

SS. Edward & Lucy News

SS. Edward and Lucy Parish is a Catholic community in Eastern Geauga County

JUNE 2010

RESULTS FROM THE 2009 ST. EDWARD & ST. LUCY PARISH SURVEY

*Father Burkley and
the Parish Pastoral Council*

We want to thank all our parishioners who participated in last years Parish Survey. Your comments were of great interest and will be considered by the Pastor and Parish Pastoral Council (PPD for inclusion in decisions affecting the future of our Parish. Please be aware that some comments and suggestions may be easily implemented, while others will take time to review and evaluate.

To help you better understand the survey results, they have been condensed and placed into the following categories:

Part 1: The numerical portion where participants were presented questions regarding ongoing Parish functions and requested to evaluate them using a scale from 1 to 5 with 1 indicating strong disagreement and 5 indicating strong agreement.

Part 2: Specific questions regarding demographics such as Parish status, Mass attendance, Stewardship, etc., where participants were given questions and a list of answers and asked to select the answer that most closely was associated with themselves.

Part 3: The written portion where questions were asked and a written response was required from the participant. (examples; Likes, Dislikes, Suggestions)

Here are the results from our survey.

Part 1: The majority of our parishioners who took the survey (66%) were in agreement (number 4 on the survey): that the Pastor, the PPC, the Parish Staff, and the Stewardship Committee Members were providing them with: good leadership, a good understanding of our Catholic Faith, a sense of belonging within the Parish, a chance to provide assistance to

both Catholic and Non-Catholic members of our local communities through evangelization, effective communications through the use of the Parish bulletin and web site, and an opportunity to gain additional education in our Catholic Faith through the Homilies, Bible Studies, and Generations of Faith (GOF).

Also, another 30% of the participants strongly agreed, (number 5), that our Parish leadership is above average in its overall efforts to improve our parishioner's ability to grow spiritually within our Catholic Faith while reaching out to help others in our local communities.

Therefore, 96% of our participants believe that our leadership is doing a good job and will continue to guide us as a spiritually motivated and vibrant Catholic Community.

Part 2: The majority of the participants in our Parish Survey are registered parishioners who attend Mass weekly, and are somewhat active within the Parish. They feel a closeness to the Parish, are mostly Female between the ages of 40 to 69, are married, and have no school aged children. They have access to the internet, and visited our Parish web site.

18% of the participants are 70 years and older. 21% of the participants have school aged children but only 4% of those children attend Catholic Schools. The number 1 reason the children do not attend Catholic Schools is due to finances. 50% of our participants believe they have a close relationship with others in our Parish and, 34% believe they have a very close relationship to others in our Parish.

Part 3: The following written answers were placed into 3 categories:

What do you like about the Parish? (Likes), What do you dislike about the Parish? (Dislikes), and Suggestions.

****Note:** For the Likes and Dislikes categories, the order of placement does not reflect the number of times that the answer was given by different participants. Only the number 1 answer is identified.

Likes: The Eucharist/Holy Communion, the Homilies, Father Burkley, the music, the comfortable church size (small), the choir, the Parish Staff, Father making the announcements at the end of the Mass, friendly greetings from other parishioners. (The list is small because of the number of multiple answers given for each question.) Eucharist/Holy Communion was the number 1 answer.

Dislikes: Parents not using the cry room, lack of/ and incorrect information in the bulletin, inappropriately dressed Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers, disunity between St. Edward and St. Lucy, cliques, not enough involvement for teens, clustering, adults using the cry room, the cry room is hot and stuffy when the door is closed, spending money on the old church, singing the Lords Prayer, ministries that do not welcome new members, building a senior complex next to St., Lucy, raising the kneelers and banging them on the back of the pews, the web site. Parents not using the cry room was the number 1 answer.

Suggestions: Establish a welcome committee for new parishioners, have fish fry's during lent, change mass times, flip flop mass', bring back PSR, need more help with Sunday School and GOF, more youth activities/community service, more use of halls for Parish activities, have a later Sunday Mass at St. Edwards, more male involvement in the Parish, need a Music Director, need a children's choir, Altar Server schedule should be sent out a month in advance, more updates on the web site, have a Latin Mass once a month, have a youth Mass on Sunday nights, present Homilies that address modern day problems as well as

talk about the past, fix the cry room that is hot and stuffy, have confessions during the week, need a new mission statement, more activities for singles, more activities for seniors, do more for widows and widowers, pass out bulletins after Mass, take pilgrimages to Shrines, have separate councils for St. Edward and St. Lucy, send Parish calendars to the B list, have Bible Study during the day, put special events like the Living Rosary in the bulletin, move the choir to the loft, keep Mass time to 45 minutes, provide a special pew for Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers, provide information about other churches in the area, have a Gathering after Saturday Mass (6:30), conduct Divine Mercies Chaplets, provide activities for disabled vets and military families, have a children's play at Christmas and Easter, call the elderly nightly to see if they are alright.

As you can see the survey produced a great deal of feed back for Father Burkley and the PPC to review and evaluate. However, as much as we appreciate our parishioners participation, all of us need to realize that some of the comments and suggestions provided may not be feasible for our Parish, while others, may be more easily addressed. If the comments and suggestions the survey has identified are determined to be important to the spiritual growth of our Parish and can be accomplished, then changes should be made.

For those parishioners who did not have a chance to fill out our survey we hope this information is helpful and that you will try to participate in the next one.

Originals of the Parish Survey and related documents are on file in the Parish office for those wishing to view them.

Again, thanks to all those who participated.

DECONSTRUCTING THE MASS

Sue Noreika

Last February, Father John noted in "Among Ourselves" in the bulletin that there are over 100 different ministries in our two churches. That number sounds

amazing. How can that be? Remember that we are called to give of our time, talent, and treasure. Let's take a look at all the different acts of stewardship and caring that make the Mass a meaningful experience. First, you drive up to the church and in the winter the lot is plowed, in summer the grass is mowed. (St. Ed's pays for mowing and has volunteers for plowing, St. Lucy's pays for plowing and has volunteers for mowing. Anybody who wishes to volunteer for one of the paid services please call the church office.) In the winter the sidewalk and steps are shoveled (St. Lucy's could use some help with this for Sat. evening Mass, Sunday is shoveled thanks to some wonderful young volunteers). The grounds look neat and cared for. Many thanks to all who helped with Spring clean-up. That was a form of stewardship and service for God. Flowers and plantings around the churches help celebrate the glory of God. Inside the church is neat and clean. There are no janitors, just dedicated people who give of their time to come in and make sure that all is in readiness, flowers are placed, the church is decorated according to the season and the candles are trimmed. The "Cry Room" or "Family Room" is cleaned and toys periodically sanitized. The bathrooms are cleaned and restocked. Yes, cleaning toilets in the church is an act of stewardship. All is in readiness, thanks to volunteers.

Someone comes early to unlock the church and turn on the lights. The candles are lit. As you enter the church, you are greeted and welcomed by the friendly smiles and comments of the greeters and receive a bulletin. Granted, the bulletin is in the job description of Karen and Father, but it takes time to organize all that information and get it to the printer and back. And do not forget the advertisers who underwrite the cost of the bulletin. That advertising is also a form of service. The sound system is turned on and you hear the sounds of music calling us to worship. Our music ministers include guitarists, pianists, keyboardists, organists, and more, plus vocalists. All these people have spent up to years honing their skills and hours in practice to get to the point where they can create the beautiful music for our Masses. If more than one instrumentalist is performing, they need to practice together. The choirs must rehearse harmonies and coordinate with the accompanying instrumental.

As we prepare to worship, the alter servers who have been trained by Deacon Greg slip into their robes as does Father and the Deacon. Volunteers take time to periodically clean these items. The wine, water and wafers are put in the back of the church ready to be brought forward for consecration. The alter servers are some of the youngest ministers we have. They do not say a word, but they are there carrying the Cross for the procession to the alter and the recession, assisting Father during the Mass, and ringing bells for emphasis during consecration. A Minister of the Word reads the opening comments and the Mass begins. The Minister of the Word also does the first and second reading. The choir or vocalist leads the responsorial. If a Deacon is present he participates with readings, prayers and may do the homily. Ushers take up the collection. (Then someone has to count the collection and separate it according to type of envelope or collection if there are two collections.) People are chosen to bring forward the gifts, another service for God. (The ones who chose these people are also serving.) The Prayers of the Church are lead by a Deacon or the Minister of the Word. During the consecration a basin and a towel are used. Ever think about that? Someone performs a service by washing them and replacing clean towels after each Mass. Someone also cleans the chalices and the ciborium used for the wafers and the cruets after each Mass. The Eucharistic Ministers (who have completed special training and are commissioned) come forward to assist with administration of the sacrament. (And by the way, one of the Eucharistic ministers voluntarily makes out a schedule for readers and Eucharistic ministers to ensure these positions are filled for each Mass just as Deacon Greg makes a schedule for the altar servers.) Then Father or the Deacon pronounces the blessing, the Mass is ended and we go in peace...after the recessional. This happens four times each weekend - twice at St. Ed's and twice at St. Lucy's. If it is a Sunday for The Gathering after Mass, volunteers have been at work setting up the hall, brewing coffee, setting out treats previously made or purchased, making sure there are napkins, cups, etc., etc., etc. And then when the socializing is complete, the clean-up begins. Finally, all leave and one last steward makes sure the lights are out and the doors are locked.

As you can see in this deconstruction of the Mass experience there are many people who do many small things in the service of God to make the experience complete, and if anyone was accidentally not referenced, I apologize.

We usually only think about the obvious, but there are so many little things. Our Lord says He is the Vine and we are the branches. Maybe all these little things are the leaves. And this is only looking at the Mass. We have many other areas of ministry in our two churches. There is a place for you to be involved. Call the church office if you would like to help in any way, little or big.

STEPHEN MINISTRY CARES

Karen Morrow

On April 24th our Ministry of Consolation, which is now part of Stephen Ministry, hosted their Annual Spring Luncheon. Our widows, widowers and homebound gather as a unique group and share a meal, visit with one another, and enjoy a little entertainment. This year we were fortunate to have the "Cats Meow", an a cappella singing quartet that is part of the larger Greater Cleveland Chorus, come and sing for us. It was wonderful to sit back and listen to these talented ladies!

The Annual Spring Luncheon began as a way for the Ministry of Consolation to recognize, affirm and care for those in our parish who have suffered the loss of a spouse or who are alone in their homes with few chances of being with fellow parishioners.

There are countless people today who, though they really could benefit from a Christian friend who would listen and care for them, instead tough it out on their own. They remain the strong silent type, or wear a smile across a face that is holding back a flood of tears. Society encourages this (particularly for men). To ask for help is to admit inferiority.

But God did not create us to be independent. We were created to be interdependent. God's Word is clear on this all the way back to Genesis: "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him" (Genesis 2:18). The



New Testament underscores this theme with more than 50 verses that contain the words "one another." These verses include admonitions such as "love one another," "encourage one another," "build up one another," and "pray for one another."

What these verses don't say is that we are to love, encourage, build up, and pray for other people. The "one another" wording gives them a reciprocal meaning. It also tells us that we are to allow other people to love, encourage, build up, and pray for us!

It is most difficult for people to ask for help. Whether it is because of guilt, shame, inadequacy, or fear of rejection, many would much prefer to suffer alone than to ask for help.

But suffering alone is not God's intent for us. Jesus promises, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). We can receive this promised rest when we turn to one another for comfort and help.

Our Stephen Ministers, as well as our Ministry of Consolation team, know all about receiving care. Many of them have been on the receiving end of care at an earlier point in their lives--something that has motivated them to give care now. They know how difficult it is to ask for help, but they also know the great personal and spiritual growth and healing that follow. They know how to respond in a loving, caring, and non judgmental manner. Our Stephen Minis-

ters are equipped, ready, and waiting to provide the comfort and care God very much desires you to have.

If you find yourself now or in the future facing difficulties in life, don't succumb to society's norm of remaining strong and suffering alone. Take the courageous step of seeking help. Open your heart to receiving God's love and grace through another person. Our Stephen Ministry offers the opportunity for a very confidential relationship with someone who will listen to you and provide you with the care and encouragement you need, while Christ works inside to bring rest to your weary, but burdened heart.

For more information on Stephen Ministry, please contact Lin Pleva (440-773-5756) or Karen Morrow (440-223-4700).

SPOTLIGHT ON SOME OF OUR YOUNGEST STEWARDS

Altar servers are some of the youngest stewards we have in the church and it gives them a wonderful opportunity to serve God. After they take their First Communion, usually in second grade, young boys and girls can contact Deacon Greg for training to be an altar server. They serve an important role in the mass, helping with the procession to the altar at the start of Mass and assisting Father throughout the service.

You may not realize it, but there are several things they have to learn (and one of them is to be still and worshipful - that's hard for the youngest ones). There is a knack to carrying the cross and putting it in its holder. There are certain key signals, like start to set up the altar for the consecration of wine and Eucharist during the collection. There is a time to get up and go with Father to accept the gifts brought to the altar and they must know where to put the cruets. The timing of when to ring the bells is a science. After Communion the servers are again ready to assist Father. Let's celebrate these young stewards and remember to give them words of gratitude and encouragement for their service.

Megan Maddox, a young server at St. Lucy's had these comments about serving. "I decided to be an alter server after my sisters Jessica and Laura. I thought it would be cool to be up there next to Father on the altar. Being an alter server makes me proud. It brings me closer to God. I love it all." As for a special experience serving, "I served at my cousin's wedding and will be serving at another cousin's wedding in July. It made me feel special to be a part of her wedding."

Christian Noreika, another of St. Lucy's servers, had a chance to serve in another parish at the Funeral Mass for the grandmother of his best friend. "I felt honored because I was able to serve at my friend's grandmother's Funeral Mass. (He was the only altar server there.) I got to put the Pall over the urn of her ashes. Even though I did not know her, emotions were created." Chris also commented, "Serving God is the whole point of being an altar server."

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, June 26 - Parish Picnic at The Shrine of Mariapoch, 17486 Mumford Road, Burton - 5 pm Mass followed by games, entertainment and picnic food.

Sunday, July 25 - 3rd Annual Cruisin' at the Church Car Show and Chicken Dinner at St. Edward, 11am-4 pm.

July 26-30 - Vacation Bible School at Rose Hall. July 30 will end with a trip to the zoo.

IT'S VACATION TIME

While many of you will be traveling near and far do not forget to attend Mass while on vacation. Bring back a church bulletin that can be displayed with your name on it to show the variety of places our members go! Have a happy and safe vacation!

Think about writing a few statements or an article about your travels or your vacation at home to share with fellow parishioners in the fall newsletter! Kids, think of anything you may want to share about your summer. Email your stories to fastnfar@windstream.net. Have fun, rejoice and refresh!

SS. EDWARD AND LUCY PARISH

Rev. John Burkley, Pastor
Re. Harry Winca, Pastor Emeritus
Rev. Mr. Greg Frania, Deacon
Karen Thrasher, Secretary
Office: 440-548-3812
Fax: 440-548-2221

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St. Edward Church
P.O. Box 709
16150 Center St.
Parkman, Ohio 44080
St. Lucy Mission
P.O. Box 98
16280 Kinsman Rd.
Middletown, Ohio 44062