



### Summary

The responses around faith formation revolved around three areas of concern: adult faith formation, child and youth faith formation, and liturgical practices. For adult faith formation, parishioners seemed to fall into two groups: those who want to deepen their own faith and parents who want the same and also to support the faith formation of their children. Specific suggestions for adult formation included more retreats, prayer services, adult education classes, a speaker series, and formation opportunities for groups who may otherwise feel left out. In general, comments indicated that current faith formation for those in adulthood is insufficient. Parents of children in religious education described feeling unprepared to handle the daily task of nurturing their children's faith in a culture that is no longer dominated by Christendom.

Many comments on the faith formation of children and youth focused on two concerns: communication about the religious education program and ways to help children and youth live their faith beyond the classroom. Parents expressed a desire for more structured, clearer communication about the religious education program and upcoming events. Parents and children also shared the desire for more structure around getting to know other children and families in the parish. Some participants felt that the existing means for service are not helpful to families and that smaller, local opportunities for parents to serve either alone or with their children would be beneficial. Comments from participants in the youth ministry echoed the desire for more opportunities to live their faith through service.

The comments around liturgy underscore its critical role in faith formation. Some participants linked a better understanding of liturgical practices to a deeper faith and acknowledged the difficulties of meeting the diverse needs of the parish.

## Detail

### A Desire for Adult Faith Formation

- There is a desire to understand the faith better so we are not just a social club that prays together.
- Spiritual formation should be targeted to different groups: youth, families, immigrants, LGBTQIA, and other cultural groups.
- A desire to see creative retreats and prayer services.
- Adults are having to go outside of the parish to seek their own faith formation.
- Helping to deepen our own faith formation as a community will also help bring us together as a community in the unification process.
- We need to live our faith through showing our care for our community and environment.
- Positive changes: the personal reflections from parishioners in the bulletin has been greatly appreciated.
- A vibrant parish is one that has a wide variety of offerings of faith formation, events, and training. Equality for Women in the Church is cited as an example to follow this for other groups.
- Parents feel unequipped to help their children in their faith journey. This is cited as a reason why so many leave the faith after confirmation. They are just going through the motions.
- Many do not understand why things are done in the Mass and are just going through the motions. Better understanding of the liturgy will deepen faith.
- Mass is supposed to be a 'calm island in a stormy sea' and homilies that are overtly political and not seeming to stem from just scripture are a big turn-off. Counterexample cited is Fr Oldershaw was often a huge draw for doing this.
- Being a good liturgist in a divided culture is very difficult. Training and concern should be given to this.

### A Need for More Youth Faith Formation

- Parents need a way to connect with one another and get to know each other.
- Retreats for the youth have been very helpful. There is a desire to expand these but add a little more structure to them and with better training for those facilitating .
- We do big events well, but little things like just a playground get together are not there. Parents interested are not sure where to begin to get these going.
- There is a desire by parents to give their children opportunities through the parish to help with local community service,
- Effort for youth faith formation is usually done by volunteers with little to no structure or formal organization and tends to fall apart when some people move on.
- Fr Oldershaw was cited as an example of parts of his homilies that were both entertaining and educational, particularly in connecting with children.
- Parents said they need to evangelize themselves and deepen their own faith so they can help their children.
- If we don't want to change the regular Sunday Mass into a guitar mass, why not offer specific Masses to children or families with young children?