

St Michael Poplar Springs Parish Vitality Survey

Summary of results

365 surveys processed

Average of all ratings is 3.74 so that is a general positive response

People did not rate things they didn't know about

1. Worship This indicator relates to liturgy, sacraments and devotional life of the parish.

RESPONSE SCALE				
1 Practically none to very small degree	2 Not very; not very much	3 Moderately	4 Very to a high degree	5 Extremely; to a very high degree
Scale #	The degree to which:			
3.73	1. The congregation fully, actively, and consciously participates in the liturgy.			
4.07	2. Congregational singing is an important part of every weekend Mass.			
3.86	3. Homilies are relevant to the needs and cares of the people.			
4.24	4. Special feast days are appropriately celebrated throughout the year.			
4.20	5. Various forms of expression for Catholic spirituality are provided for parishioners, e.g., prayer groups, novenas, days of recollection, missions, faith sharing opportunities, etc.			
3.88	6. Shut-ins and the ill are visited regularly with the Eucharist and Anointing of the Sick.			
3.76	7. The Rite of Christian Initiation is being implemented and involves the entire parish community.			
4.08	8. Options for face-to-face confession, communal penance services with individual confessions, and for use of scripture during all confessions are available to parishioners.			
2.85	9. Attendance at weekly Liturgies and special prayer and worship services is increasing.			
4.01	10. The weekend Mass schedule promotes quality liturgy, builds a sense of unity and community, and reflects the size and diversity of the parish community.			
3.86	11. Weekday Masses are scheduled according to the needs of people and time constraints of priests.			
3.70	12. The parish sponsors retreats on a regular basis for youth, adults, couples, singles etc....			
3.85	Overall Average			

In your consideration of the strengths and weaknesses in this area you might reflect upon the following:

Does the congregation fully, actively, and consciously participate in the Sunday Mass?

What is the quality of the homily, music, and environment at the Sunday Mass?

What types of liturgies are celebrated (traditional, contemporary, gospel, etc.)

Are special feasts and devotions celebrated throughout the year?

Has the Rite of Christian Initiation been implemented and is the entire community supportive and involved?

How well are the sick and the shut-ins cared for and visited?

Are there convenient times scheduled for the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Penance) on Saturday and Sunday?

Strengths:

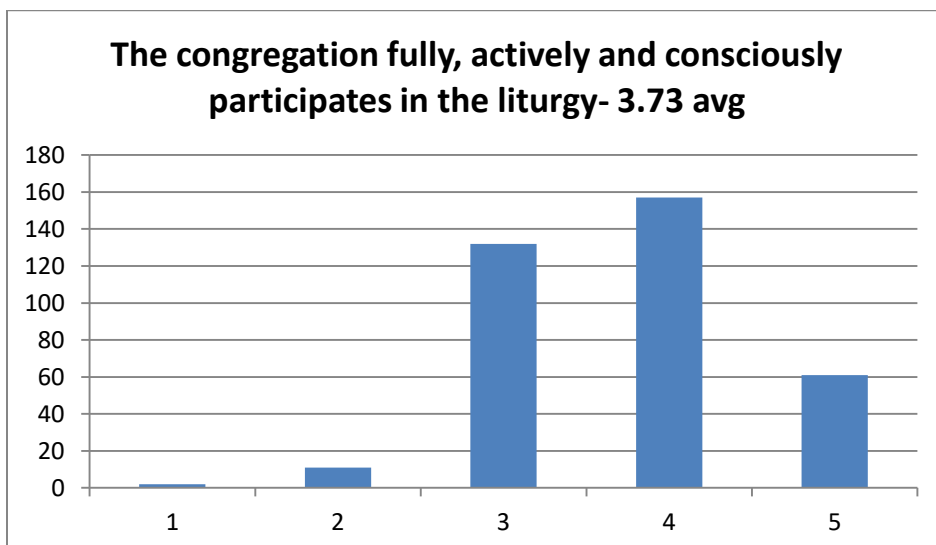
- Celebrations of Feast Days and variety of forms of expression of Catholic spirituality are viewed as top strengths
- Homilies (both strength and weakness) great variance in responses from those who love or don't think highly
- Music as with homilies variance of opinions on Contemporary Music vs Traditionalist music strong preferences one way or the other

Weaknesses:

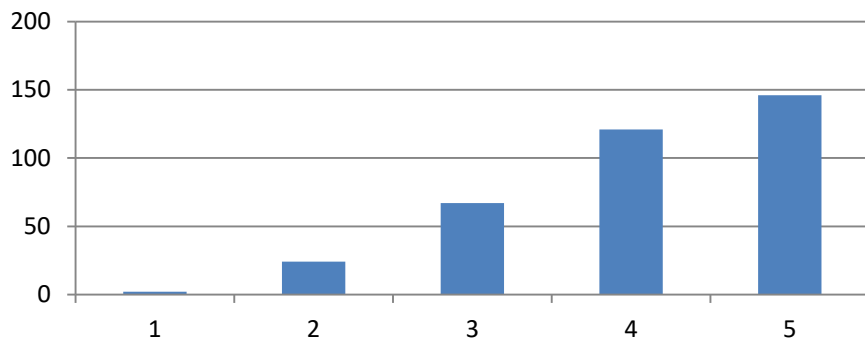
- Attendance at weekly mass and worship services is declining (ie not growing)
- Youth engagement: MS/HS and young adult concerns with how to engage young people
- Varying times for reconciliation
- Some criticisms reflect a lack of understanding/uniformed comments. These point to a need for liturgical catechesis of the parish to understand liturgies, ie communion antiphon and quiet times in the liturgy.

Special Concerns:

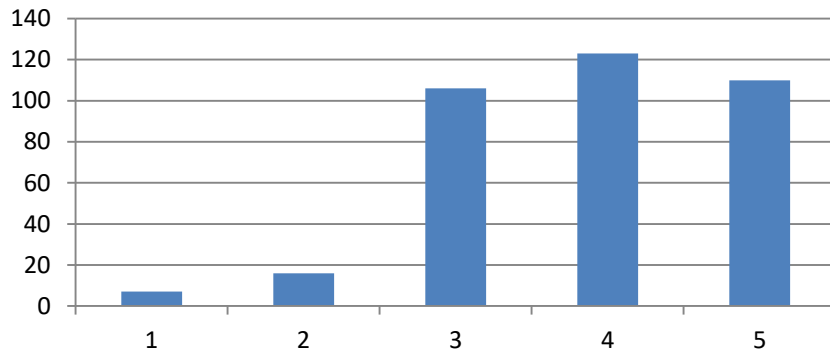
- Adult liturgical Catechesis
- Youth engagement
- Dichotomy of opinions on music



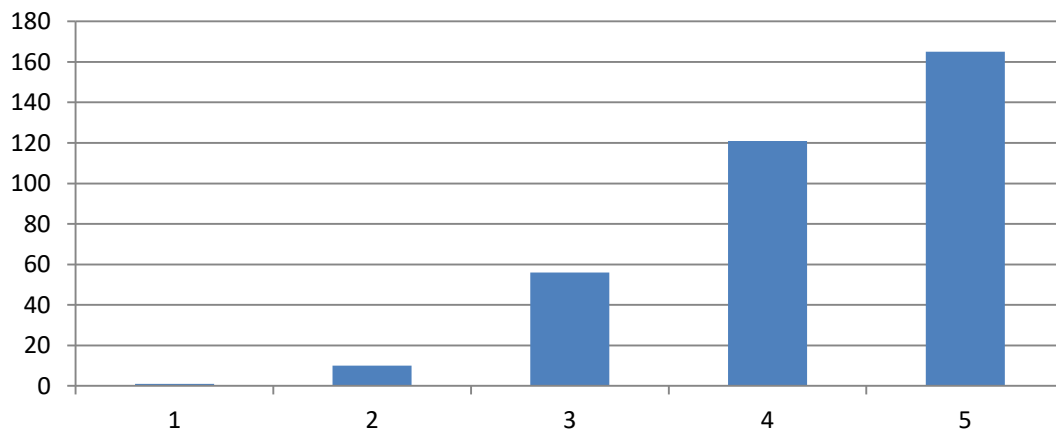
Congregational singing is an important part of every weekend Mass - 4.07 avg



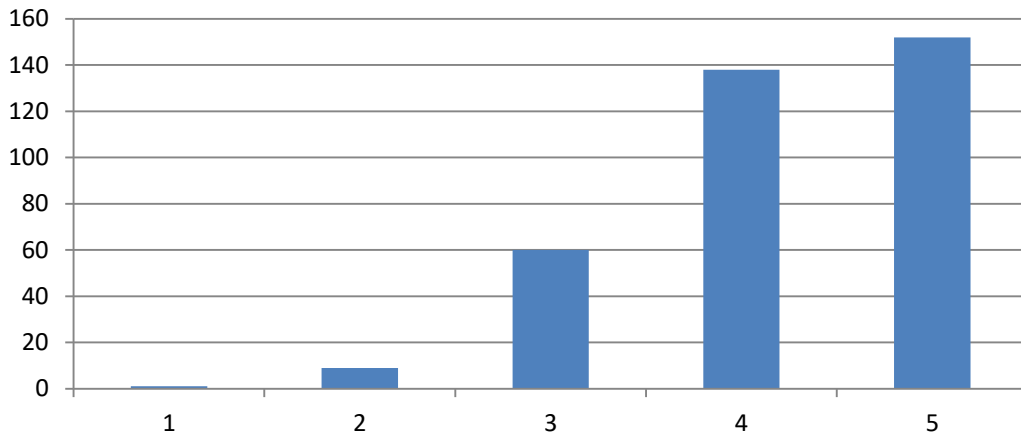
Homilies are relevant to the needs and cares of the people - 3.86 avg



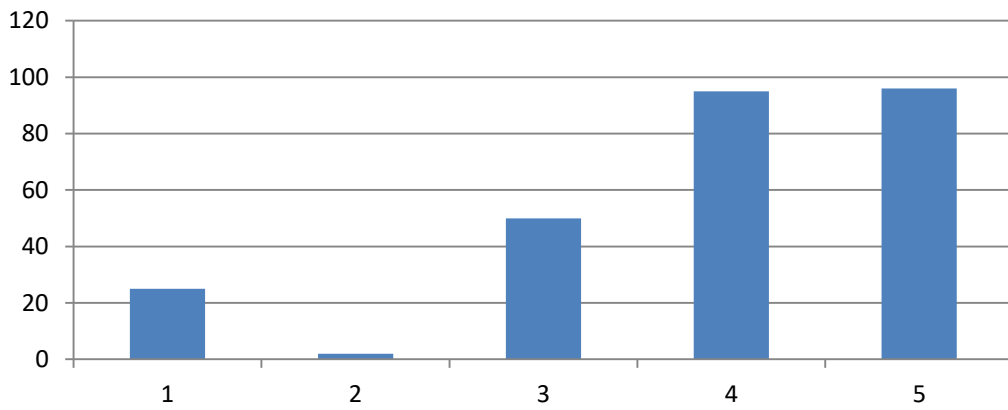
Special feast days are appropriately celebrated throughout the year - 4.24 avg



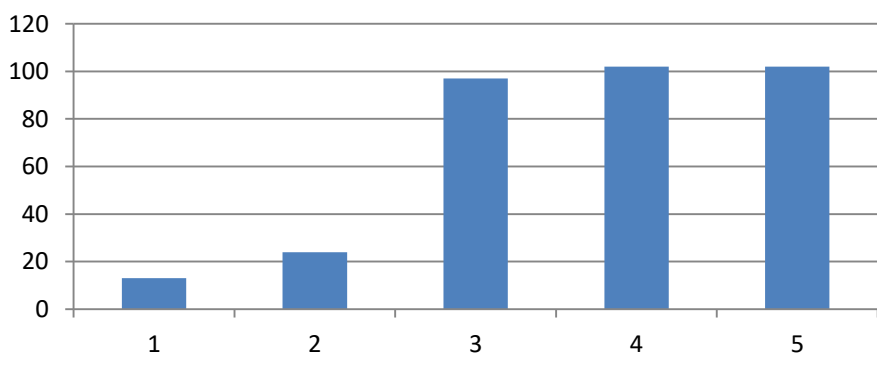
Various forms of expression for Catholic spirituality are provided for parishioners, e.g., prayer groups, novenas, days of recollectio, missions, faith sharing, etc - 4.20 avg



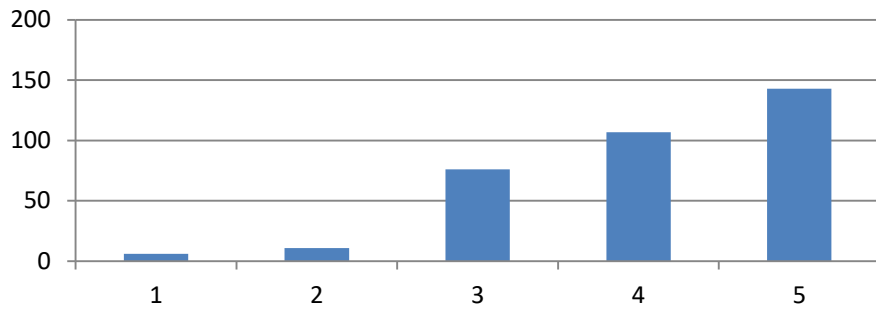
Shut ins and ill are visited regularly with the Eucharist and Anointing of the sick - 3.88 avg



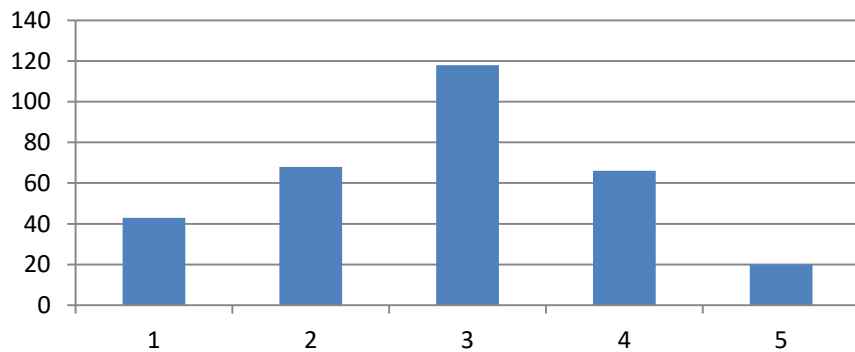
RCIA is being implemented and involves the entire parish community -3.76 avg



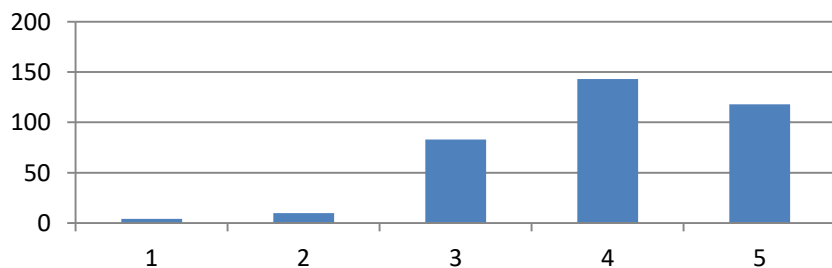
Options for face to face confession, communal penance services with individual confessions and use of scripture during confessions are available to parishioners - 4.08 /average



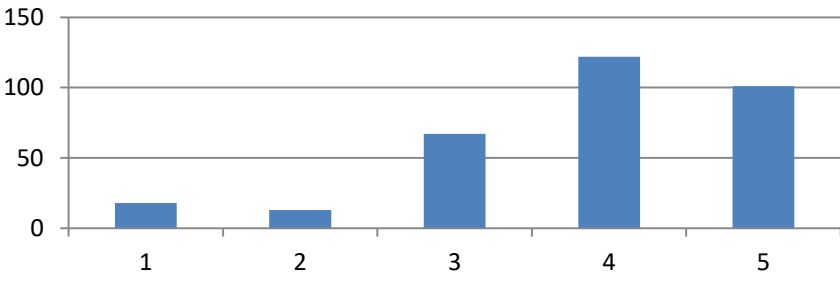
Attendance at weekly Liturgies and special prayer and worship services is increasing - 2.85 avg



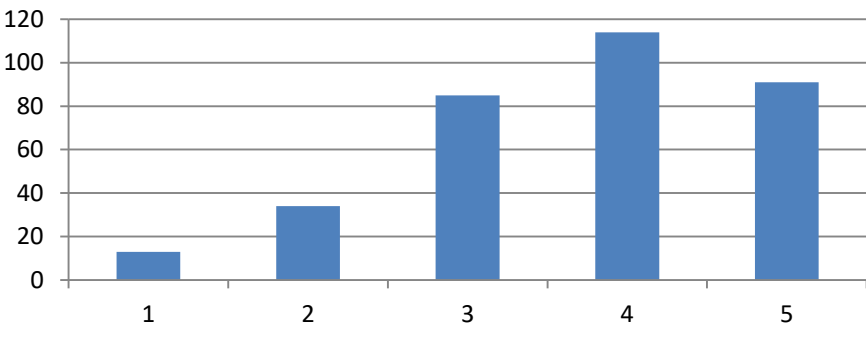
The weekend Mass schedule promotes quality liturgy, builds a sense of unity and community and reflects the size and diversity of the parish community - 4.01 avg



Weekday masses are scheduled according to the needs of people and time constraints of priests.- 3.86 avg



The parish sponsors retreats on a regular basis for youth, adults, couples, singles, etc - 3.70 avg



2. Education: This indicator is concerned with all efforts that ensure ongoing faith formation provided to parishioners of all ages.

RESPONSE SCALE				
1 Practically none to very small degree	2 Not very; not very much	3 Moderately	4 Very to a high degree	5 Extremely; to a very high degree
Scale #	The degree to which:			
2.89	1. The parish sponsors its own Catholic school or supports a regional Catholic school.			
4.16	2. The parish provides a qualified and professionally trained Director, Coordinator or Minister of Religious Education.			
3.9	3. The parish offers vibrant faith and life instruction programs for adults, families, children and youth.			
3.7	4. The parish provides for and supports initial and on-going training and formation for catechists.			
3.13	5. The parish offers special support for new and experienced parents			
3.6	6. The parish has vibrant programs for adolescents and young adults.			
3.91	7. The parish offers a variety of opportunities for adult learning experiences (e.g., Bible Study, speakers, small communities, etc.).			
3.49	8. The parish supports its lay leaders / volunteers with regular and ongoing in-service programs.			
3.2	9. Parishioners share in and support baptism and marriage programs <i>post-sacrament</i> .			
3.59	10. The parish and its ministries supports and participates in the apprenticeship and practicing model of faith formation for youth			
3.87	11. The parish clearly emphasizes the strengthening of marriage and family.			
3.27	12. Catechesis is provided for parishioners with special needs.			
3.56	Overall Average Score			

In your consideration of the strengths and weaknesses in this area you might reflect upon the following:

If the parish has or supports a Catholic school, is the school well-integrated into the mission of the parish?

Does the parish have a Director, Coordinator, or Minister of Religious Education?

Is there effective initial and ongoing training for catechists?

Does the parish provide ongoing faith and life formation for parishioners of all ages?

Are there sacramental preparation programs for Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation and Marriage pre and post sacrament?

Do parish programs serve various language and ethnic groups in the parish?

Strengths:

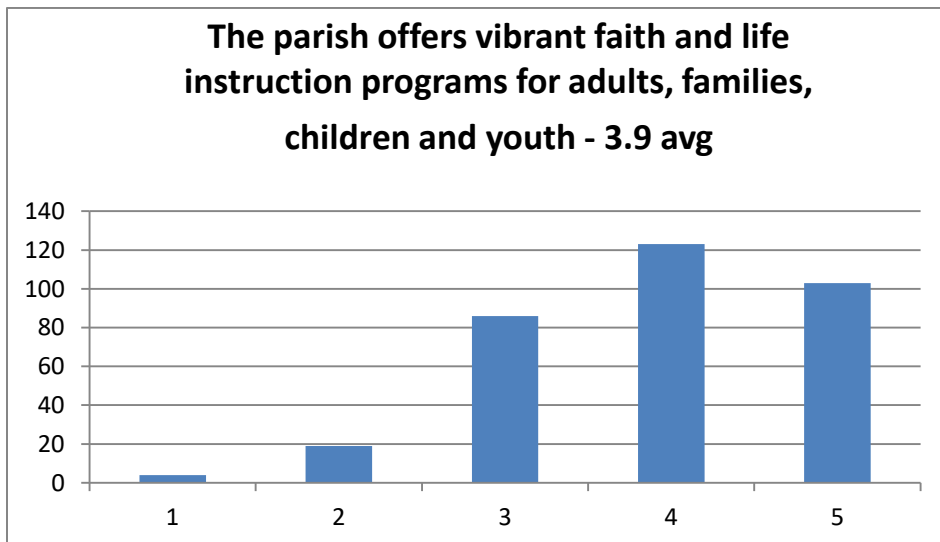
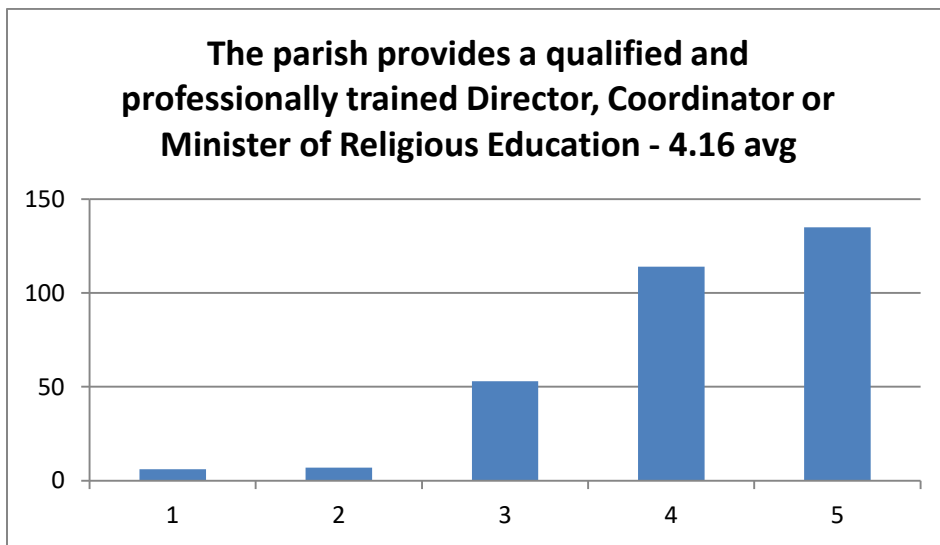
- Staff credentials held in high esteem RE and Preschool Director
- Programs available for all ages, including ManAlive and WWP, Religious Ed

Weaknesses:

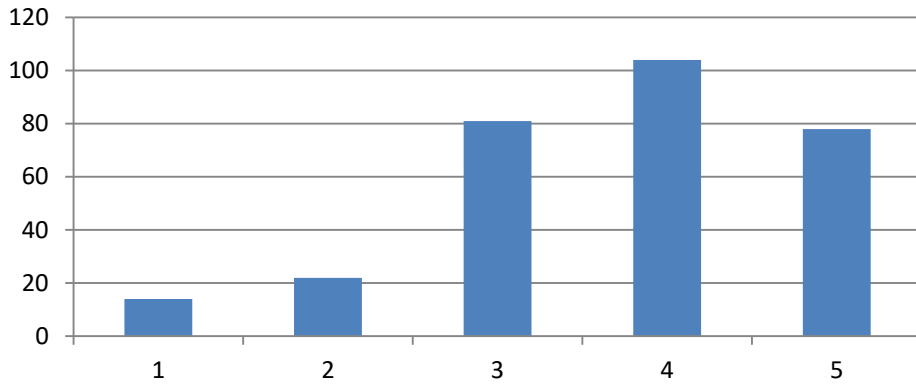
- Sponsorship of Catholic Schools post PreK
- Length of bible studies is too long a commitment, something shorter term
- Post Confirmation programs needed
- Lacking Ethnic Ministry

Special Concerns:

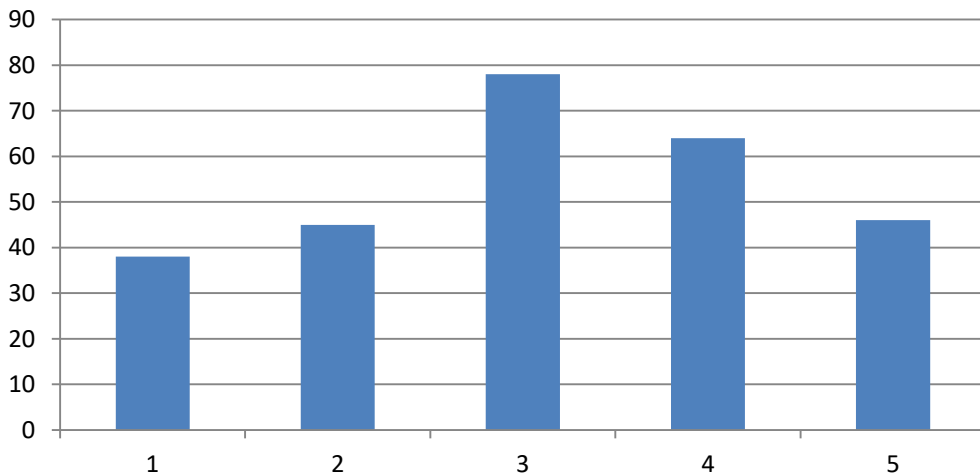
- Partner with a local Catholic School?



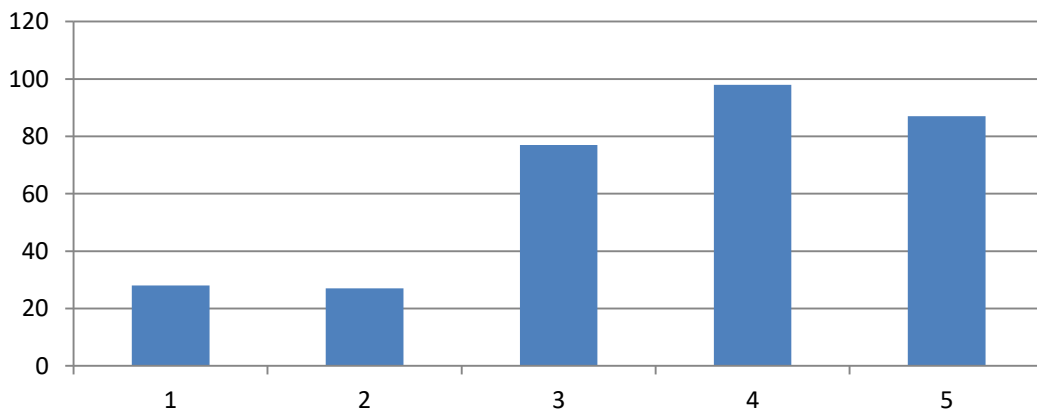
The parish provides for and supports initial and on-going training and formation for catechists- 3.7 avg



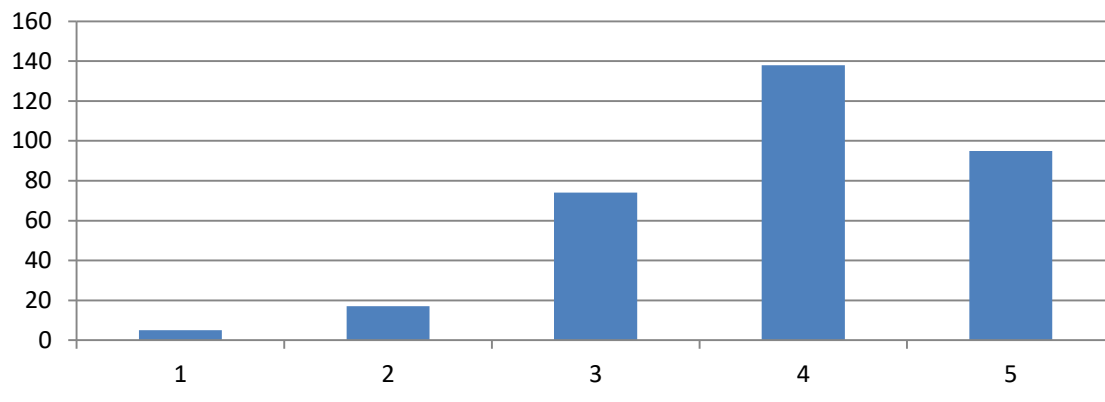
The parish offers special support for new and experienced parents - 3.13 avg



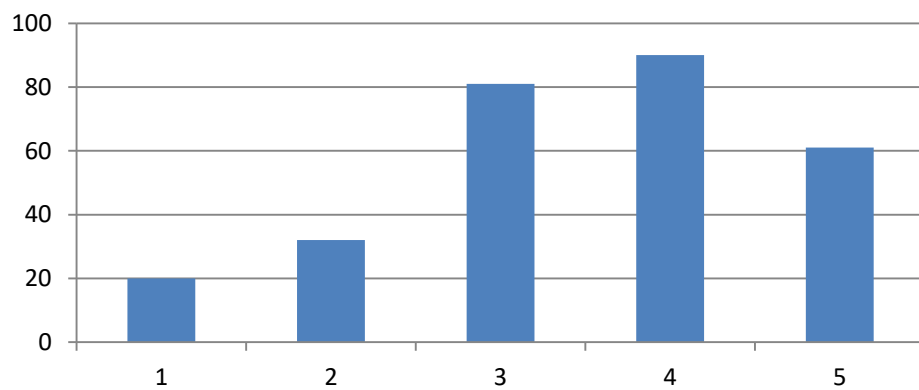
The parish has vibrant programs for adolescents and young adults -3.6 avg



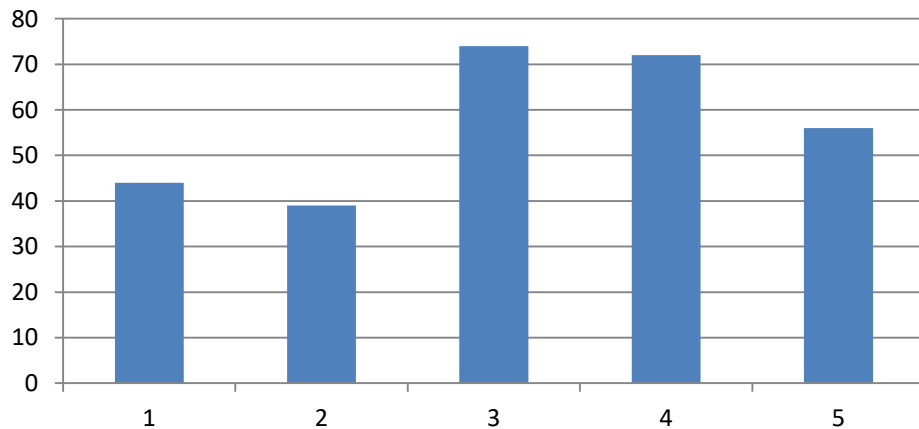
The parish offers a variety of opportunities for adult learning experiences (e.g. Bible Study, Speakers, small communities, etc) - 3.91 avg



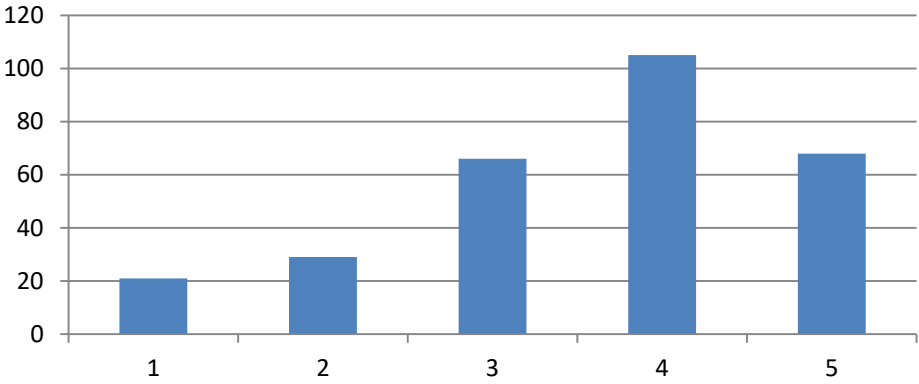
The parish supports its lay leaders/volunteers with regular and ongoing in-service programs - 3.49 avg



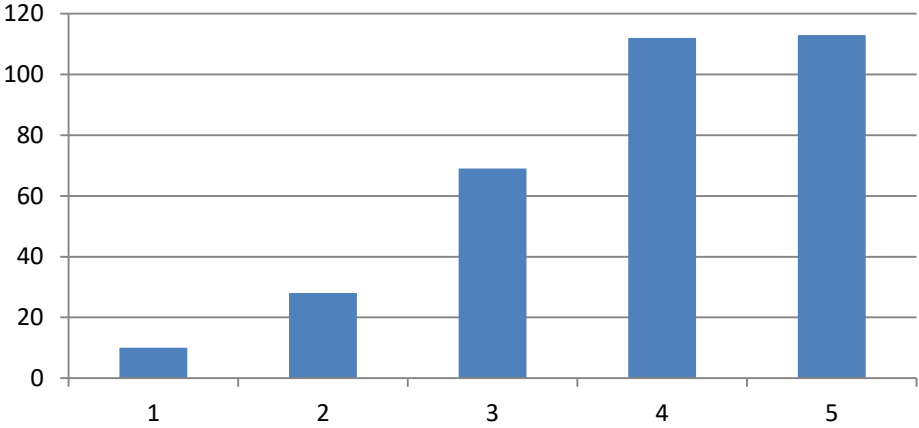
Parishioners share in and support baptism and marriage programs post-sacrament - 3.2 avg



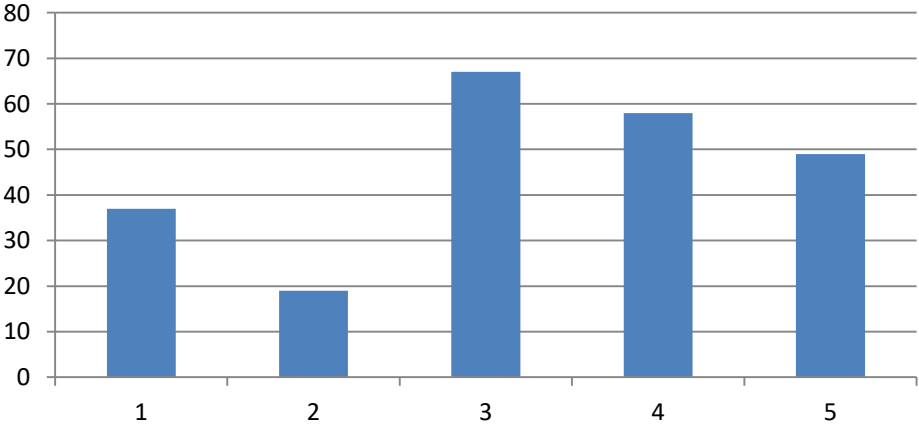
The parish and its ministries supports and participates in the apprenticeship and practicing model of faith formation for youth - 3.59



The parish clearly emphasizes the strengthening of marriage and family - 3.87 avg



Catechesis is provided for parishioners with special needs - 3.27 avg



3. Community: This indicator relates to a parish’s efforts to build a strong sense of community by actively involving all members of the parish in parish life and by reaching out to Catholics who are alienated or inactive.

RESPONSE SCALE				
1 Practically none to very small degree	2 Not very; not very much	3 Moderately	4 Very to a high degree	5 Extremely; to a very high degree
Scale #	The degree to which:			
3.48	1. The parish has an organized welcome program for new members.			
3.49	2. Parishioners with disabilities are included in every aspect of parish life and ministry.			
3.53	3. Our parish reflects the ethnic and financial diversity of the greater community			
4.39	4. All approved liturgical roles are open to both men and women.			
3.56	5. Parishioners accept their responsibility to invite others to the Lord and the believing community.			
3.15	6. The parish has a way to train people how to reach out to others and invite others to the Lord and the believing community.			
3.46	7. The parish offers and supports programs that target individual and family needs (ie: divorce, money & debt, depression, job loss, taking care of parents, etc...)			
3.38	8. The parish consistently identifies the talents and interests of parishioners.			
3.57	9. Parishioners and organizations regularly invite new people to participate in their activities.			
4.00	10. Parishioners are encouraged to use their talents for the good of the parish.			
3.89	11. The parish actively involves seniors, adolescents and young adults in parish activities.			
3.38	12. The parish has an accurate, up-to-date census of the total parish and has met every registered parishioner at least 1x per year			
3.61	Overall Average			

In your consideration of the strengths and weaknesses in this area you might reflect upon the following:

Is the parish a welcoming community to visitors and new parishioners?

Are there efforts to encourage parishioners to be involved in the various ministries and programs of the parish?

Is proper training and direction provided?

Do parishioners contribute to the stewardship of the parish through time, talent, and treasure?

Strengths: In all areas people ranked above 3 and feel the community is welcoming

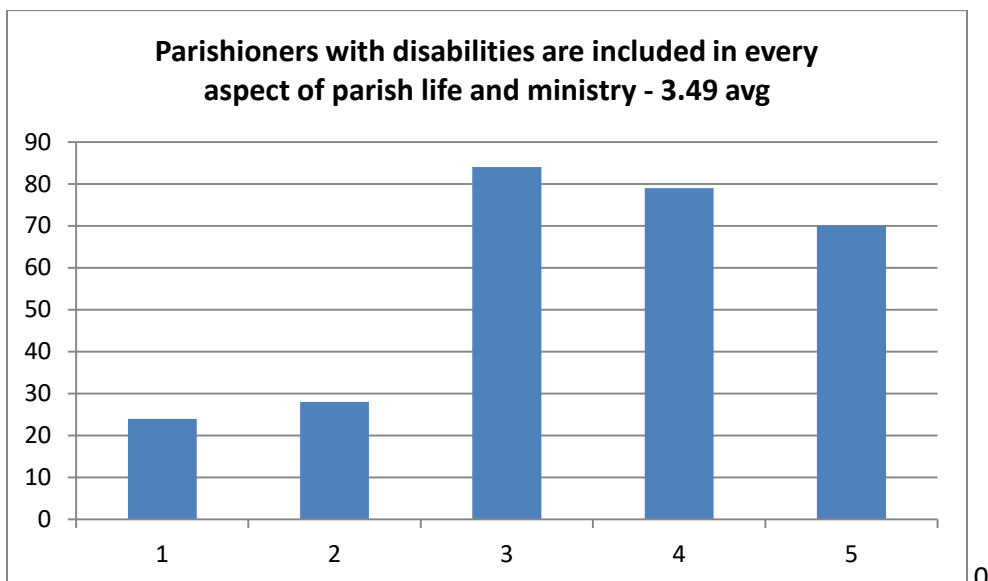
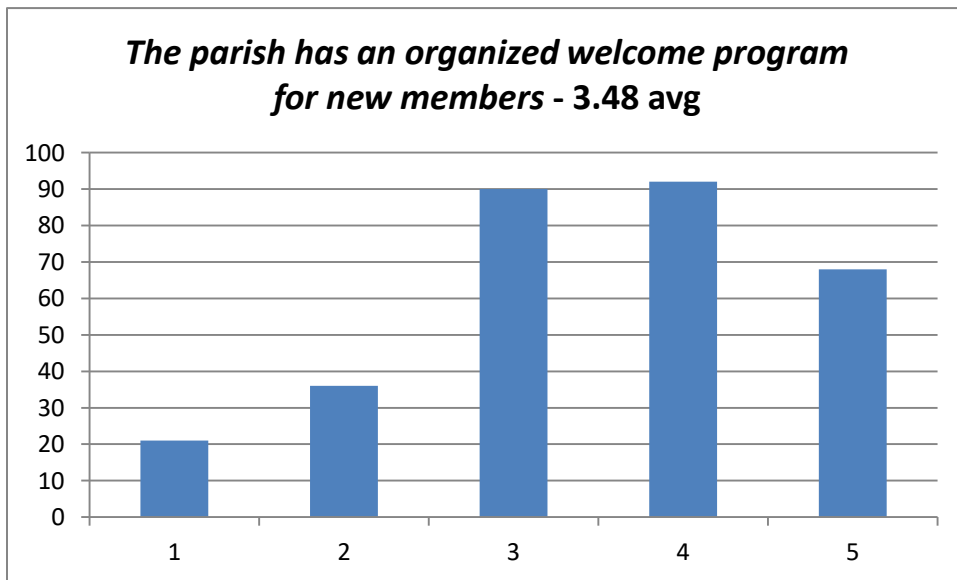
- Highest strength is in liturgical roles being open to both men and women
- Inviting, welcoming community

Weaknesses:

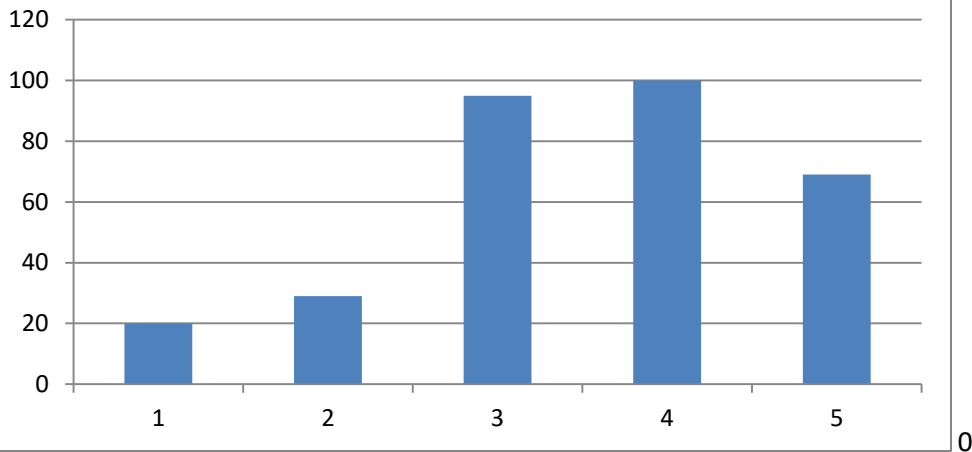
- Perception that there is an inner circle of volunteers and staff and some volunteers are rejected
- Same people (154) volunteer
- Some people commented that they did not feel welcomed

Special Concerns:

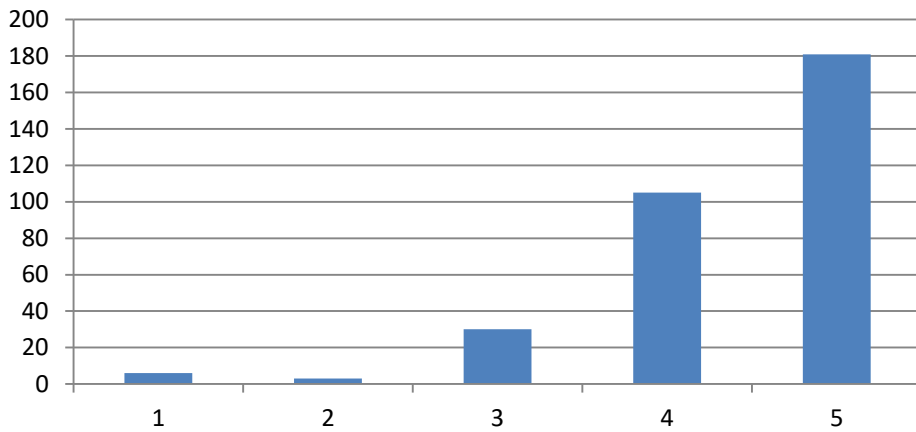
- Opportunity to begin defining all the visitor and member touchpoints
- How do we launch the welcoming committee



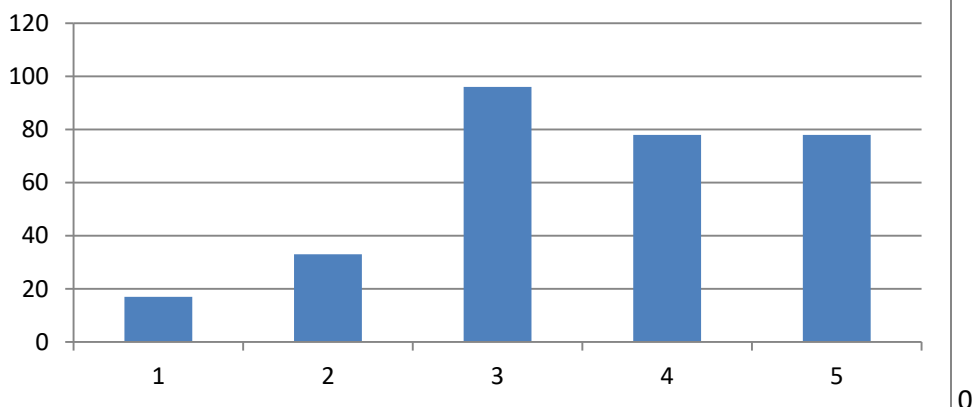
**Our parish reflects the ethnic/and financial
diverstiy of the greater community - 3.53 avg**



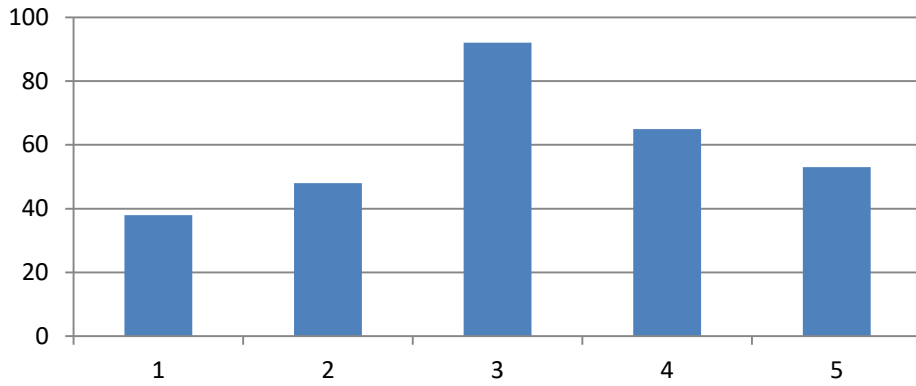
**All approved liturgical roles are open to both
men and women - 4.39 avg**



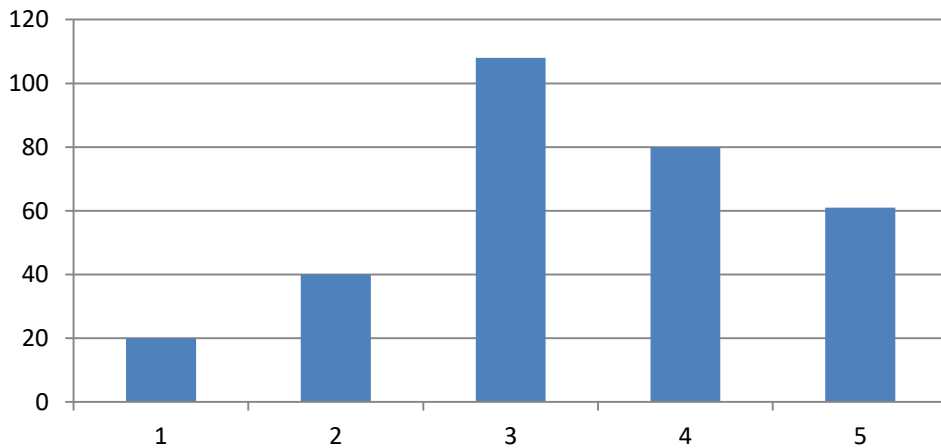
**Parishioners accept the responsibility to invite
others to the Lord and the believing
community - 3.56 avg**



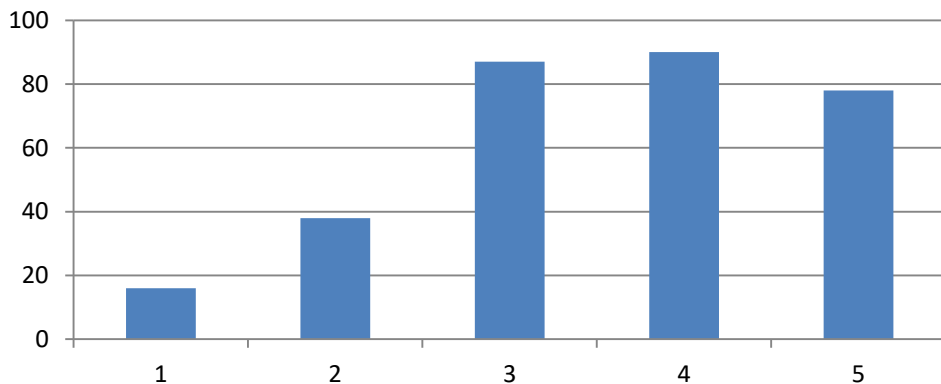
The parish has a way to train people how to reach out to others and invite others to the Lord and the believing community - 3.15 avg



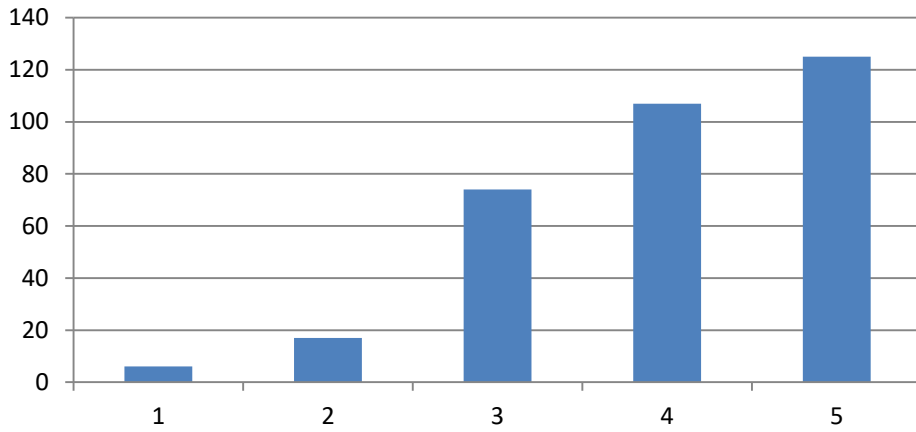
The parish consistently identifies the talents and interests of parishioners - 3.38 avg



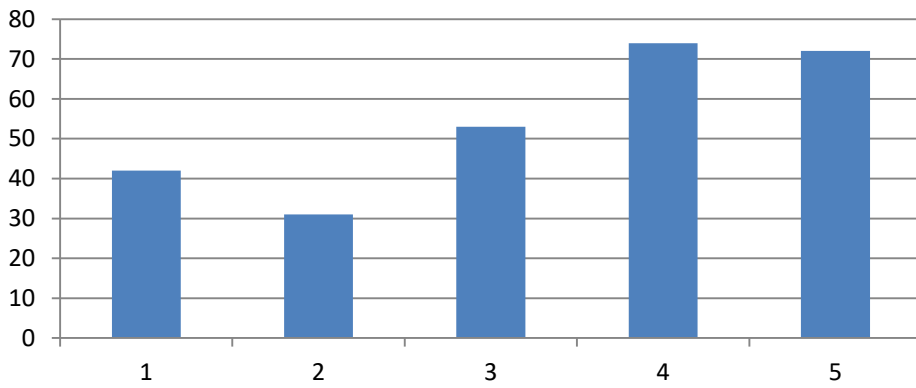
Parishioners and organizations regularly invite new people to participate in their activities - 3.57 avg



Parishioners are encouraged to use their talents for the good of the parish - 4.0 avg



The parish has an accurate up to date census of the total parish and has met every registered parishioner at least 1x per year - 3.38 avg



4. Service: This indicator is concerned with the effectiveness of care and outreach efforts of the parish for the poor and needy of the parish and local community.

RESPONSE SCALE				
1 Practically none to very small degree	2 Not very; not very much	3 Moderately	4 Very to a high degree	5 Extremely; to a very high degree
Scale #	The degree to which:			
3.37	1. Someone (e.g., a Parish Social Concerns Coordinator) or some group (e.g., St. Vincent de Paul Society) assists parishioners in meeting their material needs.			
3.41	2. Parishioners respond when invited to volunteer for various parish service programs.			
3.76	3. The parish is sensitive to the needs of families when it schedules ministries, programs and events.			
3.58	4. Awareness of Catholic social teaching is raised through homilies and formal discussion of encyclicals and other church documents.			
4.12	5. The parish opens its facilities to community groups for meetings (e.g., Alcoholics Anonymous).			
4.5	6. The parish sponsors or supports local food banks, blood drives, etc.			
4.14	7. The parish reaches out to those who are in institutions (e.g., nursing homes, hospitals, prisons, etc.) within the parish's boundaries.			
4.1	8. Parishioners respond generously to global and national appeals for aid to the poor and needy.			
3.82	9. Parishioners participate in peace and justice activities, pro-life activities, voter registration drives, letter writing campaigns, parish twinning, missions, etc.			
3.49	10. The parish calls attention to important local, state, and federal legislation in light of Catholic social teaching.			
3.83	Average Score			

In your consideration of the strengths and weaknesses in this area you might reflect upon the following:

Does the parish have a social services minister or St. Vincent de Paul Society?

Is there support for local food banks, blood drives, or homeless shelters?

Are Catholic social teachings taught and promoted through homilies and religious formation programs?

Is the parish supportive of pro-life initiatives?

Does the parish offer mission trips for youth?

Does the parish offer mission trips for adults?

Strengths:

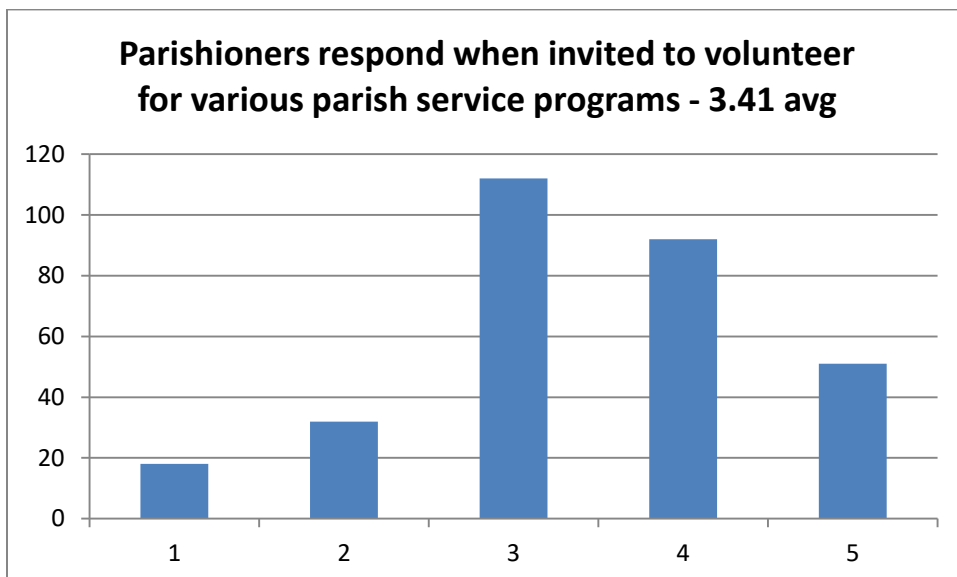
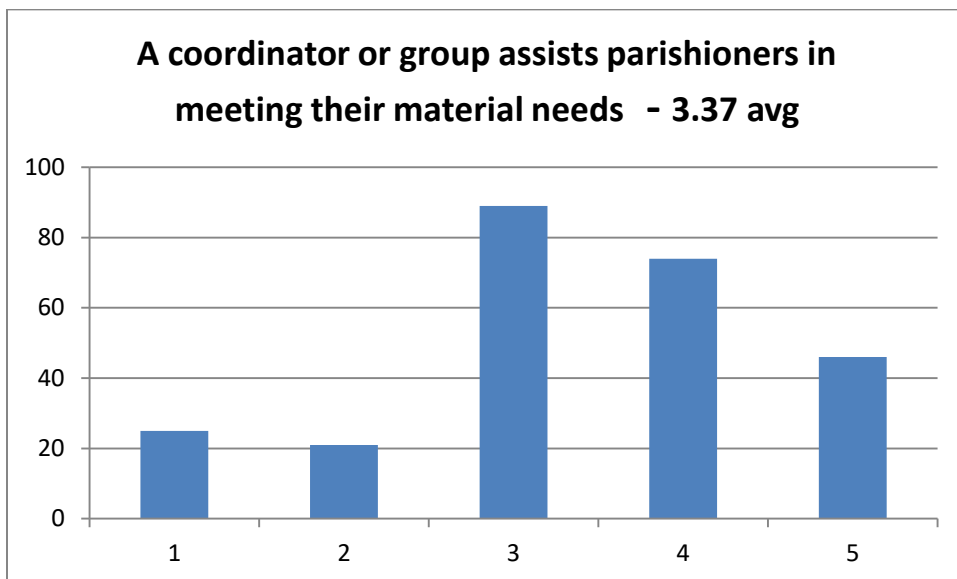
- Highest strength was in service justice efforts such as food banks, blood drives, Jamaica mission

Weaknesses:

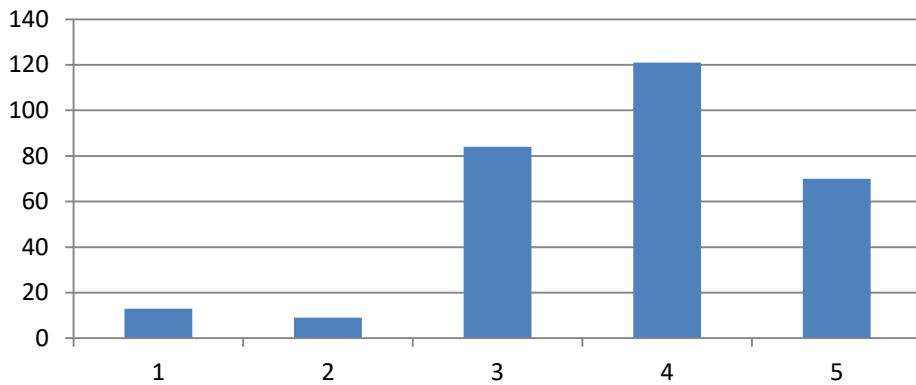
- More local activities that are not as costly should be changed
- Seems that all the same people are involved
- Too much RTL activities and not enough on Immigration
- Perception of political topics regarding social Justice

Special Concerns:

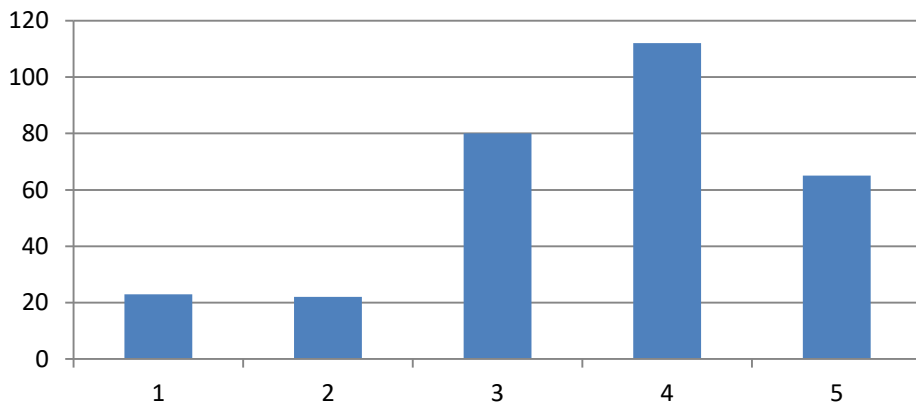
- Church teaching on Social Issues should be emphasized



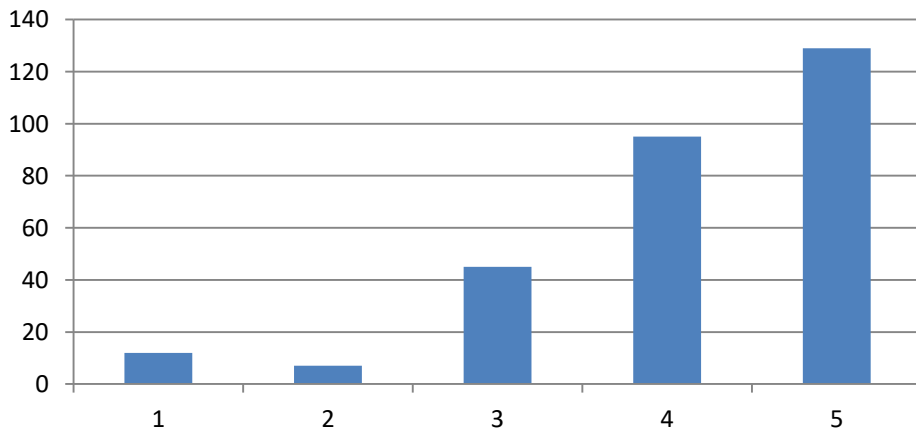
The parish is sensitive to the needs of families when it schedules ministries, programs and events - 3.76 avg



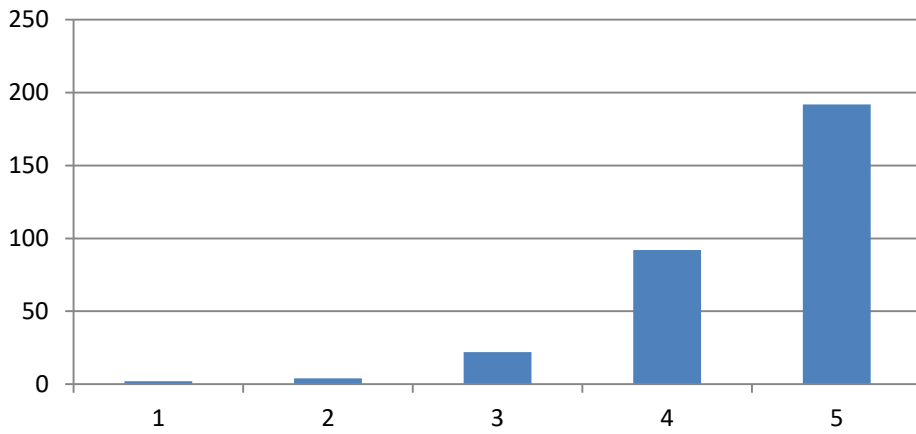
Awareness of Catholic social teaching is raised through homilies and formal discussion of encyclicals and other church documents - 3.58 avg



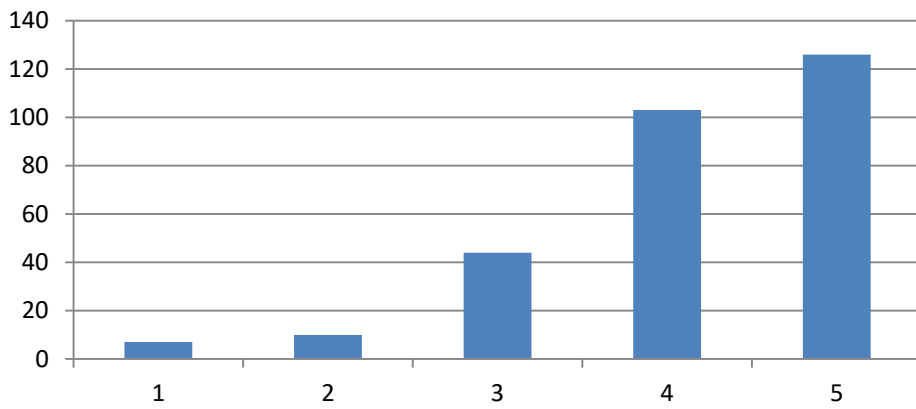
The parish opens its facilities to community groups for meetings (e.g. AA) - 4.12 avg



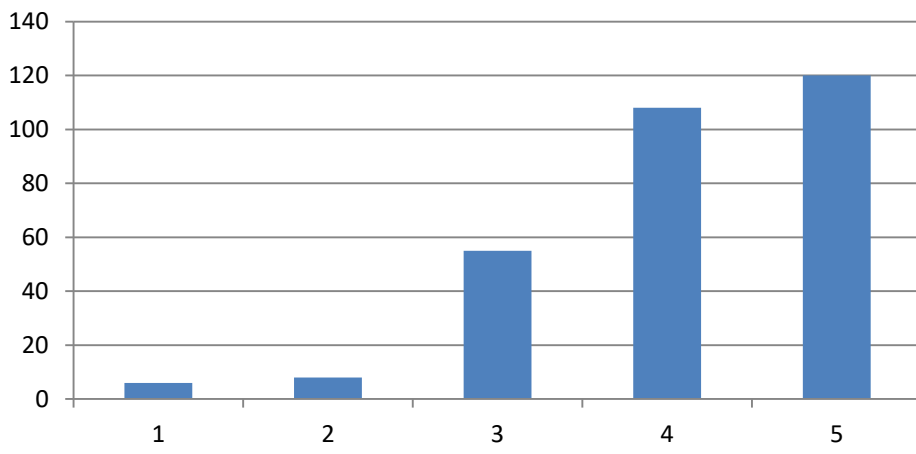
The parish sponsors or supports local food banks, blood drives, etc - 4.5 avg



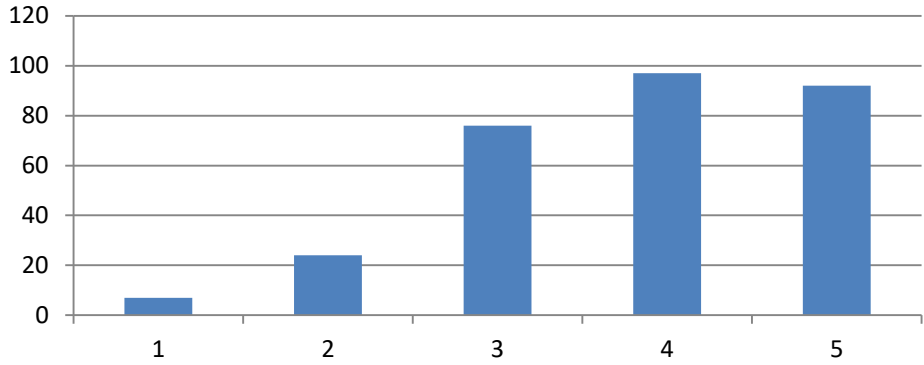
The parish reaches out to those who are in institutions (nursing homes, hospitals, prisons, etc) within the parish's boundaries - 4.14 avg



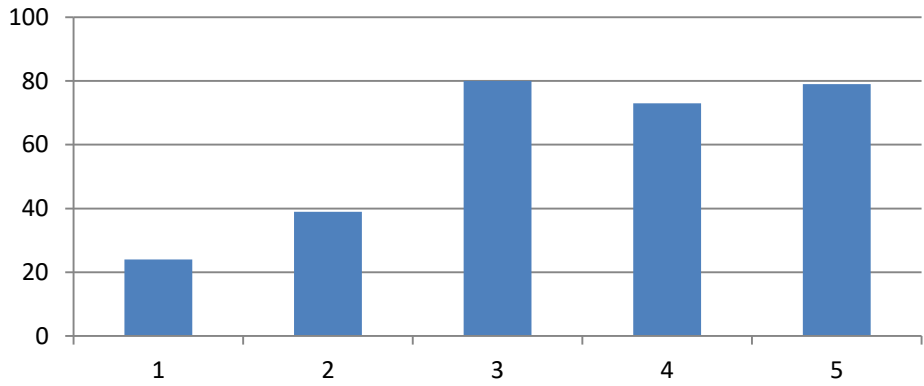
Parishioners respond generously to global & national appeals for aid to the poor and needy - 4.1 avg



Parishioners participate in peace and justice activities, pro-life activities, voter registrations drives, letter writing campaigns, parish twinning, missions, etc - 3.82 avg



The parish calls attention to important local, state and federal legislation in light of Catholic social teaching - 3.49 avg



5. Administration: This indicator is concerned with the management and financial decision-making process of the parish.

RESPONSE SCALE				
1 Practically none to very small degree	2 Not very; not very much	3 Moderately	4 Very to a high degree	5 Extremely; to a very high degree
Scale #	The degree to which:			
3.56	1. Individuals with professional knowledge in specialized areas are consulted in making decisions about the parish.			
3.59	2. People at various levels in the parish participate in planning and decision-making activities.			
3.49	3. The parish has a documented growth plan beyond the current year which has been communicated to parishioners.			
3.94	4. The parish meets its recurring expenses in a timely manner from operating income without the need for fundraising or bank loans.			
4.27	5. The parish maintains its plants and facilities in good condition and has a plan for future maintenance and contingencies.			
4.13	6. Parish facilities are adequate for the present and future needs of the parish, its people and its programs.			
4.1	7. The parish has active pastoral and finance councils which fulfill their responsibilities as outlined in the diocesan Pastoral and Finance Council Guidelines. Current staff positions reflect the ministerial needs of the parish.			
4.03	8. Parishioners help care for and maintain parish grounds and facilities.			
3.96	9. Parishioners are given opportunities to share in leadership responsibilities by being empowered to use their skills and experiences for the good of the parish.			
3.86	10. The parish has sufficient qualified personnel to run its programs and meet the legitimate needs of the parishioners.			
3.76	11. The parish utilizes technology to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of its internal administrative and ministerial activities and has a clearly defined communication plan and strategy.			
3.52	12. The parish has written policies and procedures that enable continuity of operations and achievement of goals in the event of unexpected absences or turnover in positions (volunteer or paid).			
3.85	Average Score			

In your consideration of the strengths and weaknesses in this area you might reflect upon the following:

Does this parish present a balanced budget that provides a just wage for parish staff and reflects the priorities of the parish?

Does the parish teach “sacrificial giving” or “tithing” and talk regularly about “Giving first-fruits” to God?

Are the parish facilities kept clean and in good condition?

Does the parish have an effective pastoral and finance council that represents the age and ethnic diversity of the parish?

Do parishioners participate and support local fund raising activities?

Does the parish leadership communicate the needs and financial condition of the parish to the parishioners?

Strengths:

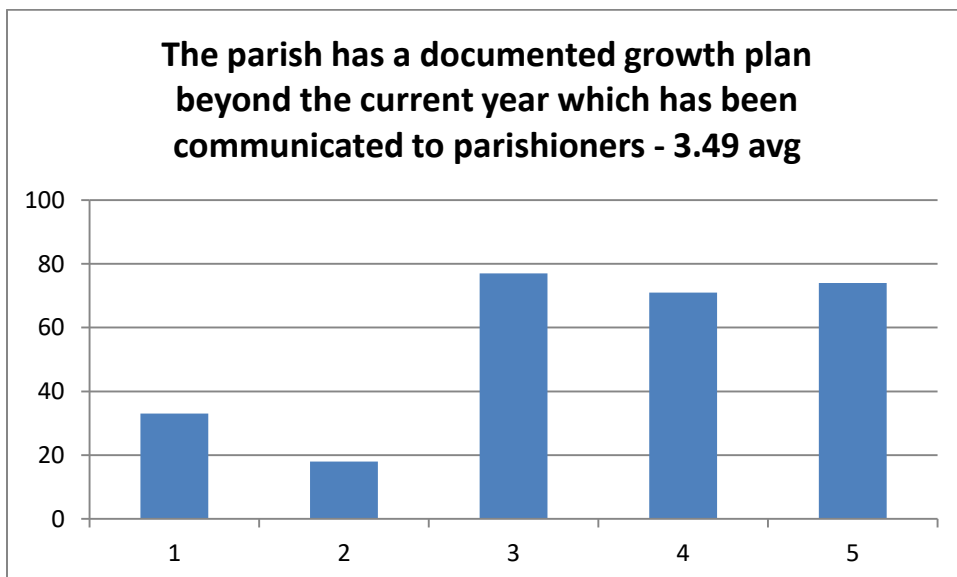
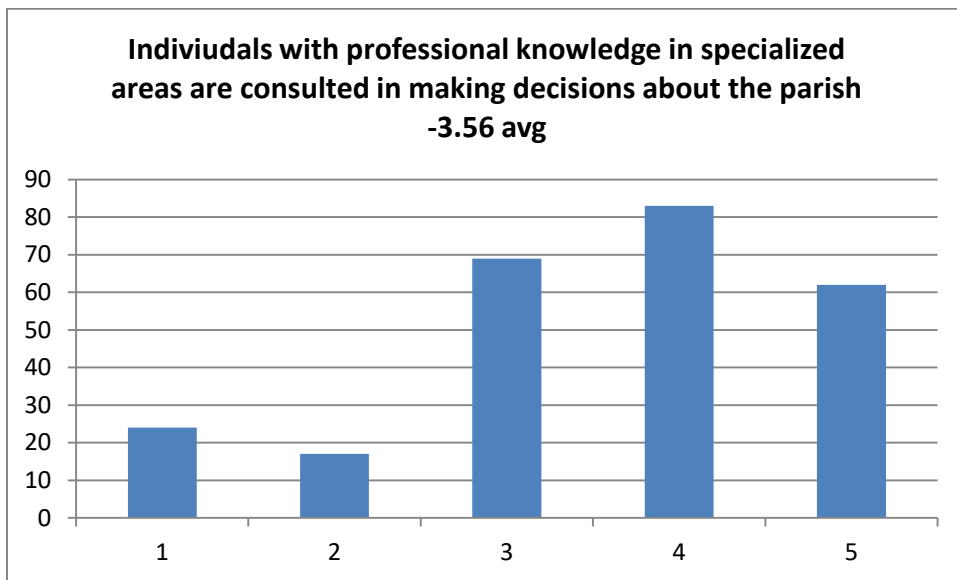
- **Good facilities maintenance and cleanliness**

Weaknesses:

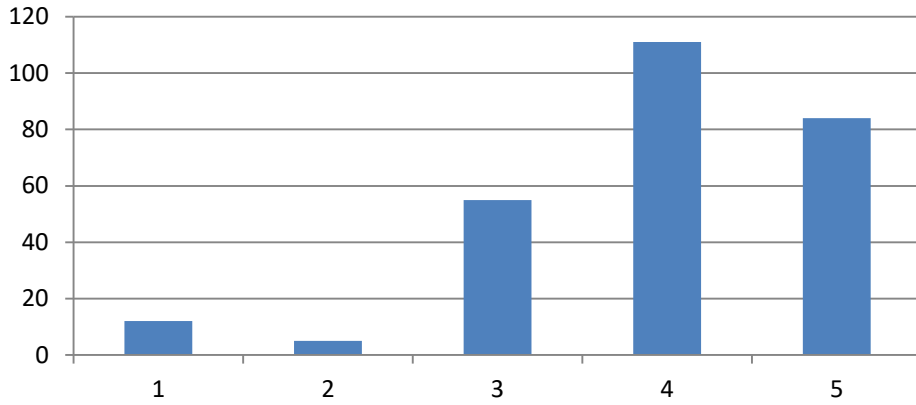
- Sanctuary space needs to be remodeled
- Plan for growth beyond the next year is needed
-

Special Concerns:

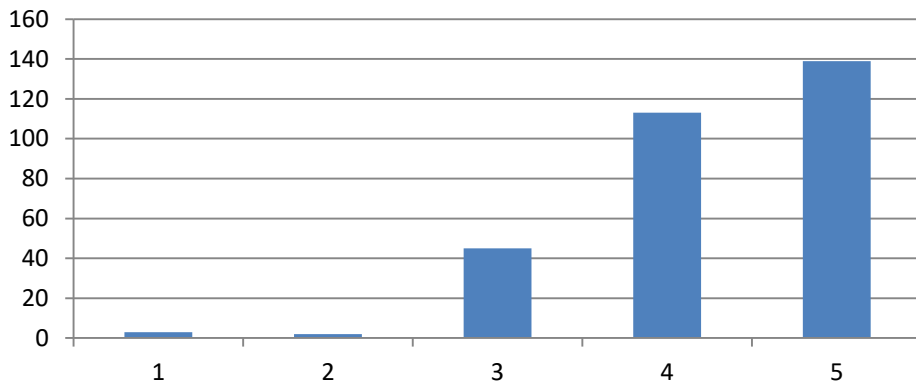
- Focus on first impressions. Visitors decide in the first 7 minutes how they feel about the parish



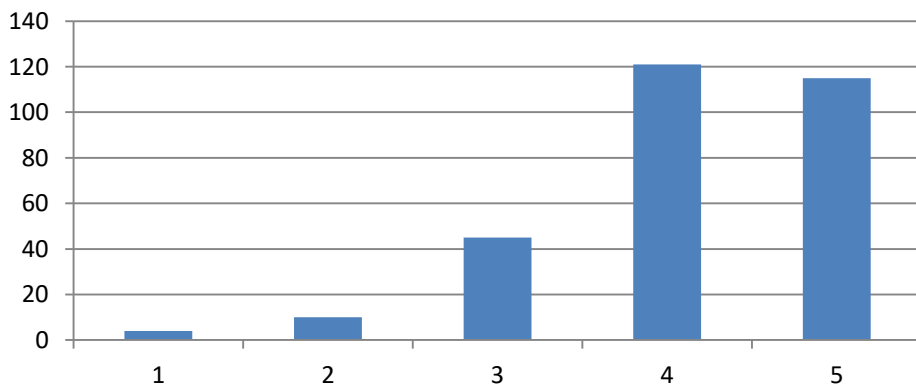
The parish meets its recurring expenses in a timely manner from operating income with out the need for fundraising or bank loans - 3.94 avg



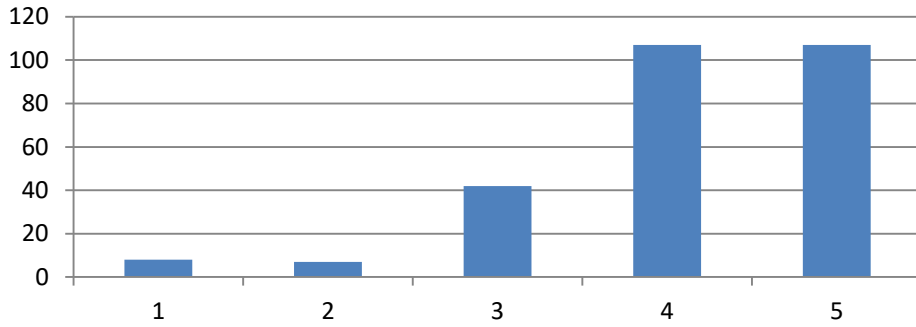
The parish maintains its plants and facilities in good condition and has a plan for future maintenance and contingencies -4.27 avg



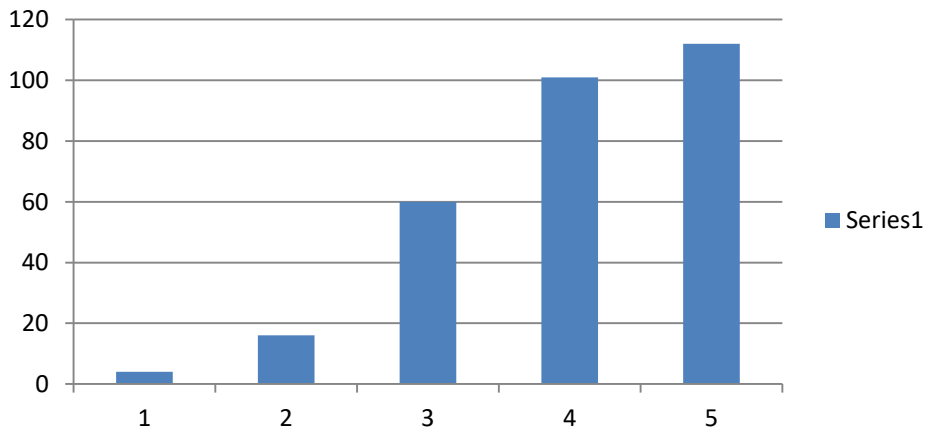
The parish facilities are adequate for current and future needs of the parish, its people and its programs - 4.13 avg



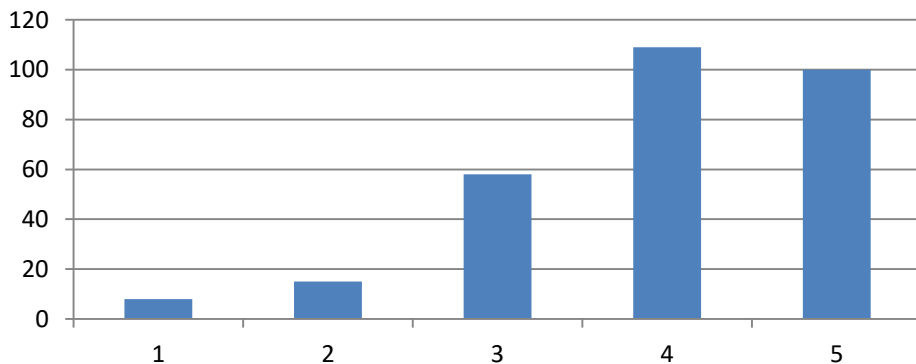
The parish has active Pastoral and Finance councils which fulfill their responsibilities as outlined in the diocesan Pastoral and Finance Council Guidelines. Current staff positions reflect the ministerial needs of the parish - 4.1 avg



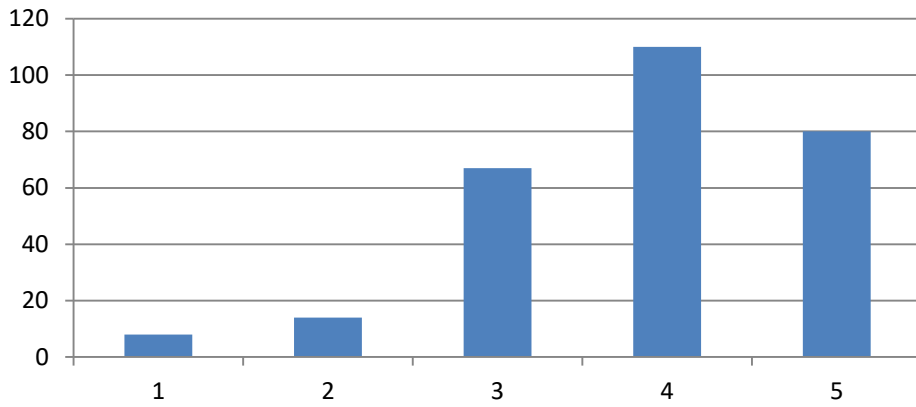
Parishioners help care for and maintain parish grounds and facilities - 4.03 avg



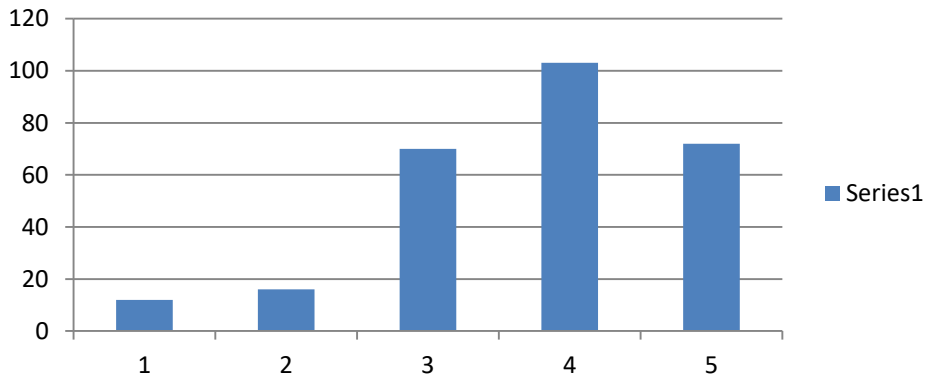
Parishioners are given opportunities to share in leadership responsibilities by being empowered to use their skills and experiences for the good of the parish - 3.96 avg



The parish has sufficient qualified personnel to run its programs and meet the legitimate needs of the parishioners - 3.86 avg



The parish utilizes technology to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of its internal administrative and ministerial activities and has a clearly defined communication plan and strategy - 3.76 avg



The parish has written policies and procedures that enable continuity of operations and achievement of goals in the event of unexpected absences or turnover in positions (volunteer or paid) - 3.52 avg

