



Parish Feedback Summary

St. Patrick Parish

Wentzville, St. Charles County—Planning Area 10

January 2023

Section 1. Introduction

St. Patrick Parish (Wentzville) had a 2022 mass attendance of 1,956 people. Approximately 289 people attended the parish listening sessions. The online feedback survey had 67 respondents. Other feedback from Planning Area 10 as a whole, including free form feedback, totaled 40 pages, of which about 4 pages directly regarded the situation of St. Patrick Parish. Planning Area 10 had four draft models.

Models A and D showed St. Patrick absorbing the territory of St. Gianna parish, as St. Gianna becomes a personal parish for Hispanics (model A), or for the homeschooling community (model D).

Model B showed St. Patrick as a standalone parish.

Model C showed St. Patrick merging with St. Theodore and St. Joseph (Josephville)

Section 2. Listening Session Summary

Participants were described as energetic.

A common difficulty was with the number of questions and the amount of information.

Question #9, level of agreement: both reporters stated Strongly Agree for all items.

- “There were concerns about integrating Hispanic communities. We have enjoyed the good connections and hope to stay involved if they have a personal parish.”
- “Overall, the sessions were good.”
- “Use humor and turn questions into comments so they are documented if appropriate to do so. Encourage people to send questions to archstl.org.” Model B - St Gianna

Section 3. Online Survey Qualitative Summary.

The survey respondents were divided in opinion for altering St. Patrick. Model A concerned some people with how St. Patrick would effectively absorb St. Gianna into their existing facilities. The reasons stated as: St. Gianna was created to relieve overcrowding at St. Patrick, inefficient use of resources, and traffic pressure on the local roads, specifically Hwys. N and Z, and the roundabout at Church St/Z and Hwy. 70.

There were also concerns for the Hispanic community if St. Gianna would become a Hispanic personal parish. Other respondents felt combining St. Patrick with St. Gianna was a logical choice and did not see the merger presenting challenges.

Some agreed with Model B as the best option for St. Gianna merged with Immaculate Heart of Mary, however, there would need to be two priests. Others felt the opposite as the travel pattern is not normal for those in St. Gianna’s territory to travel to New Melle, there are no schools in the area,

Quotes from survey respondents:

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- “Seems to present logistical travel difficulties for the Hispanic Community. Limited Highway access and less efficient State and County Roads to St. Gianna Church!”
- “St. Gianna is not as easily accessible as St. Barnabas would be for a Hispanic Personal Parish. St. Barnabas is more centrally located if you include Borromeo's 162 attending families.”
- “St. Gianna's parishioners seem to prefer a more traditional mass, even Latin masses, which is why they don't already attend St. Patrick's.”
- “I disagree with making St. Gianna a Hispanic pariah. I would rather see St. Barnabas used as the Hispanic parish. It's easier to get to and more centrally located.”
- The majority of survey respondents were opposed to Model C. Many challenged the unnecessary cost to purchase land in the Wentzville area and the building cost for new infrastructure. In addition, several respondents commented they were not interested in attending/belonging to a mega-church.
- “The cost would be prohibitive for entire new land and facilities for church, rectory and school. Also, if built north of existing St. Patrick - it is not in traffic pattern of parishioners that currently live south of 70, I believe these people might opt to then attend ICD - because of their normal traffic patterns.”
- “Finding the land to build a church/school to accommodate all 3 parishes and the drive that will be needed by all parishioners to make this possible for them to worship and their kids to attend school. You may be building a new church and school that will not have the numbers anticipated as you may be losing more parishioners to other neighboring parishes or just losing them all together.”
- “Don't like having to combine my Parish with another.”
- “St. Pat's is landlocked but also paid off. Building a new church and school to accommodate all 3 parishes would put a big financial burden on parishioners and create a longer drive for all 3 churches.”

Respondents felt Model D presented the same challenges as Model A

- “Barnabas might be a good location for the Hispanic Parish, but Gianna grouped with St. Patrick is too large. Maybe split Gianna territory into 2 (or 3) groups. North Gianna goes to St. Patrick. South Gianna goes to IHM. East Gianna goes to ICD. The need for a personal parish isn't as strong as a need for a Latin Mass. Perhaps Barnabas becomes the Personal Parish for Latin Mass and the "existing ministries" from Gianna.”
- “I think Barnabas makes sense as the Hispanic Parish as it is easier to access from 70. I would suggest the Barnabas and Gianna communities having the option of meeting in the chapel at Assumption for a Latin and/or more traditional liturgies. Saint Gianna is perfectly set up for a retreat center. The parish center is already set up with a large

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gathering spaces and small group rooms. The church is the right size for large groups to meet. There is enough land to add a labyrinth, gardens, stations, etc.”

- “Because the Hispanic sub-committed weighed in on this, I feel good about the proposal. Barnabas should have been closed years ago given its proximity to Assumption. St. Gianna could continue to offer traditional/latin masses.”

Section 4. Free-Form Feedback Summary

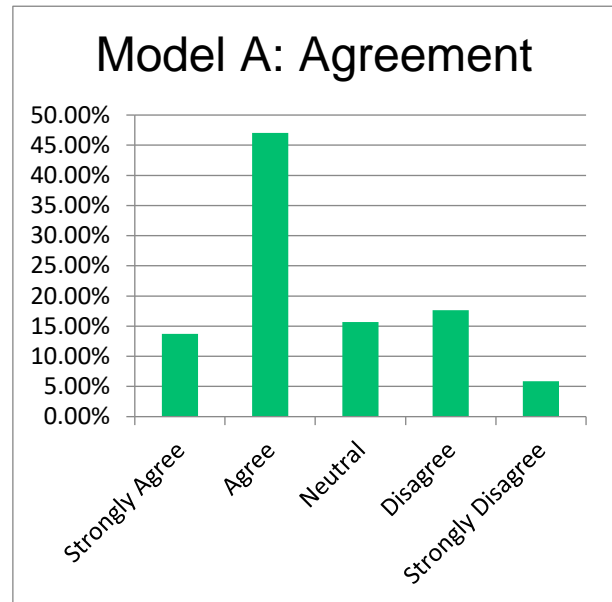
There was some suggestion that St. Patrick, which may be growing beyond that which could be served in its current facility, is the most central location for Hispanics and they are used to that location. If a new facility is built for a merged St. Patrick/St. Theodore, the suggestion is to make St. Patrick the new personal parish for Hispanics.

Section 5. Online Survey Quantitative Summary

Section 5.1 Model A

In DRAFT Model Option A, what is your level of agreement with how the parishes are grouped together?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Strongly Agree	13.73%	7
Agree	47.06%	24
Neutral	15.69%	8
Disagree	17.65%	9
Strongly Disagree	5.88%	3
Answered	51	
Skipped	16	



What is strongest about DRAFT MODEL Option A?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Shares resources effectively	36.96%	17
Builds upon existing relationships among parishes	39.13%	18
Enables a platform for more robust evangelization or social outreach	13.04%	6
Provides better accessibility to a priest	10.87%	5

What is most challenging about DRAFT MODEL Option A?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Brings together communities that are too different	24.39%	10
Requires unrealistic demands on the clergy	12.20%	5
Creates a lot of difficulty for accessing Eucharist and the sacraments	14.63%	6
Neglects the financial needs of the community	2.44%	1
Other (please specify)	46.34%	19

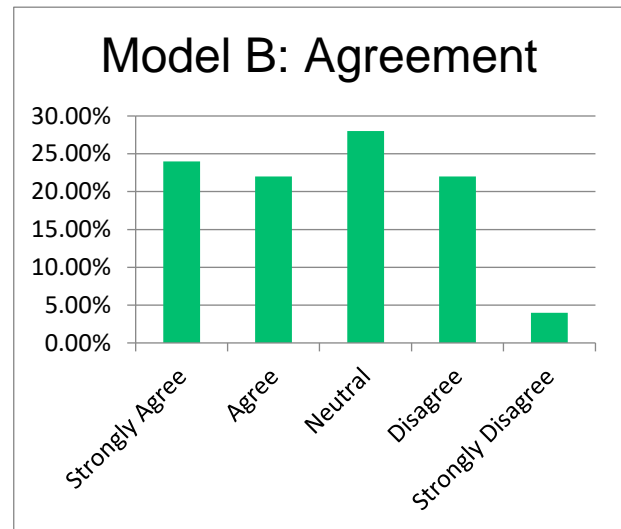
My DRAFT Model Option A feedback is driven primarily by...

Answer Choices	Responses	
Differences/Similarities in parish cultures	36.96%	17
Differences/Similarities in socio-economic factors	13.04%	6
Topography between parishes (hills, rivers, bridges)	4.35%	2
Distance between parishes	10.87%	5
Size of the potential parish(es)	32.61%	15
Potential or lack of potential for ministry opportunities	2.17%	1

Section 5.2 Model B

In DRAFT Model Option B, what is your level of agreement with how the parishes are grouped together?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Strongly Agree	24.00%	12
Agree	22.00%	11
Neutral	28.00%	14
Disagree	22.00%	11
Strongly Disagree	4.00%	2
Answered		50
Skipped		17



What is strongest about DRAFT MODEL Option B?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Shares resources effectively	63.64%	28
Builds upon existing relationships among parishes	22.73%	10
Enables a platform for more robust evangelization or social outreach	6.82%	3
Provides better accessibility to a priest	6.82%	3

What is most challenging about DRAFT MODEL Option B?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Brings together communities that are too different	28.95%	11
Requires unrealistic demands on the clergy	10.53%	4
Creates a lot of difficulty for accessing Eucharist and the sacraments	23.68%	9
Neglects the financial needs of the community	5.26%	2
Other (please specify)	31.58%	12

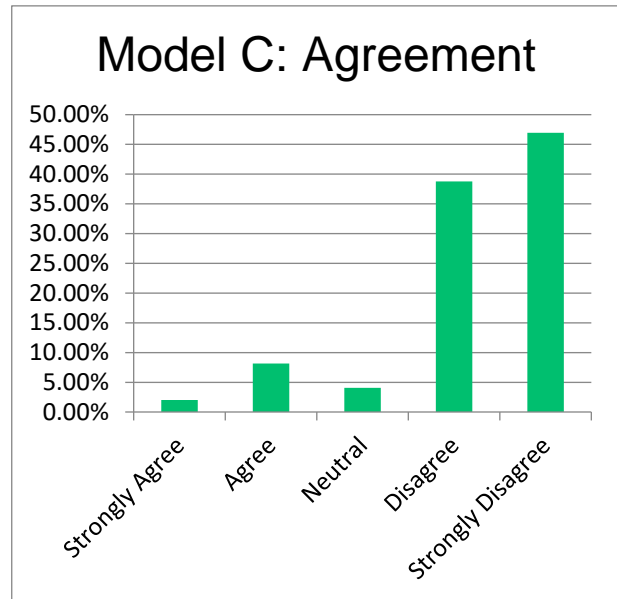
My DRAFT Model Option B feedback is driven primarily by...

Answer Choices	Responses	
None of the above	8.33%	4
Differences/Similarities in parish cultures	22.92%	11
Differences/Similarities in socio-economic factors	2.08%	1
Topography between parishes (hills, rivers, bridges)	12.50%	6
Distance between parishes	22.92%	11
Size of the potential parish(es)	29.17%	14
Potential or lack of potential for ministry opportunities	2.08%	1

Section 5.3 Model C

In DRAFT Model Option C, what is your level of agreement with how the parishes are grouped together?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Strongly Agree	2.04%	1
Agree	8.16%	4
Neutral	4.08%	2
Disagree	38.78%	19
Strongly Disagree	46.94%	23
Answered		49
Skipped		18



What is strongest about DRAFT MODEL Option C?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Shares resources effectively	15.00%	6
Builds upon existing relationships among parishes	45.00%	18
Enables a platform for more robust evangelization or social outreach	17.50%	7
Provides better accessibility to a priest	22.50%	9

What is most challenging about DRAFT MODEL Option C?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Brings together communities that are too different	16.33%	8
Requires unrealistic demands on the clergy	8.16%	4
Creates a lot of difficulty for accessing Eucharist and the sacraments	12.24%	6
Neglects the financial needs of the community	14.29%	7
Other (please specify)	48.98%	24

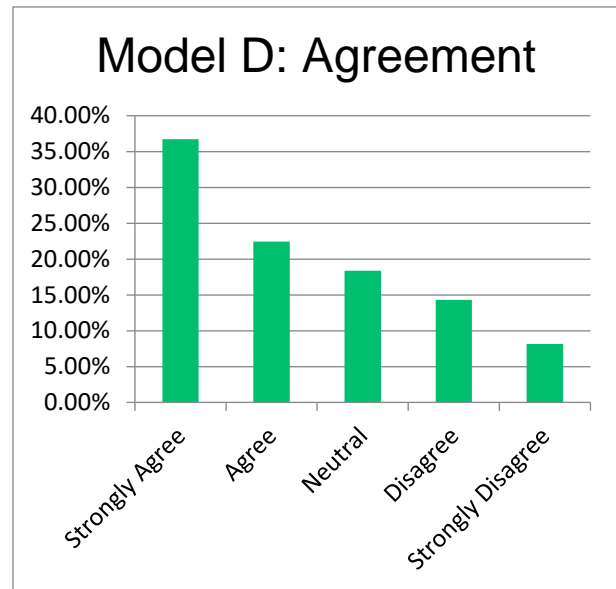
My DRAFT Model Option C feedback is driven primarily by...

Answer Choices	Responses	
Differences/Similarities in parish cultures	14.89%	7
Differences/Similarities in socio-economic factors	4.26%	2
Topography between parishes (hills, rivers, bridges)	2.13%	1
Distance between parishes	21.28%	10
Size of the potential parish(es)	55.32%	26
Potential or lack of potential for ministry opportunities	2.13%	1

Section 5.4 Model D

In DRAFT Model Option D, what is your level of agreement with how the parishes are grouped together?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Strongly Agree	36.73%	18
Agree	22.45%	11
Neutral	18.37%	9
Disagree	14.29%	7
Strongly Disagree	8.16%	4
Answered		49
Skipped		18



What is strongest about DRAFT MODEL Option D?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Shares resources effectively	50.00%	22
Builds upon existing relationships among parishes	18.18%	8
Enables a platform for more robust evangelization or social outreach	22.73%	10
Provides better accessibility to a priest	9.09%	4

What is most challenging about DRAFT MODEL Option D?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Brings together communities that are too different	18.92%	7
Requires unrealistic demands on the clergy	10.81%	4
Creates a lot of difficulty for accessing Eucharist and the sacraments	18.92%	7
Neglects the financial needs of the community	10.81%	4
Other (please specify)	40.54%	15

My DRAFT Model Option D feedback is driven primarily by...

Answer Choices	Responses	
Differences/Similarities in parish cultures	28.89%	13
Differences/Similarities in socio-economic factors	8.89%	4
Topography between parishes (hills, rivers, bridges)	11.11%	5
Distance between parishes	20.00%	9
Size of the potential parish(es)	24.44%	11
Potential or lack of potential for ministry opportunities	6.67%	3

Section 6 Alternative Models

- In every option, I would suggest splitting St. Gianna's territorial boundaries to reflect where most of the Catholics are already going. 50/50 between St. Patrick and ICD.
- Currently, expand the wings at St. Patrick (Wentzville). Be ready for an expanded growth in the area of St. Gianna. I base this upon the growth I have seen in these areas and what we are seeing happen now. I am a retired Wentzville Public school educator.
- Try to include Hispanics in our already parishes. Make them feel more a part of our parish instead of giving them their own parish so they can continue to be excluded and exclude us!
- Some combination of plan C and D where you combine St. Patrick's, St. Joseph and St. Theodore and build a new church/school in addition to St. Barnabas becoming the Hispanic parish might be something to look at long term.
- Barnabas becomes the Personal Parish for Latin Mass and the "existing ministries" from Gianna. Barnabas territory is merged with Assumption. Gianna becomes the Personal Parish for the Hispanic Community. Gianna territory is merged with IHM OR split among 2 or 3 surrounding parishes.
- That St. Gianna's territorial boundaries be split to reflect current reality - 50/50 between St. Patrick and ICD.
- Saint Gianna is perfectly set up for a retreat center. The parish center is already set up with a large gathering spaces and small group rooms. The church is the right size for large groups to meet. There is enough land to add a labyrinth, gardens, stations, etc.
- Put a new parish of St. Ted's and St. Joe's together up Hwy 61. They may take a few from St. Pat's but would be able to serve the growth that is coming. St. Pat's will see growth at this time too.

Section 7. Further questions

- Participants discussed the prospective meat packing plant. It was mentioned that it is not necessarily a function of relative closeness to a business that persuades applicants. Therefore, to consider making St. Gianna a Hispanic church for this reason is not valid.
- Pros and cons regarding combining St. Patrick's, St. Theodore and St. Joseph:
 - Pros: lead to a large population of evangelizers; powerful youth ministry
 - Cons: cost of new church/school; difficulty in engaging people in a larger, mega-type parish due to its less personal nature
- There is a concern for a potential negative impact from uprooting people from their established parishes.
- The Hispanic community deserves a dedicated parish.

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- If we make a special parish for Hispanics will be then be opening up the possibility of making other special parishes for other nationalities? Are we opening up the option to now have parishes that are only going to be for one nationality?
- Big changes are not always good. It will take time to heal the effects of closures. I understand the need and desire to do so, however it must be done with care.
- It's difficult to separate parish schools from the consideration of merging/closing parishes. I don't feel like I can give thorough feedback on a given model without understanding the whole picture.
- Keeping parishes open which are located on Highways that are easy to navigate will be essential to the viability of the whole area.
- While one needs a concrete plan in the end people will go where they want to attend church.
- Do you separate Hispanics from Anglo-Saxons for economic reasons?