

Summary

Centered in Eucharist, Past

9. Share the story of a time when your parish most inspired and strengthened your prayer, spiritual life, and relationship to God.

What happened that most contributed to this experience?

Many shared their stories their *"special celebrations when their families came from out of town and attended Mass together."*

Others felt *"these times help you reflect on the importance of faith and family."* Some others felt that *"praying together as a family helps you to be more patient."*

Others felt support during dealing with a death of a loved one. *"When one of my parents died, we had a long trip back to Conneaut. I can barely remember the funeral, but I do remember how supportive everyone was."* *"On Good Friday, I stayed during the vigil time in church with only one other person. Staying and meditating on Christ's passion tells me I want to remain a Christian."*

Still others stated *"when younger and trying to be a wife, mother, working, taking care of a sick child it was important to have peace and quiet and being able to cope with my life. Mass gave me the ability to go on."*

For some it was celebrating the sacraments and *"my experience as an altar boy and student at St. Mary's when nuns and priests were always available."* For even others it was *"participating in church programs or ministries; such as altar server, lector, RCIA sponsor, Eucharistic minister."*

Others spoke of *"attending Mass and having inner strength and peace and well being."* One felt *"retreats have deepened my spiritual life."* Another said *"my experience as an altar boy."*

For one it was *"when my 3 boys were all on the altar as servers for the first time -I wept."* Another person said *"I really don't have any story, other than I feel a sense of peace and more forgiving since I have been attending Mass regularly. I feel that I am more patient and don't get upset as easily as before attending Mass regularly."*

Still another said *"Father offered to anoint me with the prayer for the sick before I had my surgery. That meant a lot. I really didn't even know him well yet."*

Centered in Eucharist, Future

10. What might our parish do that could really make a difference to further deepen and inspire a life of prayer and closeness to God in our people?

Some said they would like *"more sermons that apply our faith to everyday living."*

Others responded *"Having a more inspirational liturgy that help us apply our faith to every day living on a more personable basis."*

Some said *"find ways to encourage more people, who are non participants, to attend Mass and*

come and celebrate with us at church functions. Perhaps mailings to remind them that they are missed and still welcome."

Still others said "more retreats, bible studies and rosaries; make the time more compatible for working parishioners."

Others said "personally invite people."

Some said "bring back 40 hours devotion, novenas, May crownings, midnight Mass with a choir at Christmas."

Others said "have more activities for children as they grow up through their high school years so that they will grow in faith and have peers that share their experiences and faith, which will help them remain on the correct path."

Others said "Getting more people involved. Have parishioners carry gifts to altar instead of ushers. Ushers should ask someone to carry them if no one volunteers, especially a family with children, have the children help carry the gifts."

Others mentioned "talk more about Eucharist. More explanation of our devotions, and articles used during Mass."

For some "explain in more depth about the body and blood, what it does, how it transforms; more explanation of our devotions."