

## Parish Survey - Evangelization



**The Survey Says.....**

**Question 24: Do you believe that you personally share in this responsibility of the Church?**

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
29%	67%	4%	<1%

### Summary

- This is a core mission of the community.
- It is part of our Baptismal call.
- The best way to evangelize is by example, not by soliciting and proselytizing.
- We live in a diverse spiritual community and we should accept persons who have different beliefs.
- We should not push our beliefs on others.
- I believe the inactive person has to decide for themselves.
- Yes, in church as its people; not the institution at this time in my life. With all the negative attention the Church is getting, re: sexual abuse of kids. It's hard to discuss anything as a Catholic.
- I work to support the missionaries.
- I'm ineffective talking to those who no longer attend. Not very good at it.
- Church is a personal decision. Each person should make their own choice without any pressure from someone else.

**Question 25: If you agree, what are some of the ways this is lived out in your life?**

**Summary:** 98% of those responding submitted multiple comments to this question. The most frequent responses were:

- Personal example of my life as a Christian
- Sharing my personal faith beliefs with others
- The witness of my life to my family
- Inviting inactive friends and family to consider returning to the Church
- Encouraging others to share their faith and sharing my faith with friends and co-workers; talking with those of other religions about our faiths and inviting people from other religions to come to or join our Church/Parish/Activities
- Helping others: spending time and listening to elderly and assisted living; giving books to people who are struggling, fallen away

**Question 26: Have you, or would you, invite an inactive family member or friend back to worship in the church?**

Yes	No	Unsure
87%	3%	10%

**Summary:**

- Yes, if the opportunity arises and the circumstances were appropriate, but wouldn't push
- Yes. I invited two inactive family members to participate in the We Miss You events
- If they express an interest
- We need to find a tactful way to do this without offending them. But also, recognizing/understanding reasons why they left
- Yes. I have tried, but with no success.
- Very hard to do with family and friends unless they have a desire to come back. I am not sure if I would risk straining a family relationship.
- Catholic Parishes are too large and impersonal.
- Other congregations are ready to accept new members into a more involved and socially responsive church with activities and programs which are woven through daily life. Presbyterians have tempted several of our children with success.
- It's their personal responsibility to be here if they are a professing Catholic, not mine.

- I would share with them how my faith has helped me.
- My life as a Christian has had an effect on others. One person now attends his church (Methodist) weekly. Another has become active Christian in his church (Anglo).

**Question 27: If no, why not?**

- Negatives: The Masses are too long and there is an element of fanaticism within the Parish that would be a turnoff for inactive Catholics. They claim the Church is hypocritical and money oriented. Some people are so angry with the Church they don't understand "the calling".
- Personal decision. It's their choice. The Lord will speak to them directly.
- I don't want to be pushy.
- My children have left the Church. My grandchildren have left the Church, and I have often considered looking for another source of spiritual nourishment. Having lived in another Diocese for most of my life, I never found the spiritual satisfaction that I have experienced as a member of Holy Angels Church. My family may not have looked outside the Catholic faith if they had experienced what I have found since joining Holy Angels.

**Question 28: Are you aware of our annual "We Miss You" series designed to welcome back inactive or alienated Catholics?**

Yes	No
83%	17%

**Summary:**

- I think it is a wonderful resource to recommend to people struggling with their faith.
- Good program
- Have encouraged participation to those with past issues, etc.
- It has blessed our family.
- Read it in the Bulletin
- I know you had one. I'm glad to see you still do.

- Need to know more information about it.
- I know it exists but not what it encompasses.
- But only in a vague, general way.
- It could be publicized again as a reminder.

## **GOALS:**

- **Catechesis on Evangelization:**
  - What is it;
  - Responsibilities of Christians to Evangelize
  - Seminar on the Encyclical “Evangelization in the Modern World”
  - Bulletin articles
  - Guest Speakers on Evangelization topics
- **Publicize the Parish “We Miss You” evangelization effort more often**
  - Bulletin
  - Speakers before/after Liturgy, particularly at Christmas/Easter
- Provide a year round opportunity, outside the scheduled “We Miss You” series, for inactive Catholics to inquire about returning.
  - Establish a 24/7 phone number as an initial point of contact.
  - Run periodic spots in local area media inviting inquiries and providing the number to call.
- Attempt to contact people who leave the Parish/Church to find out why.