. I know this is something that you can provide for all of us.

Do you have any suggestions for our parish to better live out its mission statement?

1. Having more activities that bring the neighbor people in would be nice. Something that people are attracted to and like to participate in.
2. I think we can try to welcome people the way they are. If we are providing a spiritual home for all, we should include those that give and those that don't give – those that belong and those that are not parishioners.
3. Continue to offer educational experiences of various topics. Doing parish drives for food pantries, homeless shelters, etc.
4. Work toward helping homeless – those financially strapped – [too] bad a day wouldn't be set up once a week for people to come and get food, clothing, furniture. This could be food, clothing, furniture in good shape that people donate. Counsel those in need. Invite every [one] no matter what [their] faith, race, [etc.] is.

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5. No, not really
6. I think once we get through Covid-19, the rosary should be offered every Sunday before Mass but we need to find more leaders to lead it. Maybe we could also get some motivational speakers.
7. No response
8. Mary is a big part of our mission statement. She is Jesus' Mother as well as our own. She is the first and most perfect person, she is our advocate, helper, and she intercedes for us. I think we should honor her when and as needed in church by saying the Rosary before Sunday Mass. It would be a spiritual honor to have you join us Father when we do this. Role modeling demonstrates the commitment [to] this goal.

How is the pastor of the parish doing in helping the parish realize that vision and mission?

1. You are involving people within the parish which is good formation of different groups. We need some far reaching things which would bring us into contact [with] neighboring churches and people.
2. I think Father has made a lot of good changes – change takes time and people have to digest changes. Some of the things you want done with the youth have been [suggested] but turned down by Sandy.
3. – Doing a good job bringing new ideas and experiences.
-- Giving homily that offers parishioners learning, education and ways to better live out mission [of] both Jesus and church
-- Having materials and Masses on website
4. I feel it's great he is finally reaching out to the homebound, prisons, surrounding denominations to help us all come together. It just needs to be done in a compassionate, caring, trusting way. We want people to want to belong to IC.
5. He is doing a good job.
6. I think your idea of getting a good mission statement and logo was great. But motivating an elderly parish is hard to do. Also again, it is still mostly the same people that are involved.
7. No response
8. I know this whole Covid thing has been hard on you, it is hard on all of us. We are blessed to have you as our priest for our small parish. It has been hard keeping this parish going after all the news of all the sexual assault cases against our priests. A lot of people left the parish because of that. It was such a sad and terrible thing to watch and listen to. But this is not God's fault. The devil got alone of our scared priests and our church suffered. We finally started to get our attendance back and church was pretty full again. Now we have to deal with the Covid. Now our church is open again but very low attendance. Father, I truly think if you give the people the choice to [whether] or not to wear a mask, we would have more parishioners coming. We cannot fall into the devil's hand and let him have his way. We are not to be afraid of coming to church. God will take care of us. We need God and our church and we need to all feel comfortable coming to church. We need you to fill our church back up and Honor and Praise the Lord with or without a mask.

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Section 2: Letter from Pastor:

List any questions, thoughts, suggestions or other comments about anything in this letter.

1. I don't have any prayer partner but Jesus & Mary at this time. Prayer is just a way of life for me. I hate this Virus for the reason that family contact is limited and church participation was stopped. I feel lots of people will take a long time to return if they ever do.
2. This letter contained a lot of information.
3. – During the pandemic to continue with Mass on youtube so we are able to see our own parish and priest.
-- Continue to have bulleting and communications from you on website so we are able to keep current (since during the year we many weekends are traveling and attend Mass elsewhere.
4. I feel as you do to make committees accountable. That [being] said it must be done tastefully making people feel [their] suggestions, opinions count. We need to get out of the rut and be active – work together as a team. We can talk but we must do also – get excited.
5. None
6. I would like to continue with adult formation when Covid is over. I would like to see continuation of Alpha, etc. I wish more people would attend though. *(Editor Note: Response to question on this survey shows arrow as if more comment on back, but back of survey is blank. Is this perhaps a copy and more comment was on the original?)*
7. No response
8. My concern is when you say you don't want to be a priest anymore. You followed your desires in becoming a priest for a reason. Never put yourself down. Don't compare yourself to Father John. Father John had his way and you have your way. The Lord has no favorites nor do we. We are blessed to have you as our priest and our parish needs you. If you lead with confidence, respect, and optimism, how can we go wrong.

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Section 3: Needs and Service to Parish:

Do you have any needs or know of anyone who has needs that are not being met by the parish at this time?

1. I know that the people I brought Communion to miss it a lot. I also miss the visits with them.
2. None
3. Not at this time
4. I feel we need more youth involvement. I feel we should be working harder at attracting and getting new [members]. Grounds, buildings, cemetery, should always be kept up. We should have a welcoming committee for new members.
5. No
6. No
7. No response
8. No needs

Is there any way that you would like to be of more service to the parish in leadership or another way? Or, do you know of anyone who would be good in leadership?

1. Bill Geurts. Dave DeCaster. Mike Lezotte. Duaune & Becky Oudenhoven. Karla Dorman. Tonya Garvey. Honey Garvey. Terry Garvey.
2. Not at this time
3. Not at this time
4. I think you need to reach out to new people – new ideas. I also feel you need to keep the strong ones involved with finance, building, etc. so we stay afloat. So important.
5. Not at this time
6. I feel I do a lot already for our parish.
7. No response
8. I do think I am involved in a lot right now, as leader of Circle of Love, Social Concerns, involved in \$10,000 drawing, help with all fund raisers. We truly need to get more people involved with our church and committees. It is ALWAYS the same ones. How do we do this? If you can come up with an answer on this, that would be great. There is one thing I would like to be a part of and that is if we could talk about using the Trager Center for funerals and special events. I would not [mind] heading that up. Further discussion on this matter later.

Section 4: Trustee Election

1. Deacon Don Coenen. I vote for him
2. Deacon Don Coenen
3. Deacon Don Coenen
4. No response
5. Deacon Don Coenen
6. Deacon Don Coenen
7. No response
8. No response