

FALL 2018 PULSE OF THE PARISH NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS
SUMMARY – *EVANGELIZATION & CATECHESIS*
St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish, Cincinnati Ohio – Sunday, March 31, 2019

Learning about our Faith and growing in our relationship with Jesus are life-long endeavors for all the baptized. We are also called throughout our lives to evangelize others, to purposely and continually bring all whom we encounter into a closer relationship with Jesus through both our words and witness. Dozens of individual comments (many more than seen here!) have been shared with our Evangelization & Catechesis staff and ministry leaders as well as the administration of St. Ignatius of Loyola School. We currently do not have a functioning Education & Spiritual Growth Commission – but once that commission has been reestablished, those comments will be shared with them as well so that all those responsible for evangelization and catechesis in our parish can continue to serve our faith community as best they can.

ADULT EDUCATION & FAITH FORMATION

The vast majority of comments indicate that both the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) and the Christ Renews His Parish (CRHP)-Welcome weekend retreats are excellent and very much appreciated. Those who lead these ministries are also very good and very much appreciated.

Another comment that was made with much regularity is that we need more small faith sharing groups and more opportunities for women, especially young mothers.

NB A women's/young mother's group is already being started

- ALPHA, Catholic Channel (Sirius Radio) FAMILIA, FORMED, Lighthouse Renewal Community/Life in the Spirit seminars, Marriage Encounter, retreats (men's and women's) Ruah Woods, Sacred Heart Radio, Theology on Tap – these are great programs/opportunities that should be used and promoted as should online resources
- A book club would be a welcome addition to our programs.
NB A weekly video series was held during Lent this year
- CRHP-WELCOME & RCIA continuation is so important to maintain
- We used to have weeklong parish missions – could these be brought back and more family-focused?
- We need more Bible studies and adult faith formation opportunities offered at various times of the day (during the school day, during sports practices, even before and after Sunday Mass)
- We need more “big name” guest speakers to attract people to events
- Do we have a parish library?
- We need to be more purposeful in our evangelization efforts, to try to engage the disengaged

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

The comments made were very positive for those who have experienced our junior high and high school youth ministry.

- High school youth group used to be bigger and more vibrant and thus more visible and attractive to join
- High school mission trips, ski trips, bible studies, retreats, March for Life, Steubenville conferences are awesome
- Young adult opportunities are missing – they feel disconnected
- Weekday evenings are hard for teenagers to participate
- Great that youth help out at VBS
- Why has the Passion re-enactment cast gotten smaller and smaller over the years?
- Seems Protestant churches know how to evangelize better and get more youth involved

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION (PSR)

The comments made indicate that our Parish School of Religion (PSR) does a very good job in catechizing our parish children who attend public elementary schools.

- Sacramental preparation is good – shouldn't families be more involved?
- Does a great job with special needs children
- Sometimes the PSR families, i.e. “non-school” families, feel like “second-class citizens” in the parish
- Could we ever acknowledge our public school students' honor rolls like we do the Catholic schools?
- Why don't all parish children, regardless of where they go to school, have same opportunities for involvement?

ST. IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA SCHOOL

The overwhelming vast majority of comments – at least once at almost every meeting – indicate that St. Ignatius of Loyola School – its past and present administration, faculty and staff – is exceptionally excellent and very much appreciated. Our school is authentically and purposefully Catholic.

- Continue to be attentive to eliminating bullying and meeting needs of the “middle of the road” students
- Seems some parents only get involved in the school for eight years and never get involved in the parish
- Where are all the school families on Sundays? Mass attendance should be so much more crowded
- Could the parish get more information about what the school is doing? WildCat Wire online? Weekly bulletin “school spotlight”?
- Church and school seem to be two separate entities – we should be one parish
- Could the non-religion curriculum be more permeated with Catholicism (as in Christian schools and homeschooling?)
- For a big school we do a good job at making it feel smaller
- Do we have an alumni association? Could there be more reunions?
- Before and after school programs are great – there is something for everyone
- Inclusivity of special needs students is awesome as are the intervention specialists
- Why don't we have a pre-school?

NB A pre-school program is starting in the fall of 2019

- Multigenerational legacy in our school is fantastic
- Grateful for fine arts opportunities in school
- Theology of the Body curriculum is great, but do parents even know what their children are learning in it?
- School of Faith for school staff is great
- Sacramental preparation is awesome but lacks parental involvement
- Safety at all school Masses is a concern (e.g. Circle Song is great but we can't get everyone in church)
- *NB Weather permitting, we do hope to have the final school Mass with the Circle Song on the athletic fields*
- What are school security plans especially for before school care and after school care?
- Could there be a school directory by child's last name since some have different last names than their parents?
- St I's does a great job in preparing students for high school
- Wildcat Wire is awesome – could there be some more catechesis in it?
- Do non-parishioners or non-active parishioners pay a higher tuition rate?

OTHER COMMENTS

- VIRTUS bulletins are a waste of time
- We did all we could but our adult children and their families are no longer involved in the Catholic church
- Vacation Bible School is always very well done
- Thanks for recognizing homeschool families as their children's catechists