

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

Parish Engagement Survey Report – April 2017

Dear Immaculate Conception Parishioners,

Thank you for your participation in the Parish Engagement Survey we conducted during Advent 2016. Since then, the Pastoral Council has been reviewing the data, digesting your comments, and identifying areas of opportunity for our parish community. This report documents the results of the survey and is available at our website www.iccannandale.org. There will be Parish Hall meetings on Sunday May 7, 1:15pm and Tuesday, May 9, 7pm to review and discuss the survey results and the top opportunity areas. Please join us.

Msgr. Randy Vashon, Pastor
April 12, 2017

Summary:

The objective of the Engagement survey was to establish a baseline of parish engagement and identify opportunities to improve the engagement of our parish community. The survey consisted of three parts: i) survey demographics, ii) level of parish engagement, and iii) satisfaction with overall parish engagement and specifically the liturgy and spiritual development offerings. 289 parishioners responded to the survey (vs 1675 registered active families) and provided 495 written comments to the open response questions.

The survey was not designed to gather information about every aspect of parish life. It was tailored to identify opportunities in two specific areas; parishioner engagement and how well individuals are supported in their personal journey and relationship with God.

Please know that all 495 comments were read in their entirety multiple times and trends, ideas, and information were extracted from them. Due to the personal nature of some of the comments and the risk of identifying an individual respondent through phraseology or content, we have chosen to preserve the anonymity of the individual responses and instead provide a summary of the most frequent comments. We hope that through this report and our Parish Hall meetings, we will be able to demonstrate that we have “heard your voice” as expressed through your wonderful ideas and comments without publicly airing their content.

The results of the survey, its trends, and its meaning represent the attitudes and experiences of the 289 respondents. Whether these responses can be interpreted as representative of the whole parish community cannot be known with certainty. The Pastoral Council is using this data as representative of the parish population but does so with caution, using its own judgement influenced by the survey demographics and non-survey information.

In general, the survey indicates that parishioners view their engagement and spiritual development positively. The survey data reflect an overall positive view of Immaculate Conception Parish and the level and quality of engagement offerings. There were many insightful and constructive written comments which, in combination with the survey data, identify some areas for improvement, including:

- Youth and young adult ministries and participation in parish activities
- Adult faith development programs and events, including more convenient timing
- Welcoming of new and current parishioners to activities and ministries and a spirit of openness to new ideas and comfort approaching the clergy
- The liturgy: homilies, music, and overall energy of celebration

The Pastoral Council is also developing and progressing a number of “quick hit” items based primarily on suggestions from the written comments. Efforts have already been started to address some of these items and we intend to proceed with passion and urgency to identify actionable steps that will benefit the entire Parish community.

In this report, as well as our Parish Hall conversations about the survey, we will tend to point out and stress the opportunities that exist which may make our parish an even better community. However, we should not lose sight of all the good work already being done by dedicated clergy, lay ministers, and parishioners.

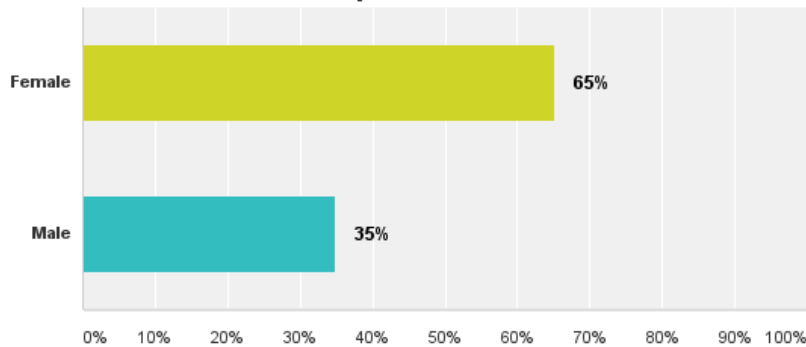
Survey Demographics:

The objective of these questions was to establish general demographics of the survey respondents. The survey results are shown in the graphs below.

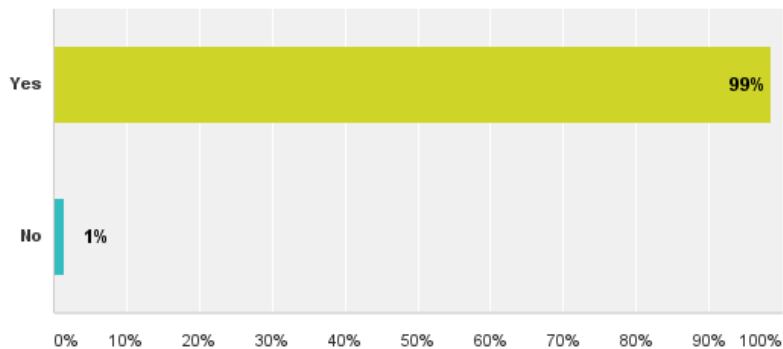
In summary, the demographics of the survey respondents show:

- 95% are registered at ICC and almost 70% are involved in some parish event or ministry
- About 80% are married and about 70% do not have school aged children
- Almost half are 55 or older and about 60% have been part of ICC for more than 15 years

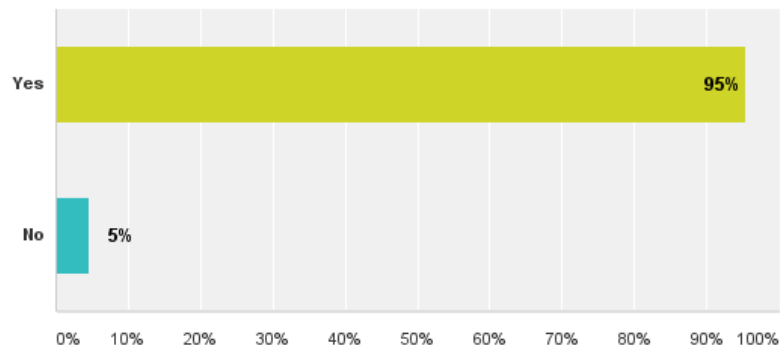
Respondent Gender



Are you Catholic?

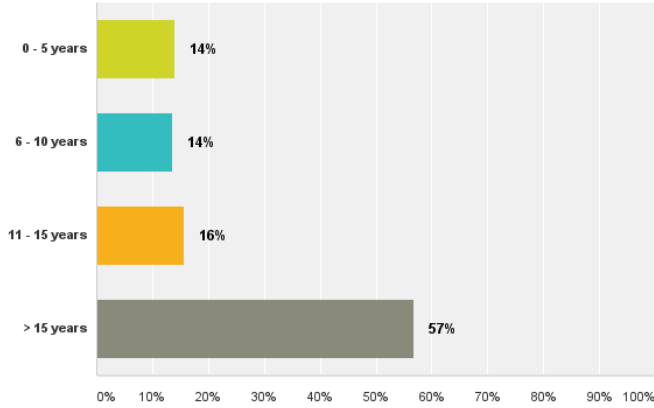


Are you registered at ICC?

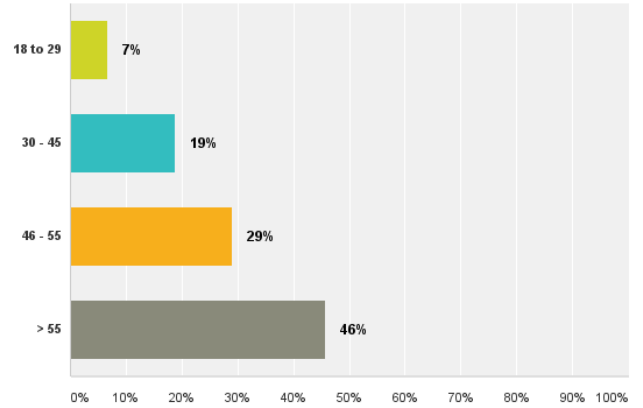


Survey Demographics (continued):

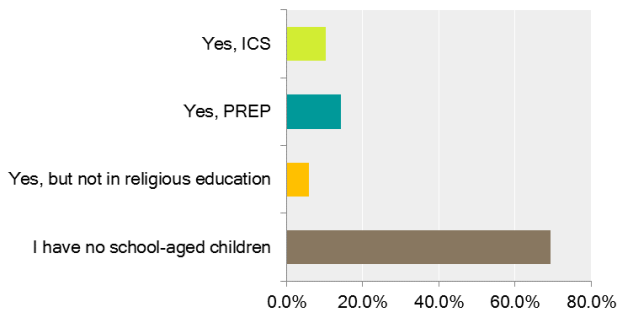
How long have you been a part of the ICC community?



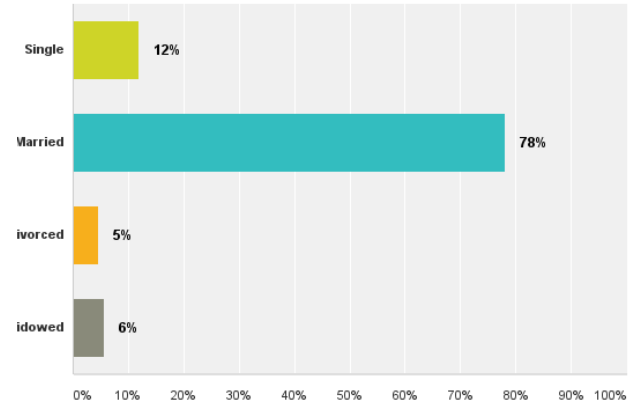
Respondent Age



Do you have school-aged children involved in religious education?



Respondent marital status



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Level of Parish Engagement:

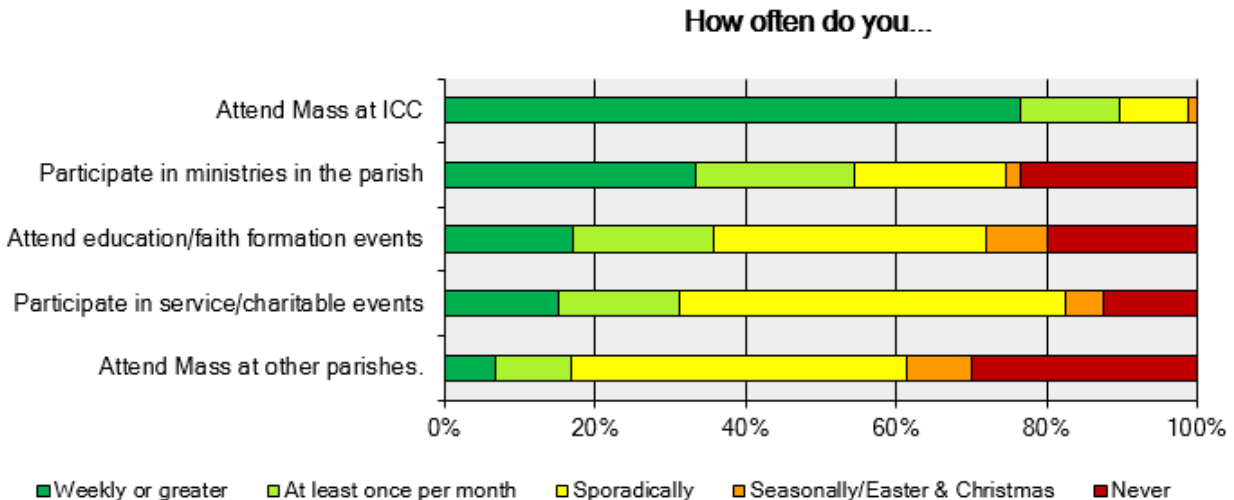
The objective of this set of questions was to measure the level of survey respondent engagement in Mass, ministries, spiritual development, and other Parish activities. The survey results are shown in the graph below.

In summary, the parish engagement of the survey respondents:

- 75% attend Mass weekly, nearly 90% attend Mass at least monthly
- About half are actively engaged in ministries on at least a monthly basis
- About a third regularly participate in a service, charitable, education, or formation event

The open response question for this section was **“What influences your ability and willingness to participate in Mass, ministries, events, and activities?”** A summary of the most frequent responses to this question:

- *Positive comments about the welcoming attitude of clergy and parish community, desire to be closer to God, and the joy in participating in Mass, ministries, and events*
- *Work and family obligations often preclude more involvement in ministries*
- *Timing of events, particularly those during the work day, often limit participation*
 - *Particular interest in evening Bible study group and Sunday evening Mass*
- *Feeling welcomed by clergy and ministry leads impacts participation*
- *Participation impacted by the content and purpose of the ministry as it relates to them and the needs of the community, especially for youth and young adults*



Satisfaction with Parish Engagement Offerings:

The objective of these questions was to measure satisfaction with the current engagement opportunities: i) overall Parish engagement, and then specifically ii) the liturgy, and iii) spiritual development offerings. The sections below address each of these areas in turn.

Overall Parish Engagement:

The objective of this set of questions was to measure overall satisfaction with the ICC Parish community and Parish engagement. The survey results are shown in the graph below.

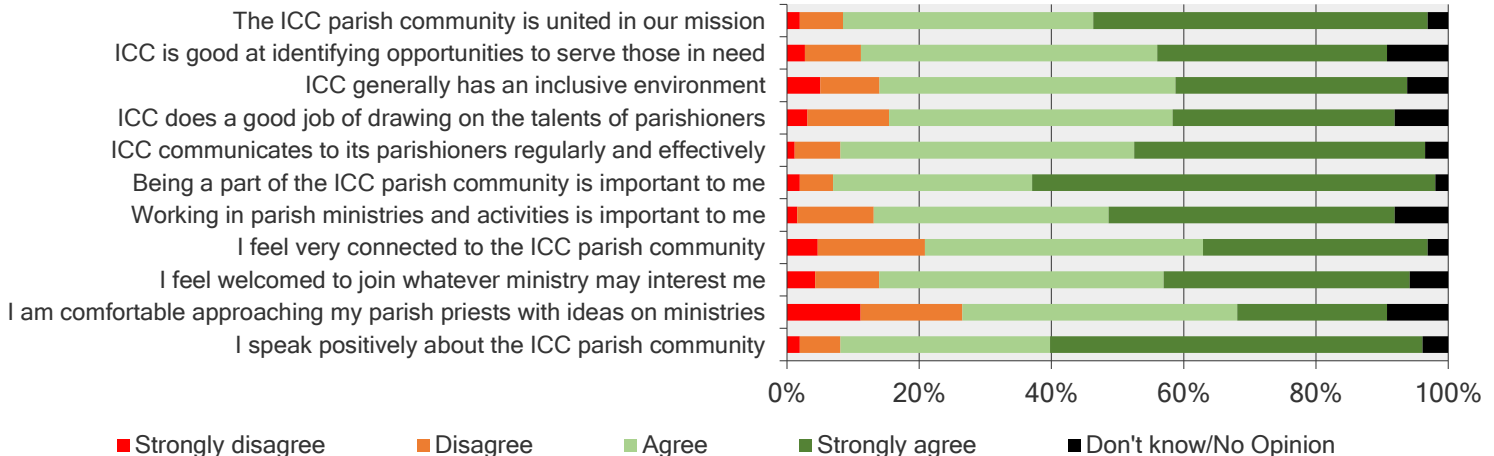
In summary, the survey respondents have a positive view of the Immaculate Conception Parish and the level and quality of engagement opportunities the ICC parish community:

- Being part of the ICC parish community is important and they speak positively of ICC
- Parish community is united in its mission and communicates well with parishioners
- Opportunities to improve the approachability of clergy to ministry ideas and to strengthen the feelings of connection with the parish

The open response question for this section was **“What would help you feel more welcome in Church or its ministries, or have a greater sense of community at ICC?”** A summary of the most frequent responses to this question:

- *Positive comments about ICC being a welcoming community, feeling welcome at Mass and events, and a strong engagement by a core group of parishioners*
- *Desire for a greater effort to welcome parishioners by clergy, staff, and ministry leads*
 - *Ensure ministry leads are open to new participants / ideas and respond to all inquiries*
 - *Develop opportunities for parishioners to meet and get to know the priests, deacons, Sr. Anna, and ministry leads*
- *Improve the sense of community between school families and parishioners*
- *Increased clergy involvement in ministries*
- *Ministry, education, and service opportunities that relate more to them and the needs of our community would be beneficial. Specifically, youth and young adult-focused opportunities were identified as lacking.*

Engagement Questions:



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Liturgy:

The objective of this set of questions was to measure overall satisfaction with the ICC Parish Liturgy. The survey results are shown in the graph below.

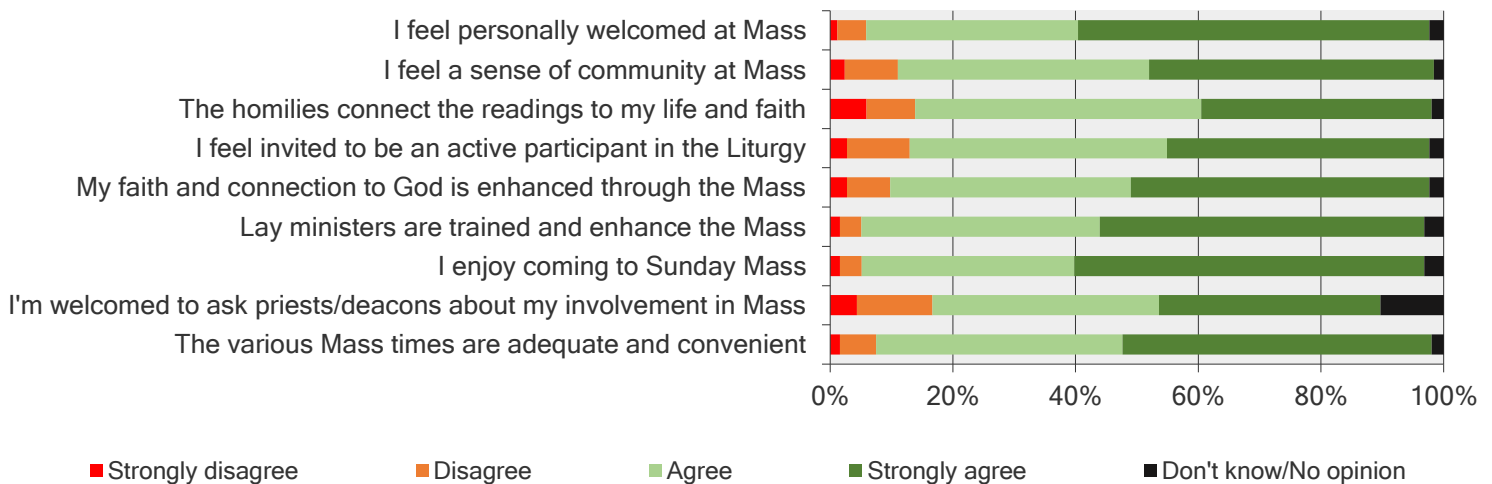
In summary, the survey respondents had an overall positive perception of the Immaculate Conception community and the Masses:

- Most feel welcomed at Mass, enjoy coming to Mass, and feel that the Liturgy is faith-filled and faith-building
- A positive view of our lay ministers, their preparation for the liturgy, and reverence for their role
- Overall satisfaction with, but some opportunity to improve the connection of the homilies to life and faith and the welcomeness of the clergy to their involvement in mass

The open response question for this section was **“What would make your experience in Mass at ICC more enriching and meaningful?”** A summary of the most frequent responses to this question:

- *Positive comments about the impact and applicability of priest and deacon homilies and the variety of the music offerings*
- *Constructive feedback on homilies - include more life experiences and be more concise*
- *Requests for a wide variety of music, ranging from silence after communion, more traditional hymns, to contemporary Christian music*
- *Requests for an accompanist at Sunday noon Mass and some music at daily Mass*
- *Particular interest in a Sunday evening Mass*

Questions regarding the Liturgy at Immaculate Conception Church:



Spiritual Development:

The objective of this set of questions was to measure overall satisfaction with the spiritual development offerings at ICC. The survey results are shown in the graph below.

In summary, while the overall response to these questions was positive, it represents an area of opportunity for our parish:

- A strong active faith is important and ICC in general supports a strong spiritual life
- Opportunity to improve the quality and quantity of spiritual development programs for adults
- Opportunity to improve the spiritual development and engagement opportunities for our youth and young adult parishioners

The open response question for this section was **“How can the ICC community better support your personal spiritual development?”** A summary of the most frequent responses to this question:

- *Positive comments in support of current religious education programs and adult spiritual development opportunities*
- *Strong support for a revitalization of youth and young adult ministries*
 - *Youth group participation has varied over the years, right now at a low point*
 - *Need to develop a strategic plan for both teenage youth group and young adults*
 - *Need a holistic approach including a breadth of activities (faith, social, service) and engagement across other ministries*
- *Requests for more adult spiritual development, including*
 - *Regularly scheduled evening faith enrichment / apologetics activities with some level of clergy involvement*
 - *More opportunities for community service, retreats, lectures / guest speakers, ministry focused on strengthening marriage*
 - *Week night / weekend bible study group in addition to current group scheduled during working hours*

Questions about your spiritual development



Overall Survey Results:

Summary:

In general, the survey indicates that parishioners view their engagement and spiritual development positively. The survey data reflect an overall positive view of Immaculate Conception Parish and the level and quality of engagement offerings. The survey response data from the overall parish engagement, liturgy, and spiritual development questions have been combined and ranked by increasing dissatisfaction (e.g. strongly disagree and disagree). A graph of these combined results and the corresponding table of data is shown on the following pages. There were many insightful and constructive written comments which, in combination with ranked view of the survey data, identify some areas for improvement, including:

- Youth and young adult ministries and participation in parish activities
- Adult faith development programs and events, including more convenient timing
- Welcoming of new and current parishioners to activities and ministries and a spirit of openness to new ideas and comfort approaching the clergy
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Next Steps:

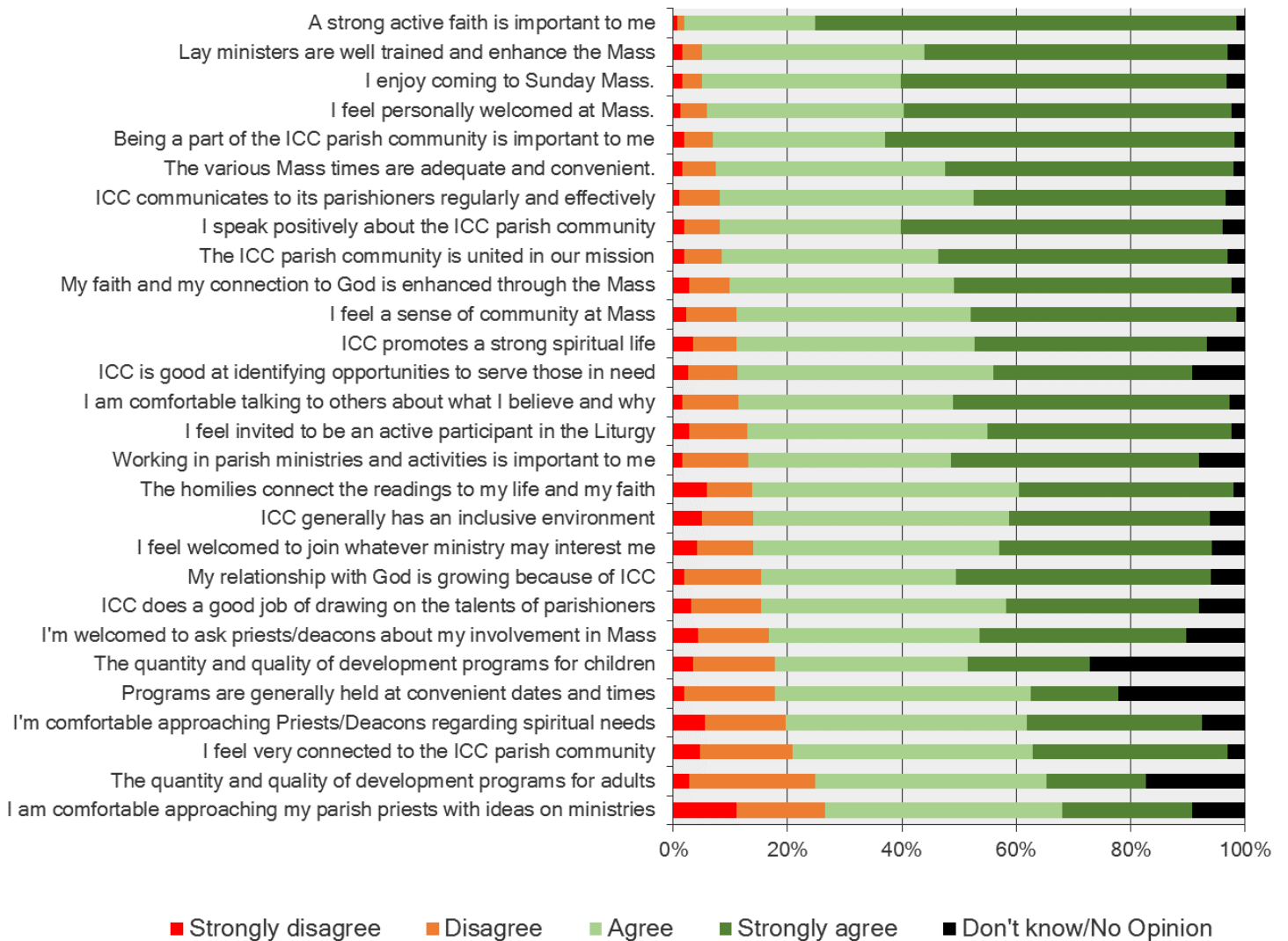
The Pastoral Council appreciates your feedback and welcomes your participation via:

- Parish Hall meetings to review the survey results and top opportunity areas in a live forum on Sunday May 7, 1:15pm and Tuesday May 9, 7pm.
- Teams will be formed to address the top opportunity areas over the coming year

Please join us!

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

Combined Overall Parish Engagement, Liturgy, and Spiritual Development Questions (Sorted by % Strongly Disagree + Disagree)



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Overall Parish Engagement, Liturgy, and Spiritual Development Questions (Sorted by %Strongly Disagree + %Disagree)	% Strongly Disagree	% Disagree	% Agree	% Strongly Agree	% Don't Know / No Opinion
A strong active faith is important to me	1%	1%	23%	74%	2%
Lay ministers are well trained and enhance the Mass	2%	4%	39%	53%	3%
I enjoy coming to Sunday Mass.	2%	4%	35%	57%	3%
I feel personally welcomed at Mass.	1%	5%	35%	57%	2%
Being a part of the ICC parish community is important to me	2%	5%	30%	61%	2%
The various Mass times are adequate and convenient.	2%	6%	40%	50%	2%
I speak positively about the ICC parish community	2%	6%	32%	56%	4%
ICC communicates to its parishioners regularly and effectively	1%	7%	44%	44%	3%
The ICC parish community is united in our mission	2%	7%	38%	51%	3%
My faith and my connection to God is enhanced through the Mass	3%	7%	39%	49%	2%
ICC promotes a strong spiritual life	4%	7%	42%	41%	7%
I feel a sense of community at Mass	2%	9%	41%	46%	2%
ICC is good at identifying opportunities to serve those in need	3%	8%	45%	35%	9%
I am comfortable talking to others about what I believe and why	2%	10%	38%	48%	3%
I feel invited to be an active participant in the Liturgy	3%	10%	42%	43%	2%
Working in parish ministries and activities is important to me	2%	12%	36%	43%	8%
The homilies connect the readings to my life and my faith	6%	8%	47%	38%	2%
ICC generally has an inclusive environment	5%	9%	44%	35%	6%
I feel welcomed to join whatever ministry may interest me	4%	10%	43%	37%	6%
My relationship with God is growing because of ICC	2%	13%	34%	45%	6%
ICC does a good job of drawing on the talents of parishioners	3%	12%	43%	34%	8%
I'm welcomed to ask priests/deacons about my involvement in Mass	4%	12%	37%	36%	10%
The quantity and quality of development programs for children	4%	14%	34%	21%	27%
Programs are generally held at convenient dates and times	2%	16%	45%	15%	22%
I'm comfortable approaching Priests/Deacons regarding spiritual needs	6%	14%	42%	31%	7%
I feel very connected to the ICC parish community	5%	16%	42%	34%	3%
The quantity and quality of development programs for adults	3%	22%	40%	17%	17%
I am comfortable approaching my parish priests with ideas on ministries	11%	16%	42%	23%	9%