

# Blessed Sacrament Parish Community

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## Blessed Sacrament Disciple Maker Index Survey Results Summary

The Disciple Maker Index (DMI) is a survey tool, created by Catholic Leadership Institute, which allows parishioners to reflect on their spiritual growth and discipleship, provide input to the Bishop, pastors, and parish leadership to make decisions on ways to support that growth in the future, and to create a sense of opportunities for the improvement of parish life. Our parish participated in the survey earlier this year and, as promised, we'd like to share the outcomes.

Overall, with some exceptions, we generally compare favorably with the responses from other parishes in the Diocese as well as with national averages. This article offers a summary of the highlights of the survey. The specific data on the most favorable, intermediate range, and lowest score responses can be accessed online <https://www.blessed-midland.org>.

### Demographics

We are an aging parish with almost 90% of our membership greater than 45 years old. Only 11% are between 18 and 45 years old. We have loyal parishioners. Over 70% have been members of Blessed Sacrament for over 20 years. The majority of members are women making up about 65% of the congregation. We are not a very diverse community with predominantly Caucasians comprising about 96% of the parish while African, Asian, and Hispanic Americans make up only about 1% each of the parish. In terms of parish support, about 40% report donating about 10% of their income, another 40% donate less than 10%, while nearly 20% donate more than 10%.

### Top Favorable Survey Responses

Most survey items provided participants a choice of five responses ranging from "Strongly Agree, Agree, to Disagree and Strongly Disagree." Favorable answers are deemed to be the sum of the percent "Strongly Agree plus Agree" responses. The overwhelmingly most favorable responses (90%+) were in support of the pastor and the ease with which parishioners can access information via the bulletin, web, e-mail, and the like. 89% responded that they believe Jesus died and rose from the dead for our salvation, that the parish helps them grow spiritually by preaching and homilies, and that they would recommend the parish to their family and friends. 85% believe scripture is the word of God, that the parish helps them grow spiritually, and they participate in individual prayer. 84% say they feel welcome and accepted.

## **Intermediate Range Favorable Responses**

83% report that the parish helps them grow spiritually through vibrant and engaging Sunday Mass, that the Eucharist is truly the body and blood of Jesus, and that we exhibit care to members of our community, not necessarily only Catholics. 79-81% report the parish is transparent in providing information about finances, support them in helping their children grow as Jesus' disciples, that they participate in Mass at least weekly, and that they would recommend the parish to a friend. 71% state that their participation in Sunday Mass is deepened more fully by the music offered.

## **Opportunities for Improvement**

The lowest score in the survey at 8% is the extent of parishioners who have invited someone to consider a vocation to religious life. About half (54%) responded that the parish provides quality events and opportunities to which they can invite friends, and 59% indicated the parish follows up when they express an interest in becoming more involved. Just under 61% participated or attended the sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) at least once a year, and 54% indicated that the parish connects them with small faith-sharing groups.

## **In Response to the Survey**

Based on the survey results, we are already implementing programs and opportunities for people to grow in their faith. Below are three ways we are responding:

- ❖ My parish follows up with me when I express an interest in becoming more involved
  - We are in the process of creating a form that will connect you with a staff member to help you get involved based on your interests.
  
- ❖ My parish teaches me how to share my personal witness story about my faith with family and friends
  - This year we are focusing on sharing our stories and how to relate our stories to the story of Jesus. Here are some specific programs that will focus on sharing our stories with family and friends: Journaling Workshop (October), Visual Faith Project and Sharing our Stories (November), Genesis Mission (February).
  
- ❖ My parish teaches me how to share the story of Jesus with family and friends
  - We are diving into the story of Jesus and learning how to have conversations about God, Jesus, the Church, and our own stories. Here are some upcoming programs focusing on sharing the story of Jesus: The Chosen pt. 1 (September), The Chosen pt. 2 (January), The Search (September), The Bible Timeline (November), Salvation History through Story and Song (March).

## **Next Steps**

The survey results will be reviewed by the Pastoral Council and Objectives will be developed to take action on the items selected to improve parish life. We encourage everyone to access these survey results online.