

Vibrant Faith – Vibrant Community

Strategic Planning Newsletter

Meeting within a Meeting

We have all heard about “the meeting after the meeting,” but have you tried a “Meeting within a Meeting”? The kick off meeting of the Strategic Planning Subcommittees was just that.

In early June, seventy people gathered in the parish hall to begin the FUN part of the strategic planning process. The fun being able to use their collective inspiration and creativity to generate recommendations

The ten subcommittees found out

You said. . .

The Parishioner and School Parent Surveys had incredible response. 230 surveys were completed. This represents at least 150 hours of parishioner and school parent time to provide the Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) with extremely valuable information that will shape the future of our parish.

As the SPC pitched the surveys to the parish and school community, we jokingly commented on how SMOS had something to say about just about everything. The survey showed us that it was no joke! We have hard data that confirms this SMOS trait.

Twenty (20) open-ended questions were part of the surveys. We received **1320** entries. These ranged from a word to a phrase, to a few sentences to several paragraphs. No one wrote a book, but we have enough to write the few chapters.

These comments are rich with what makes SMOS special and unique. Also identified are the unfulfilled needs and opportunities to make the parish better, as well as a vision for our future.

what they were expected to do, the focus for each group, how they could work together and the information that they would use.

Then each subcommittee held their first meeting and made plans for this summer's work.

Afterwards, a social hour allowed new and old faces to get know each other and share the excitement of being part of shaping the parish's future.

It's not too late, to join in the fun. Just contact Tom Purcell, Patty Hendrickson or one of the subcommittees' co-chairs.

Here is a sample of what you said:

What is the best thing about the parish?

- The possibilities we have
- It never quits, no matter the challenges; it always tries to improve itself.
- A strong sense of community

What do you want to see the parish doing in 3-5 years?

- Have a healthy school that is meeting the needs of all families. Serving our fellow neighbors and pushing for a better life for all.
- Living and thriving within our means. I would like by then to have integrated members of the parishes that are joining us in a way that meets their needs as well as ours, and brings us together as a worshipping family

Final comments:

- Many wonderful Catholic Christians with caring, loving attitudes and open, accepting personalities and fine sociability and great senses of humor!
- My words may not be positive but I truly care about the long-term survival of the parish.

St. Louis Archdiocese Pastoral Planning Facts:

Northeast County Consolidation:

- **25 Parishes into 11 Parishes**
- **15 Elementary Schools into 9 Schools**

South City

- **10 Parishes close**
- **2 Elementary Schools consolidate**
- **3 Elementary Schools close**
- **Several parishes no longer have territories**
- **SMOS is the smallest Parish in the South City Deanery as of July 1, 2005**



"Planning is bringing the future into the present so that you can do something about it now".
Alan Lakein

On the Web

Check out our website at www.stmargaretstl.org.

From the homepage, Click on Strategic Planning To find this newsletter, updates and contact information about the strategic planning process



Subcommittees Contacts

Faith and Spiritual Development -Stephanie Noecker & Gerry Rauch

Evangelization -Joe Hagen & Nancy Nigh

Formation for Faith and Life -Joe Master

Celebrating God's Presence & Action - Mike Miller & Marg Schmitz

Expressing Faith -Julie Hesed & Gina Ryan.

Relationships Bob Herleth & Gayle Hantak

Social Activities -Carol Wilmes, Bridget Blaes & Tom Reitenbach

Facilities Pete Salsich & Mike Diehl

Financial Resources Prudence Kramer & John Lenzini

Parish Structure – Mary Cullmann & Dave Reid

Survey Results

Who completed the survey?

This table summarizes some of the demographics of those that completed the Parishioner Survey. Overall these demographics reflect the demographics of the parish.

Gender:	
▪ Men	36 %
▪ Women	64%
Parishioner for:	
▪ Less than 1 yr	2%
▪ 5 yrs	19%
▪ 6- 15 yrs	30%
▪ 15 – 30 yrs	30%
▪ More than 30 yrs	15%
Age	
▪ 20-29	7%
▪ 30-39	20%
▪ 40-49	26%
▪ 50-64	37%
▪ 65 & older	11%
Usually attends:	
▪ Saturday 4:30	11%
▪ Sunday 8:00	17%
▪ Sunday 10:00	72%
Parish Activities	
▪ Very Active	24%
▪ Somewhat Active	56%
▪ Not active beyond weekend Mass	16%
▪ Not active at all	4%

What did the survey say?

Four general questions were asked on the parishioner survey. These reflect an overall attitude about the parish. The score is on a scale of 0 to 100.

These questions ranked in the group with the highest scores.

Question	Score
Overall I am satisfied with St. Margaret of Scotland Parish.	70
I feel included in parish life.	73
I plan to continue my relationship with St. Margaret of Scotland Parish.	79
I would recommend St. Margaret of Scotland Parish to a friend, neighbor or co-worker.	76

When will we find out more?

Each subcommittee has received reports developed from the survey data. As the analysis of the data is completed, a written report will be distributed and parish/school forum will be held to share and discuss the results.

Strategic Planning Committee

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 Dr. Sharon Baumgartner
 Patrick Cacchione
 Mary Clemens
 Mary Cullmann*
 Joe Hagen*
 Patty Hendrickson**
 Bob Herleth*
 Julie Hesed*
 Mike Holdinghaus
 Prudence Kramer*
 Joe Master*
 Mike Miller*
 George Mills
 Stephanie Noecker*
 Nancy Nigh
 Tom Purcell**
 Tom Reitenbach*
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 Trace Shaughnessy*
 Joseph Stegall, Jr
 Cheryl Thomas
 Kelly White
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 Carol Wilmes*
 Father Tom Wyrsh

*Subcommittee Co-Chair

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