



**Real Presence
Real Future**

Renewing the Church in Central Ohio



Disciple Maker Index Survey

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*Immaculate Conception
Parish Results*

Spring DMI survey gives helpful feedback to the Priority Planning Process

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Last spring our parish had the opportunity to participate in the Disciple Maker Index (DMI) survey. More than 70 of the adults in our parish - or about 42 percent of Mass-attendees - took the time to give their feedback. The national participation average is between 7-10 percent, so this puts Immaculate Conception well above the national average.

The Disciple Maker Index contained 75-questions designed to provide an opportunity for parishioners to reflect on their individual spiritual growth and overall parish effectiveness. Almost 300,000 Catholics at more than 1,500 parishes throughout 40 dioceses have taken the DMI since 2013, providing not just valuable data for each parish, but for the Church nationally, as well.

The information gathered will serve both the parish and the diocese as we search for ways to effectively serve our current parishioners and better ministry to those in our community.





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Key Findings

Positive Experience

Key Observations

- Most parishioners held a positive view of our parish
- Over 80% of parishioners stated they would recommend our parish and pastor to a friend

Action Step: Continue to build on these positive attitudes and find effective ways to bring others to our parish.

Parish Has Strong Faith

Key Observations

- Parishioners have a strong foundation in the Catholic Faith
- Overall, over 85% of parishioners noted belief in the Real Presence and in Scripture as the Word of God

Action Step: Seek ways to foster continued spiritual growth needed to live out our faith.

Need Support to Evangelize

Key Observations

- We need to improve in sharing of our faith and knowledge of Christ.
- Overall, 51% of parishioners noted having never shared their personal witness story
- Our parish is getting older and needs to reach the younger generations with over 72% of those responding being over the age of 55.

Action Step: We must find ways to help parishioners develop the tools and find opportunities to share their faith.

Demographics

70

Total number of surveys completed, representing 42% of 166 Mass-attendees at Immaculate Conception

1

Number of parishioners under 35 who completed the survey

10

Number of parishioners between 36 & 55 who completed the survey

51

Number of parishioners over 55 who completed the survey

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166

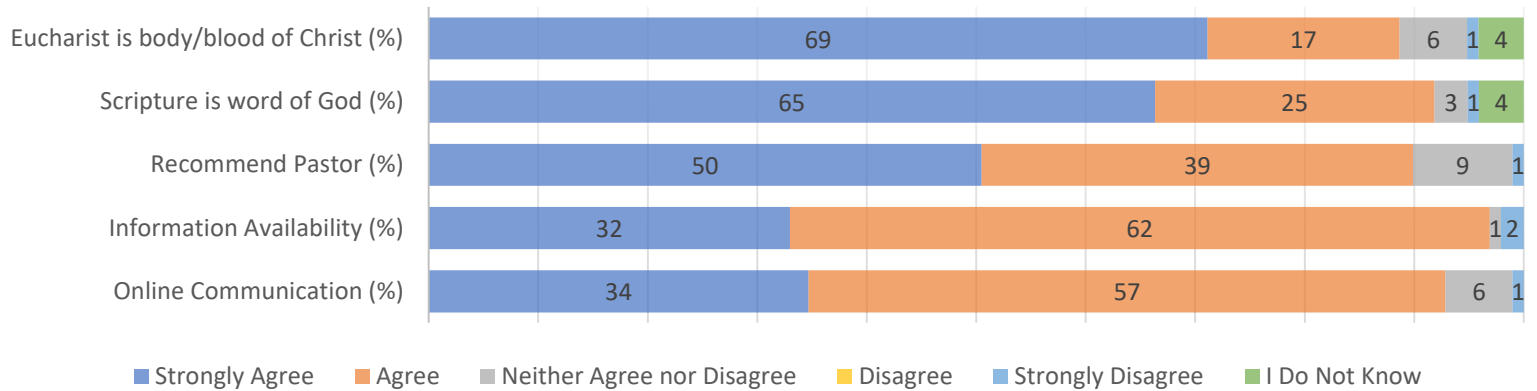
Average October 2019 weekend Mass attendance at Immaculate Conception parish, including children

The DMI Survey examined four primary areas:

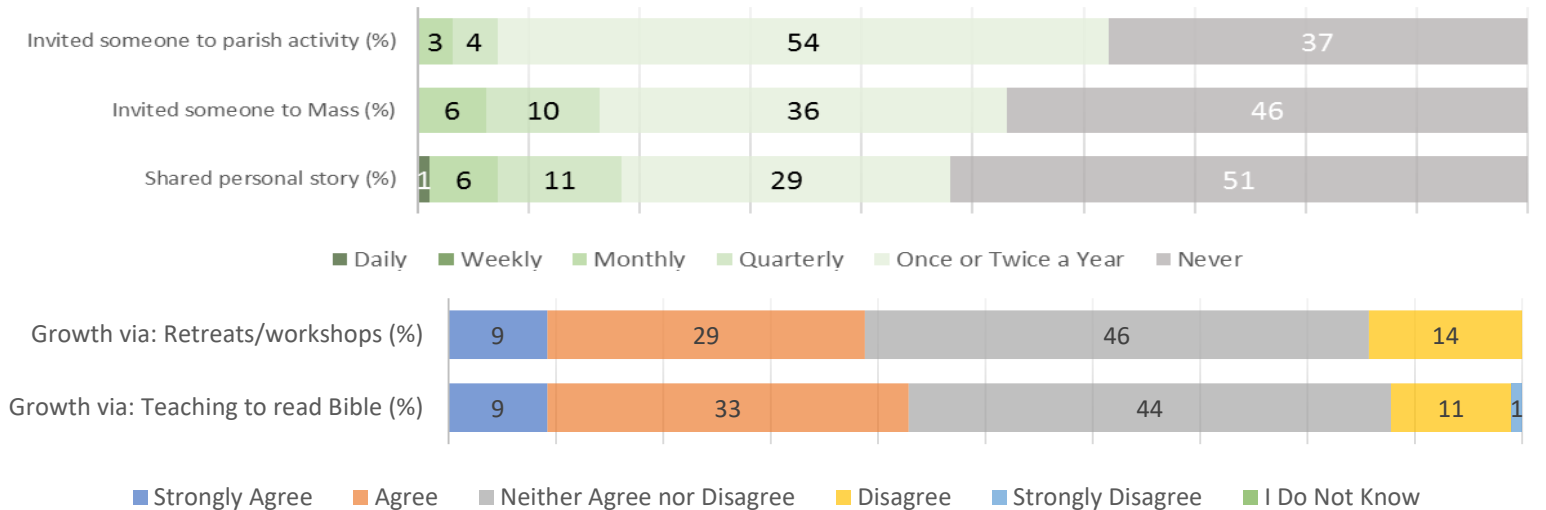
Attitudes & Beliefs
Participation
Overall Satisfaction
Demographics

Key Stats

STRENGTHS OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH



OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH



What's Next?

Summer 2021

- Survey data tabulated and results shared with parish
- Information sessions offered by CLI and Diocesan Leaders

Fall 2021

- Local planning and parish consultation sessions offered for entire parish

Early 2022

- Proposals reviewed by entire parish

Don't
miss
anything

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We have a strong faith foundation, but our mission is to share it.”

What we have learned from this parish survey is that we, as a parish community, are strong in our core beliefs as Catholics. We are to be commended for knowing our faith, for believing it, and for attending Mass as a sign of our belief. Personal holiness is a huge part of the Christian way of life. However, there is still another large aspect of the Christian way of life that must be practiced.

Jesus said to go and make disciples of all nations. The Church from the very beginning has taken this as a missionary impulse to not keep the good news of Jesus Christ to ourselves, but spread the faith to others. The very faith that feeds us should be shared with others. Those at Immaculate Conception showed that, in general, we have a hard time sharing the faith. This is common in the Catholic world. However, we can change that. Sharing the faith is what we call “evangelizing.”

There are many ways to evangelize and all must do it in accordance with their abilities. Some evangelize by sharing their talents at Mass – lectoring, singing, serving, etc. These help to make the Mass more beautiful, reverent, and attractive to those who are coming to Mass. As the beauty of the Mass attracts more people, future generations will keep the parish alive, making it available as a spiritual home for people to encounter the Lord. Others evangelize in their families by incorporating the faith into a way of life for the family, such as prayer at meals, Scripture reading, and learning about the Saints together. Priests are needed for the Sacraments, so encouraging a son, grandson, or nephew to be a priest will help bring the faith to others. Daughters, granddaughters, and nieces can be encouraged to consider the religious life as sisters and nuns. These play a huge role in bringing Christianity into the culture through prayer, teaching, and active works.

In Pope Francis’s document *Evangelii Gaudium*, he says, “so many of our brothers and sisters are living without the strength, light and consolation born of friendship with Jesus Christ, without a community of faith to support them, without meaning and a goal in life...All the baptized, whatever their position in the Church or



their level of instruction in the faith, are agents of evangelization. The new evangelization calls for personal involvement on the part of each of the baptized. Every Christian is challenged, here and now, to be actively engaged in evangelization; indeed, anyone who has truly experienced God’s saving love does not need much time or lengthy training to go out and proclaim that love” (EG #120).

Evangelization can include engaging others in dialogue over cultural issues in a loving, patient, and inquiring manner. This usually leads to expressing the root cause of our beliefs – that our morals and teachings come from God.

Some of these evangelization efforts can begin immediately by your own efforts. Others may come in the form of a parish program. Programs ideas might be top-down from the pastor or they could be lay-initiatives. The good thing is that we can begin right now.

May the Holy Spirit and Mary, the Star of the New Evangelization, guide us as we spread the good news of Jesus Christ to all the nations.

God bless!

Fr. Ed Shikina