

Summary

Strengthen Family Life, Past

11. Share a story of how our parish best helped you and your family to grow in and pass on the gift of our faith.

In the review of the Parish conversation responses it is clear that by the past generations that being involved with families and traditions are very important in keeping the gift of faith and values alive in our parish. There were several ideas presented, one stated *“that through CCD programs a good foundation for our faith is enriched.”* Others stated that *“having families participate in the Mass, taking gifts at the offertory or being a reader etc.”* One commented *“at the time when we had the school and how that enriched their family faith.”* Another spoke of the *“mother becoming catholic and how that inspired her.”* Some spoke of *“praying for vocations to the religious life and reflected on when her Mom passed away there were five priests and two deacons on the altar for the Mass.”* There was a comment regarding *“the school made a big difference as far as family and passing on faith. It cemented the family unit. It was a daily presence and how lucky we were to have St. Mary School.”*

Strengthen Family Life, Future

12. Imagine a time in the next 5 years when our parish is doing something that really helps families to nurture and pass on our faith and that better reaches out to and engages families with children. What do you see happening?

Having a strong youth ministry and activities directed toward families of young and old, one saying *“that youth or minicamp for families to have camp fires to spend quality time together to discuss faith and values where cell phones and other distractions may be eliminated during that time.”*

Another idea was to find out *“why families are leaving the church and develop programs or something to draw them back to our parishes.”* *“The young need to have programs such as CCD and youth groups, readers and servers for the Mass”* was another suggestion.

Another stated *“that we all have the responsibility to reach out to people who may have left the church and invite them back to Mass and church functions.”* We may want to have events to utilize our halls for different functions for the parishes to get families involved such as volleyball, basketball, etc. One parishioner said *“we need to develop a simpler program to reach out to divorced individuals or families giving them our support with getting them back in the church.”*

One parishioner suggested *“having Masses and services at the times that families working different shifts can attend, even the Lenten Suppers so more can be involved.”* An idea *“was to have a day care for the young could be a good thing, maybe summer and family bible studies too.”*

One final response was to *“really work toward having one worship site with a place to meet and share stories and friendship whether we tear down both churches and build one new one or decide which Church to renovate as one.”*