



# LITTLE FALLS

## *Catholic Community*

*A Letter From Our Pastor*

## THE RESULTS OF OUR RECENT PARISH SURVEY

My Dear Friends in Christ,

As part of Little Falls Catholic Community's ongoing commitment to develop stewardship as a way of life, we recently conducted a comprehensive survey. The survey gave all our parishioners an opportunity to express their views regarding worship, parish life, religious education, outreach, and stewardship.

Thanks to your response, our survey was a success! The offices received 602 completed surveys. This is a 29-percent response rate, which is nearly three times greater than the national average of 10 percent. I thank you for your honesty, as well as the time and commitment you made to complete the survey and help our community become better and spiritually stronger.

The results of the survey are included in this newsletter, and I hope these results will give you a clearer vision of how the community as a whole responded to each specific question. We also



asked you to respond to a few open-ended questions. Because of space constraints, we could not include each response in this newsletter, but they have been read, reviewed and grouped together based on likeness so that we could determine the top responses for each open-ended question.

As your pastor, I am confident that the information we have gathered through the survey will help guide our leadership as we continue to develop stewardship at Little Falls Catholic Community. In the coming year, I hope we all can work together to meet the needs of our community and make parish life more rewarding for us all.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Fr. Ben Kociemba*

Fr. Ben Kociemba,  
Pastor

# 2020 TRI-PARISH *Survey Results*

Unless otherwise indicated, respondents checked only one response per question.

I am a registered member of... **(Only check one)**

- 20% Holy Family
- 44% Our Lady of Lourdes
- 36% St. Mary's
- 0% Another church

## Liturgy:

### We WORSHIP TOGETHER

Which Mass do you most frequently attend? **(Check up to two)?**

- 37% Saturday 4:30 p.m. - St. Mary's
- 12% Saturday 8:00 p.m. - Holy Family
- 29% Sunday 8:30 a.m. - Our Lady of Lourdes
- 23% Sunday 9:00 a.m. - St. Mary's
- 13% Sunday 10:00 a.m. - Holy Family
- 23% Sunday 10:30 a.m. - Our Lady of Lourdes

How often do you attend Mass?

- 53% Every weekend
- 22% Every weekend and some weekdays
- 3% Every weekend and every weekday
- 16% Occasional weekends (once or twice a month)
- 2% Seasonally (Christmas, Easter, etc.)
- 3% I no longer attend Mass

Please indicate how well the following liturgical ministers enhance your prayer and worship.

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Needs Improvement
Fr. Ben Kociemba	70%	27%	2%	1%
Fr. Mark Botzet	55%	36%	8%	1%
Deacons	33%	54%	12%	2%
Greeters	35%	52%	12%	1%
Ushers	40%	50%	9%	1%
Altar Servers	33%	55%	10%	2%
Lectors	37%	58%	4%	0%
Cantors	36%	54%	8%	2%
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	39%	55%	5%	1%

The music at the Mass I attend enhances my prayer and worship.

- 39% Strongly agree
- 38% Agree
- 19% Neutral
- 3% Disagree
- 2% Strongly Disagree

Do you have any suggestions to help enhance our Sunday liturgies? **(Top 3 responses)**

- Music Suggestions (96 responses)
- Homily Suggestions (18 responses)
- Liturgical Ministry Suggestions (14 responses)

### FORMING DISCIPLES:

## Adult Faith Formation

*(Examples: PF3 Nights, RCIA, Annual Men's Retreat, Called and Gifted, Deacon Poyo Parish Mission, First Monday Mass, Bible Study/Faith-sharing Groups)*

Have you attended an Adult Faith Formation program in the last three years?

- 28% Yes
- 72% No

If you have attended an Adult Faith Formation program in the last three years, was it a good experience?

- 67% Yes
- 33% No

If you haven't attended an Adult Faith Formation program in the last three years, would you consider attending one in the future?

- 43% Yes
- 57% No

If you would like to attend an Adult Faith Formation program, in which areas would you be most likely to participate? **(Check all that apply)**

- 45% Church Teachings
- 55% Scriptures/Bible Study
- 24% Ethics and Morality
- 17% Marriage
- 27% Small Faith Sharing Groups
- 59% Practical Ways of Growing in Faith and Prayer
- 21% Retreats
- 11% Other

## FORMING DISCIPLES: Religious Education (Grades 1 - 11)

Questions in the shaded area were only answered by those whose child/children are currently enrolled in our Religious Education program.

How would you rate the quality of instruction that our students receive in our Religious Education program?

**21%** Excellent      **14%** Fair  
**45%** Good          **4%** Poor  
**16%** Adequate

How would you rate the content of our Religious Education program?

**20%** Excellent      **13%** Fair  
**45%** Good          **5%** Poor  
**18%** Adequate

Do you feel that the instruction provided by our Religious Education program is in line with the teaching of the Catholic Church?

**86%** Yes            **12%** No  
**1%** Somewhat      **2%** Unsure

What do you like most about our Religious Education program? **(Check all that apply)**

**49%** Director, staff and catechists  
**44%** The families involved  
**56%** The children/families learn about their faith  
**24%** Meeting times  
**12%** Other

How do you think we can improve our Religious Education program? **(Check all that apply)**

**41%** Get the parents more involved  
**4%** Change the time  
**45%** More training and support for the teachers  
**34%** Improve the curriculum  
**34%** Other

If you are a current Religious Ed teacher, would you commit to more training if offered?

**65%** Yes            **35%** No

## FORMING DISCIPLES: Youth Ministry (Grades 6 - 8)

Do you have children in 6th through 8th grade living in your home?

**12%** Yes            **88%** No

If you have children in 6th through 8th grade living in your home, do they attend youth ministry activities/programs?

**21%** Regularly  
**26%** Occasionally  
**47%** Never. If never, why?

Questions in the shaded area were only answered by those whose 6th to 8th child/children regularly participate in our youth ministry program.

How would you rate the quality of the youth ministry program?

**16%** Excellent      **18%** Fair  
**44%** Good          **11%** Poor  
**12%** Adequate

What do you like most about the youth ministry program? **(Check all that apply)**

**38%** The commitment and dedication of the staff  
**35%** The variety of activities offered  
**50%** It involves the youth more in church life  
**46%** The Christian atmosphere in which they socialize  
**15%** Other

How do you think we can most improve the youth ministry program? **(Check all that apply)**

**64%** Involve the youth in the church more  
**49%** Inform the parishioners more about the program  
**64%** Get more youth involved  
**36%** Get more adults involved  
**35%** Offer more activities  
**31%** Improve the current activities  
**31%** Increase the service opportunities  
**25%** Other

## FORMING DISCIPLES:

# Youth Ministry (Grades 9 - 12)

Do you have children in 9th through 12th grade living in your home?

**14%** Yes      **86%** No

If you have children in 9th through 12th grade living in your home, do they attend youth ministry activities/programs?

**22%** Regularly    **42%** Occasionally  
**33%** Never. If never, why.

*Questions in the shaded area were only answered by those whose 9th to 12th child/children regularly participate in our youth ministry program.*

How would you rate the quality of the youth ministry program?

**12%** Excellent    **14%** Fair  
**51%** Good      **10%** Poor  
**12%** Adequate

What do you like most about the youth ministry program? **(Check all that apply)**

**62%** The commitment and dedication of the staff  
**35%** The variety of activities offered  
**41%** It involves the youth more in church life  
**51%** The Christian atmosphere in which they socialize  
**19%** Other

How do you think we can most improve the youth ministry program? **(Check all that apply)**

**51%** Involve the youth in the church more  
**49%** Inform the parishioners more about the program  
**76%** Get more youth involved  
**39%** Get more adults involved  
**34%** Offer more activities  
**32%** Improve the current activities  
**32%** Increase the service opportunities  
**32%** Other

*Please make any additional commentary about the Youth Ministry on the back page of this survey.*

## FORMING DISCIPLES:

# Mary of Lourdes School (K - 8)

Having a Catholic school is a vital part of the Little Falls Catholic Community's mission.

**64%** Strongly agree  
**24%** Agree  
**9%** Neutral  
**2%** Disagree  
**1%** Strongly disagree

Do you have children in Kindergarten through 8th grade living in your home?

**16%** Yes  
**84%** No

If you have children in Kindergarten through 8th grade living in your home, where do they attend school?

**61%** Mary of Lourdes School  
**1%** Other Private School  
**38%** Public School  
**0%** Home School

If you currently have children in Kindergarten through 8th grade in your household and they do not attend Mary of Lourdes School, what is the reason that they don't attend? **(Check all that apply)**

**3%** Transportation is a problem  
**47%** More academic options at other school  
**6%** Catholic education is not a family priority  
**16%** Cost (I would rather put my money to use in other ways)  
**31%** Cost (I cannot afford to send my child[ren] to Catholic schools)  
**47%** Other

Are you aware that Mary of Lourdes School has a tuition assistance program for those in need?

**97%** Yes  
**3%** No



Questions in the shaded area were only answered by those who have children currently enrolled at Mary of Lourdes School.

How would you rate the quality of EDUCATION that students currently receive at Mary of Lourdes School?

**61%** Excellent    **2%** Fair  
**36%** Good        **0%** Poor  
**2%** Adequate

How receptive is the FACULTY to meeting your needs?

**72%** Very receptive  
**26%** Somewhat receptive  
**2%** Neutral/no experience  
**0%** Unreceptive  
**0%** Very unreceptive

Do you feel that the children who attend our Catholic school are receiving good Catholic moral development?

**90%** Yes  
**0%** No  
**10%** Somewhat  
**0%** Unsure

What do you like most about our Catholic school?  
**(Check all that apply)**

**62%** Great teachers  
**81%** The daily emphasis on Christian life  
**74%** Catholic education  
**57%** Builds community  
**16%** Other

How do you think we can improve our Catholic school?  
**(Check all that apply)**

**26%** Increase the communication with the parents  
**33%** Improve the curriculum  
**29%** More training for teachers  
**33%** Increase the emphasis on Catholic Faith  
**47%** Other

## Parish Life

*“Love one another...” (John 13:34)*

What is your perception of your role as a member of your church? **(Check all that apply)**

**95%** To attend Mass  
**66%** Participate/volunteer in ministries and social activities  
**87%** Support the parish financially  
**66%** Share my faith with others  
**5%** Other

In your experience, how responsive is our PASTOR to your needs and requests?

**57%** Very responsive  
**23%** Somewhat responsive  
**18%** Neutral  
**1%** Unresponsive  
**1%** Very unresponsive

In your experience, how responsive is the CHURCH OFFICE STAFF to your needs and requests?

**60%** Very responsive  
**23%** Somewhat responsive  
**15%** Neutral  
**2%** Unresponsive  
**0%** Very unresponsive

What methods of communication work best for you and your family to receive church information?

**(Check all that apply)**

**88%** Bulletin                    **20%** Website  
**32%** Facebook                **0%** Twitter  
**45%** Email                      **8%** YouTube  
**59%** Church Mailings      **43%** Newsletter  
**63%** Announcements at Mass

Did you enjoy receiving our Little Falls Catholic Community’s new monthly newsletters?

**90%** Yes                    **10%** No

In what medium would you prefer to receive the monthly newsletter:

**72%** Print (current medium used to deliver newsletter)  
**28%** Online (via email or some other form of electronic delivery)

What information do you want included in our monthly newsletter? **(Check all that apply)**

- 81%** Articles about church groups and activities
- 86%** Comments from our pastor
- 45%** Highlights on various parishioners
- 60%** Information on the finances of the church
- 37%** Diocesan-wide News
- 58%** Articles of general Catholic interest
- 56%** Explanations of specific Catholic teachings
- 6%** Other

Do you use our website?

- 57%** Yes
- 41%** No

## Outreach

*"... love your neighbor..." (Matt 19:19)*

Do you feel that your church does a good job reaching out to the following groups:

	Yes	No	Unsure
Active Parishioners	<b>76%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>16%</b>
Inactive Parishioners	<b>9%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>70%</b>
New Parishioners	<b>25%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>61%</b>
Shut-in Parishioners	<b>35%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>57%</b>
Non-Catholic Spouses	<b>6%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>77%</b>
The Local Community	<b>46%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>44%</b>
The Poor	<b>36%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>55%</b>
Other Christian Churches	<b>22%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>70%</b>
Other Religions	<b>12%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>78%</b>

What more can we do as a community to reach out to those in need? **(Check all that apply)**

- 49%** Increase communications about church ministries
- 56%** Encourage more parishioner participation
- 52%** Be more welcoming
- 51%** Get more involved in the community
- 11%** Other

## Stewardship

*"Who then is the faithful and wise steward..."*  
(Luke 12:42)

What is your perception of Stewardship (Time, Talent, and Treasure) when it is discussed?

- 57%** Accept it as a core Gospel value and carry it out in my life
- 8%** Don't really understand what it means
- 28%** Think it's important but hard to implement
- 4%** Feel it's not applicable in my life
- 4%** Feel that it's just another way to discuss fundraising

### Stewardship of Time

How often does your family share a meal?

- 72%** Daily                      **18%** Several days a week
- 3%** Once a week              **8%** Less than once a week

Do you say grace before meals?

- 80%** Yes                      **20%** No

If you have children at home, do you pray with them on a daily basis (in addition to grace before meals)?

- 46%** Yes                      **54%** No

If you are married, do you pray with your spouse on a daily basis (in addition to grace before meals)?

- 27%** Yes                      **74%** No

In addition to Sunday Mass and grace before meals, how often do you set aside time for personal prayer?

- 74%** Daily                      **4%** Every few months
- 15%** Weekly                      **5%** Never
- 3%** Monthly

If you pray regularly, besides attending Mass, what kind of prayer do you usually engage in? **(Check all that apply)**

- 67%** Rosary                      **32%** Reflecting on Scripture
- 36%** Adoration                      **8%** Journaling
- 26%** Christian Music              **28%** Divine Mercy Chaplet
- 10%** Prayer Groups              **54%** Spiritual Reading

If you have children, do you discuss vocations (Religious Life, Single Life, Married Life) within your family?

- 57%** Yes                      **43%** No

## Stewardship of Talent

In how many church ministries, committees, programs or events are you actively involved?

- 38%** 0                    **11%** 3
- 22%** 1                    **11%** 4 or more
- 18%** 2

Beyond participating in weekly Masses, how do you rate your involvement in the church?

- 8%** Very involved
- 27%** Moderately involved
- 33%** Somewhat involved
- 26%** Rarely involved
- 5%** Never involved

What single reason (if any) has most prevented you from more participation in church ministries?

- 5%** Not interested in what the church offers
- 29%** Health issues
- 15%** Usually unaware of opportunities within the church
- 35%** Not enough time due to family and work responsibilities
- 2%** Transportation
- 14%** Haven't yet made the effort to get involved
- 2%** Lack of babysitting services

Are you satisfied with your PERSONAL level of involvement in church ministries?

- 75%** Satisfied with my current level of involvement
- 25%** Would like to become more involved

Are you satisfied with your FAMILY'S level of involvement in church ministries?

- 75%** Satisfied with current level of involvement
- 25%** Would like to become more involved

At what times would you most likely be able to attend church functions? **(Check all that apply)**

- 14%** Saturday mornings    **19%** Saturday evenings
- 53%** After the Sunday Mass I attend    **18%** Sunday evenings
- 20%** Weekday mornings    **37%** Weekday evenings
- 15%** Weekday afternoons

## Stewardship of Treasure

Each parishioner is responsible for supporting our church financially.

- 54%** Strongly agree    **1%** Disagree
- 38%** Agree                **0%** Strongly Disagree
- 6%** Neutral

How often do you make financial contributions to your church?

- 52%** Every week
- 7%** Every other week
- 20%** Once a month
- 13%** Monthly (for all the weeks in the month)
- 1%** Never
- 6%** Other

My household's typical gross annual financial contribution to the church offertory represents:

- 4%** 0% of my annual income
- 30%** 1% - 2% of my annual income
- 23%** 3% - 4% of my annual income
- 21%** 5% - 6% of my annual income
- 11%** 7% - 8% of my annual income
- 9%** 9% - 10% of my annual income
- 3%** 11% or more of my annual income

How do you determine the amount you contribute in the offertory collection?

- 18%** I give a certain dollar amount based on a percentage of my income.
- 50%** I have chosen a certain dollar amount in some other way.
- 0%** I base the amount on what I think the church needs.
- 15%** I give whatever I can afford that week.
- 17%** I don't have a system to determine how much I give.
- 2%** I don't financially support the church.

What is your perception of our church's current financial position?

- 5%** We are easily able to pay our operating bills and put aside money in savings.
- 16%** We are easily able to pay our operating bills.
- 31%** We barely generate enough revenue to pay our operating bills.
- 8%** We are not generating enough revenue to pay our operating bills.
- 40%** I am unaware of the state of our church finances.



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## Demographics

### Gender

**12%** Male      **38%** Female  
**50%** Husband and Wife Completed Together

### Marital Status (Check one)

**8%** Single      **4%** Divorced  
**67%** Married      **0%** Separated  
**21%** Widowed

### What is your annual household income?

**5%** \$0 - \$9,999  
**21%** \$10,000 - \$29,999  
**22%** \$30,000 - \$49,999  
**24%** \$50,000 - \$74,999  
**15%** \$75,000 - \$99,999  
**11%** \$100,000 - \$199,999  
**2%** \$200,000 and above

### Age (You may check more than one box if husband and wife completed the survey together)

**1%** 18-29      **18%** 50-59  
**6%** 30-39      **26%** 60-69  
**10%** 40-49      **45%** 70+

How long have you been a registered parishioner at your church?

**2%** 0-1 year      **4%** 6-10 years  
**4%** 2-3 years      **87%** More than 10 years  
**3%** 4-5 years

## General Information

*If you need additional space to respond, please include on a separate sheet of paper and send with survey.*

The things I like best about my church are...  
(Top 3 responses)

- **Clergy (88 responses)**
- **Fellow Parishioners (87 responses)**
- **Welcoming/Friendly Community (80 responses)**

I wish my church would... (Top 3 responses)

- **Mass Suggestions (47 responses)**
- **Have More Parish Activities (38 responses)**
- **Be More Welcoming (36 responses)**

I also would like to provide the additional further comments... (Top 3 responses)

- **Music Suggestions (19 responses)**
- **Comments About Clergy (19 responses)**
- **We Like Our Church (19 responses)**