

Report on Parish Life Section of the HF Parish Survey  
by Claudia McIvor  
July 19, 2011

**Question: List any experiences that have been the most life-giving for you.**

There were 52 write-in comments. Some people mentioned more than one category. Responses varied but can be grouped into the following categories.

1. Involvement or service in parish programs (FAST, Bible Study, Renew, Mission, EM, PC, Music Ministry, Other-Abled, Coming Home, Readers, etc.) 23 mentions (44%)
2. Community or SCC. 16 mentions (31%)
3. Mass or other liturgies. 13 mentions (25%)
4. Priests or homilies. 5 mentions (10%)
5. Personal relationship with Jesus (2 mentions)
6. Being helped financially by the parish (2 mentions)

**Question: List anything else you would like to say about parish life**

There were 51 write-in comments. These responses were much more varied, but here are the trends.

Positive comments - 18 (34%)

- general satisfaction about the parish (13)
- related to youth of our parish and programs serving youth (1)
- related to HFCS/ School Mass (3)
- related to priests (1)

Negative comments - 8 (15%)

- related to school (4)
- related to cost/financial appeals (2)
- related to lack of staff/school involvement in parish programs (2)
- related to architecture of the church (1)

Write-In Suggestions (condensed):

- Make it easy, not hard, for people to volunteer. (ref. to training requirements)
- Church needs a common entrance with more room to socialize before/after Mass, outside between parking and church
- Wish more of parish would join in (volunteer)
- Parish life sorely lacking. Offer more Sunday small group experiences (like Protestant churches). Offer small groups for married couples/young adults.
- Better follow up with those who wish to volunteer
- Mary prayer garden for aborted babies
- Lower tuition to attract students
- Pair up needs to outreach services - send visitors to married, divorces, death of child, etc.
- We need more activities for children not in the school
- Promote EC program. Involve children in parish activities more.
- Intertwine - K of C with school children activities such as sports
- Use bulletin to recognize student accomplishments instead of using it to ask for money

Two questions that were not write-ins:

HFCS contributes positively to the life of the parish. (250 responses, or 91%)

SA - 48%

A- 28%

DK/NO - 15%

D - 0%

I participate in HFCS activities that are offered to all parishioners (school Mass, fundraiser, club competitions, school sporting events, etc.) (242 responses, or 89%)

Yes - 29%

No - 39%

Occasionally - 32%

### **Summary**

Because the Encounters and write-in comments are such a small sample of responses, the information above should not be seen as representative of the whole parish. However, when you give people an opportunity to speak out (at a town meeting or on a survey), you do want to consider their responses in the overall analysis.

- Involvement in parish programs and services (many of them AFF-related) add significantly to a person's experience of a life-giving parish, especially SCC opportunities and other opportunities to experience community.
- The youth of the parish are on the radar scope of parishioners, both those enrolled in the school and those not in the school.

The two multiple choice questions provide a very good sample (89% - 91%). Nearly half of respondents think HFCS contributes positively to parish life. Sixty-one percent of respondents participate in school activities at some level.