



Parish Listening Session Summary Report

For Listening Sessions Using the Simplified Version

*Please complete after each Listening Session
You may add additional pages if necessary.*

Host Parish/Organization Holy Ghost Parish

Town/Community Winnipeg

Deanery (if known) Winnipeg

Date of Session March 6 & March 13, 2022

Question 1 **Journey together**

- What were some of the common themes that emerged in the responses to this question?
- What percentage of respondents indicated the parish lives out the image of journeying together?
- What percent felt supported during Covid?
- What percent indicated they felt supported during important moments in their lives?
- What uncommon, notable, or surprising themes emerged?
- What particular stories or real-life experiences were shared that relate to how our church currently journeys together (give examples without disclosing names. i.e. A woman referenced the Summons workshops as having helped her grow in her faith)?

In general, our parishioners feel that they were and still are supported during important moments of their lives. The church and faith is the center of their lives and as they said, they feel like they are not alone in this journey. About 90% felt supported during the difficult time of Covid-19 and the other 8% did not address this topic at all which does not mean they felt unsupported. 2% felt that our priests lead by the Archbishop should have pushed for more religious freedom during Covid-19 because we desperately needed that spiritual and human connection. The 90% of parishioners pointed out how creative our priests were during pandemic with the parking lot “drive through” Sacraments of Confession and Holy Communion, increased number of Masses when limits were very small, online celebrations with the Altar beautifully decorated for every occasion to help people feel “like in the Church”, online liturgy for children, and via-zoom catechesis for our younger parishioners. There were comments that people felt blessed because our church community did not segregate people during the time of Covid-19. In general, they felt that despite restrictions they had access to church and sacraments.

Many of our parishioners (about 60%) mentioned that the sermons they hear at our parish are very deep, uplifting and touching their hearts. Many are grateful for the faithful priests who serve our parish currently and who help them in their journey of faith. Comments were made by about 75% of participants that many different devotions we offer in our church help in

development and growth of their faith. Many of our parishioners, even the second and third generation of Poles, are grateful for Polish language services and Polish traditions that we, as an ethnic parish, are rooted in. It was mentioned that the beautiful liturgical music and the whole liturgical setting also helps to grow spiritually. Some of the younger parishioners have asked for a greater usage of an informational board or website to post more events that are happening across the Archdiocese – a young woman mentioned that once on our board she has seen a poster of a retreat in St. Malo, and since she went to that retreat, her life has changed.

Almost 90% of the participants felt that children and youth are not involved and/or engaged enough in our community. There were comments that as a church we should create more opportunities for children and youth and that the leaders of such groups should emerge from our lay community instead of clergy. Priests come and go, and we need a strong foundation for our younger generation to stand on. In this journey of faith, we need to relay more on the younger generation and pass the torch to them as our community is aging.

Also, about 70% felt that what is lacking in our journey of faith is Adoration of the Blessed Sacraments. People are asking for more regular and longer Adoration times.

Question 2:

- What percentage of respondents felt the Church to be welcoming, accepting of everyone? What percentage indicated otherwise?
- What percentage felt we support one another? How many felt the Church is not supportive?
- What percentage indicated we do, or do not, make use of the gifts of each member?
- How many people indicated we encourage others to share their opinions?
- What are some of the venues they mentioned that enables people to do so?
- What particular stories or real-life experiences were notable?

About 83% of participants feel that our church is welcoming and accepting; keeping in mind the fact that we have different ethnic groups in our community high percentage of them responded positively. The biggest ethnic group still is represented by Polish emigrants and their descendants who still speaks the language; however, our English-speaking group is expanding rapidly. Also, lately a large group of Eritreans joined our congregation. Most of the representatives of each of these ethnic groups feel welcomed and accepted in our Church. About 27% feel we could do better and be more open to each other no matter which ethnic group we belong to.

The majority expressed that the parish groups that are actively working in Holy Ghost Church are welcoming to new members but not many respond to that calling. At the same time, about 50% thought there should be more unity and more support amongst the group members and the groups should embrace the variety of gifts everybody brings with them. Some of the obstacles to that were named as: resistance to change, aging members (younger do not feel they belong with the older group), strong Polish language domination, unawareness of own talents and lack of confidence and encouragement. The suggestions were made that we should become more faith-based not ethnic based community.

About 10% of the participants feel that we should introduce a welcoming committee, that will not only welcome people to our church but also introduce them and encourage their participation to various parish groups. The need for a suggestion box was voiced, as people want to have more input on the priorities taken by our Church.

Again, about 90% feel that youth groups and children ministry need to be invested in. We need to bring more young people to church as we are an aging community. On the other hand, we should take advantage of the demographics and connect our youth with the elderly through talent sharing and experience sharing.

It was pointed out that we are blessed to have Sisters, Missionaries of Charity located right by our church and working together with our community. Yet, some strongly feel that we should work more closely with them, encouraging our youth to volunteer in the soup's kitchen and support other charitable work sister do.

Question 3: What is the Holy Spirit calling us to do?

- What themes emerged in response to this question?
- What initiatives were identified by the respondents?
- What steps did they indicate the Holy Spirit may be asking us to take?
- What notable stories or real-life experiences were shared that spoke to this?

The most important calling for our community is passing the torch of faith to younger generations and forming holy families following the example of Mary, Joseph and Jesus. Family is the foundation of our Church and the participant feel strongly that we, as a faith community, should invest in families and engage them in the life of our parish more and more.

Creating a strong-cored youth group where younger generation could blossom in faith, get to know Jesus and themselves, united by a common desire of salvation. It was expressed that we need to pray to the Holy Spirit as a community to enlighten the youth and middle-aged group to get involved because they are the future of the church.

Another emerging issue is the need to re-educate adults in our faith. Bible studies and catechesis for adults were suggested. Our community needs a better understanding of church teachings and church foundations; participants also feel that better understanding of what the connection is between church and culture is necessary so that people can live out their faith in their daily life. Our everyday environment relates to our church life. Sometimes, people see their daily life and attending mass as two separate things that do not interact.

Participation Statistics

1. Number of people in attendance: **64 in person plus about 20 written responses**

(If you did not use the form that asked participants to respond to the following questions, you may enter your best guess as appropriate)

Age group	# of Participants
Under 18	2 - 4%
18-30	6 - 9%
31-50	20 - 31%
51-64	30 - 47%
65 +-	6 - 9%

Gender Group	# of Participants
Female	40 - 63%
Male	24 - 37%

Marital Status	# of Participants
Single (never married)	12 - 19%
Single (separated/divorce/annulled)	7 - 11%
Married	25 - 39%
Common law	
Widowed +- 4	20 - 31%

State Life	# of Participants
Baptized Catholic	60 - 94%
Baptized other	
Priest/deacon	
Religious	4 - 6%
Spiritual but not affiliated	
Member of Non- Christian religion	
Former Catholic	
Atheist/Agnostic	

Mass Attendance	# of Participants
Attend Weekly	63 - 99%
At least monthly	1 - 1%
Attend on special occasions	
Religious	
Not in the past year but intend to return	
Do not attend and do not plan to	

2. What other groups were unique or notable in their participation? (Describe and indicate the number of participants (ie, this session was delivered to a group of 16 confirmation candidates)

We had two sessions in Polish language and two in English language, each session was held following the Sunday Masses on March 6th and March 13th 2022. We have invited not only our parishioners, but also other organizations associated with our parish, funeral homes, the Holy Ghost School, and Missionaries of Charity. Some parishioners, few representatives of organizations and Sisters of Charity responded to our invitation, Three of the four sessions were attended by about twenty people and the last session in Polish language had only 4 participants.

We have created a questionnaire with the same questions discussed during sessions and gave people the opportunity to drop them off in a special box. About twenty additional answers were collected in that process.

Please send this report to:

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Questions?

Call Linda at 431-541-4150 during business hours