

Parish Survey - Adult Formation



The Survey Says.....

Question #36 *Do you look to the Church as a guide in moral decisions and ethics?*

Yes	91%
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No	9%
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Summary of Comments:

Note: There was little difference in the comments of those who responded “no” and those who responded “yes”.

- The Church is only *one* of the sources that provide guidance in moral or ethical decisions. Other sources: Scripture, the ministry of Jesus, informed conscience
- A guide, yes, but not an authority
- People frequently disagree with Church teaching.
- The child sex abuse crisis has diminished the role of the Church as a moral authority.
- Clergy and Church leaders out of touch with real world
- Church concentrates on a few pet issues, does not speak to other moral challenges in our society/culture

Question #37 *What aspects of morality most affect you, and you would like to hear more about?*

Summary of Comments:

There were over four pages of single spaced responses to this question. The comments listed below were chosen because they represented common themes. They are captured in no specific order.

- Concrete examples of how to incorporate Christian values into every day life including our business decisions and relationships
- What do we mean by inclusion? How do we address sexism, the rights of gays/lesbians and illegal aliens in our community?
- Right to life issues in all aspects of life from abortion to the death penalty to end of life decisions
- War in the name of peace
- How to live a more moral, prayerful life. How to be an example for others.
- Homilies should reinforce values taught in childhood.
- Parenting and family issues based on today’s challenges – media, drugs, sexuality, internet safety
- Bioethics. Care of God’s creation.
- All issues that guide us and provide social boundaries

Question #38 *What Catholic teachings do you struggle to incorporate in your life?*

Commentary

Similar to the responses for question 37, the following comments were selected because they were repeated by many respondents. They are listed in random order.

- Role of women in the Church
- Birth control/family planning
- Stem cell research
- Celibacy for clergy. Inability to ordain women or married priests.
- Divorce/remarriage and annulments
- Forgiveness, turning the other cheek. Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- Church's endorsement of political candidates
- Tolerance of those whose values I do not share
- Wealth of Church and poverty of its fastest growing population in third world
- Church leaders lack of respect for laity
- Which ones don't I struggle with?
- I have no struggles.

Question #39 *Within the past 3 years have you participated in adult formation workshops, classes, educational offerings, retreats, or any other faith enrichment program?....*

Yes	38%
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No	62%
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Question #40 *If not, why not?*

Significant Reasons / Commentary

- Lack of time
- Inconvenient time
- Topics are not interesting or relevant
- Unsatisfactory experiences in the past left people unwilling to participate in any discussions on issues of faith

Question #41 *If yes, how often?*

Responses ranged from "just once" to weekly.

Goals

1. In response to concern that Church image has diminished in wake of sex abuse crisis, we will insure that babysitters or other adults that monitor children for any ministry or activity associated with Adult Faith Formation will be vetted under "for the Sake of Our Children".
2. We plan to invite a guest speaker to open our discussion about ethics and morality. This is not a one-time discussion, but will require many, smaller sessions in order to invite sharing and learning.
3. We need trained facilitators before we can embark on dialog sessions. The Adult Faith Formation team has secured the "Echoes of Faith" program promoted by the Diocese for the training of facilitators. We plan to train leaders to facilitate faith-sharing sessions.
4. In response to comments from this section and in other sections of the survey, we identified a need to educate the parents who are preparing their children for the sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation. Together with Youth Ministry, Hispanic Ministry, Holy Angels School and Religious Education, we will offer classes for parents that reinforce the concepts being taught to their children. The first sessions, preparing families for Reconciliation, were conducted in Spanish and English, in October.
5. Our goal is to reach the broadest number of people possible. Please contact us to suggest times that are convenient for sessions. We will do our best considering available meeting space and facilitators.