

**Subject:** Results of the Virtual Town Hall

**Date:** Thursday, May 30, 2019 at 8:05:16 AM Eastern Daylight Time

**From:** Monsignor Woy's Message for the Week

**To:** Mayr,Beth



Cathedral parishioners,

Thank you for all who shared thoughts during our Virtual Town Hall! The number of replies was quite encouraging. All of the replies (including replies received since our last email) are below. At this point, the Pastoral Council will use this information to prepare the next step of this process. Any questions? Contact [Megan Latshaw](#) directly. Thank you!

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### **Responses:**

**How do we best to engage with the youth (middle and high school aged) in our parish?**

- Stop talking about abortion! Seriously. I am sick of this being such a topic around young people.
- It would be great if middle school Sunday School of Religion went back to co-ed. It isn't necessary for the Family Life topics to be separated by gender in 2019 and it would make the youth ministry involvement more natural if the children knew each other from SSR.
- Families of our eighth graders would profit from hosting a monthly Friday night dance not only for our students but perhaps some surrounding communities. Remember the old CYO dances parishes held? A parent DJ and 10 chaperones would get this off and running.
- First of all, it is FALSE to say that "acoustic" and "more lively" music appeals more to the youth- perhaps some youth, but I suspect this is more of a projection issue than anything. Youth enjoy beauty, they

deserve to be exposed to the rich musical treasures of the Church, not solely subjected to “modern” music out of a false belief that that’s all they can handle. PLEASE respect our youth. I suspect I am closer to being a youth than many of the writers who made the comments I am concerned about. I grew enormously in my faith in college BECAUSE I was exposed to the beauty of Church tradition- Latin, chant, choral music- also traditional prayers (Angelus, Regina Caeli, etc) and frequent Adoration- all at a public school, not some fringe, ultra-orthodox Catholic place. Youth crave meaning, depth, beauty- the Church HAS these things, we should not be afraid to give them to our youth.

- activities to introduce young people to more traditional elements of the Catholic faith combined with a fun activity- include things like Eucharistic Adoration, praise singing, etc.
- more (and better publicized) service opportunities, incl for the younger kids (like down to elementary aged)
- agree with all the suggestions for food at all events for the youth
- concerts of various types of Catholic music- from traditional to modern, chant scolas to praise bands- depth AND breadth is good
- agree with more youth involvement in liturgy, but don’t always make the youth version some lame, watered-down, overly-produced "event"- this is part of the problem, not the solution- let kids be involved in the REAL DEAL
- Service projects, social activities, should be sponsored for schools in the vicinity of the Cathedral .
- At the family mass, please gear homilies towards young people. I know small children leave for special programming, but older kids don't. Since it's the family mass, it would be nice if the homily was specifically crafted with them in mind. More humor, more examples relevant to their world.
- I saw a mention about Given above. I agree with that! There could also be date nights for married couples, with child care provided. For a nominal fee, serve dinner, have an ice-breaker or game, and have a marriage- or family-related speaker.
- One of our under-utilized assets are the seminarians that work with us each year. Provide more opportunities for them to witness (at Donut Sundays?)
- Prayer is the main core that sustains us in life. It is a "habit" that is taken usually from childhood. The Thursday morning mass is exceptionally wonderful. The children will keep these celebration in a personal interior life. During school year, it would be wonderful to actively keep daily prayer, like lauds is beautiful!
- Formally and individually reach out to each Cathedral student leaving the school after 5th grade, and try to incorporate them into the youth program
- Create youth and singles "mixer" programs. (eg. Worship nights, Bible studies, Prayer and meals, XMas gift wrapping, caroling, or any other appropriate events)
- Also -- acoustic and more "lively" music appeal more for the youth.
- Set up activities that interest kids of that age. Maybe a video game challenge night that starts or ends with a prayer service.
- In my opinion, having an enthusiastic, organized, engaged youth minister is key.
- Mass in the grass used to draw a good crowd with a service or fun opportunity to follow (perhaps a mix of service and fun opportunities). I think if the Church offered Mass in the Grass once a month followed by an activity (be it family (where the older kids could help out) or youth focused), you’d get a good response.
- I like the suggestion of combining with another youth ministry group – maybe Nativity – for some events or service opportunities.
- Food is always a draw with this age group. As are things that will enhance their college resume – so give them leadership opportunities with titles attached.
- You could also connect high school kids with some of the kids with special needs so that those children can more fully participate in mass/CLOW.

- For the docent ministry, I still feel we should change the name to Cathedral Guides. Almost every week, an adult asks me "what's a docent?" We need to expand the number of people in this ministry. Would it be possible to identify several high school students (perhaps preparing for Confirmation) that I could train? Could the Confirmandi and their families be offered a special tour as part of their preparation?
- Ushers: Announce that the ushers are looking for summer help and recruit college students who are home on break. Have a blessing and send-off during the last mass in August before they head back.
- Holiness Tour: This would be more for middle and high school students. (Yes, parents would probably need to be involved, too.) We have so many wonderful shrines and churches within easy driving distance. Host a tour that visits several in the course of a year. Kick it off with a full-fledged tour of Cathedral, followed by pizza, potluck, or dinner at a local restaurant. From there, visit another location every other month: The Basilica downtown (since it's a co-cathedral of the AoB with us), St. Jude Shrine, and St. Alphonsus Liguori (to attend a Latin mass) are just a few. End the tour with a destination visit such as the Grotto at Mount St. Mary's or the Basilica in DC. The students could then write about their thoughts on each visit to be featured in a future bulletin. (What student doesn't love to see their name in print?)
- I defer to our younger members with more expertise! But ski trips and outings to amusement parks, or to DC (government, museums and religious sites), seem to be universally appreciated and enjoyed. And the outings build connections and community.
- By having activities that apply to all age groups
- I always wondered and asked my parents why there weren't activities like Cathedral's during my years in the 50's and 60's.
- The Cathedral's youth are so fortunate!
- The Cathedral is taking care of the youth in our parish, so very necessary.
- Does the Cathedral plan activities among other parishes? So very important. Maybe even among various churches in the area- Episcopal, Methodist, Presbyterian.
- There probably are many answers to this. One that strikes me, while perhaps not engaging all the youth, is to have better training of altar servers who often seem unsure of why they are doing things, sometimes even what to do and when. Children appreciate clear direction because it makes them confident that what they do is important.
- **Engaging**
  - Engaging/connect college kids/high school kids from Loyola and other schools in he area
  - Create volunteer activity with students
  - Service opportunities like tutoring program
  - Bring back the servicing directory with info about opportunities
- **Service**
  - Community Service oriented activities - trash pick-up, etc.
  - Youth involvement in Liturgy
  - Fun trips – hiking, skiing, camps, amusement park
- **Communication**
  - Sibling solutions – link them through their siblings
  - Get the youth involved in the pastoral council – PC youth representative
- Parents role to encourage their participation and engagement
- Go where they are – off campus events (soccer games, etc.)
- More leaders for parish roles / teaching opportunities
- Talk to cathedral alums who are engaged to understand why/what motivates them

- Provide more parish activities

### **How can we connect and bring families together through parish initiatives?**

- Small group retreats
- Tie into social justice not just in Latin America or Africa, but how about get speakers to talk about organizing labor unions or the fight for \$15 an hour.
- Family board game night in the gym once a month. Form a parent/student committee to set parameters.
- see above with REAL DEAL youth/family participation in liturgical life of church
- more family activities that tie in traditional devotional practices of the Church- advent wreath making, etc.
- loved when Father Kevin distributed the blessed chalk at Epiphany- MORE things like that to teach kids about the less-flashy church feasts and holy days- more opportunities to learn about the saints in a kid-friendly way perhaps (not sure how to accomplish this)
- Sunday afternoon/evening mass!!
- Parishioners do not seem to interact much. More programs for adults.
- I think you need to develop some time rethinking Sunday School curriculum for middle school children, although the younger years are quite effective. My fifth grader views Sunday School as a form of torture. It is making him resentful and bored instead of deepening his connection to God. If the class material related to their concerns and life better, I think you would see better engagement.
- I saw a mention about Given above. I agree with that! There could also be date nights for married couples, with child care provided. For a nominal fee, serve dinner, have an ice-breaker or game, and have a marriage- or family-related speaker.
- In reading these comments, which I think are excellent, I see a lot about communication. PLEASE bring back the old bulletin! Many of us understand the need for guidelines and saving paper, but things are TOO streamlined. Our life as a parish is being negatively affected by such an online focus. The word is simply not getting out and parishioners are not always connecting with the ministries they're seeking. When you look at the Future Fifteen, bullet points with dates are not enough details. It puts you in a position that you ALWAYS have to go online to see things. Just put the information in the bulletin so that it's in one place for everyone to see. Since this survey and the town halls have occurred, I've heard of a knitting group and a Rosary group. Why aren't these groups listed on a weekly basis in the bulletin? You never know when a visitor (or a regular parishioner) will need the info. I respect the efforts to have parish communications more organized, but it's gone too far. I'm not just speaking for myself. I've heard numerous frustrations from fellow parishioners that the communication guidelines are simply too strict. Why should it be so hard to publicize things? This is a church, not a lean and mean marketing department at a business. (During the week, I'm on the computer and my phone enough.) When many of us come to worship and be active at our parish, we want to be unplugged. Facebook has its place, but we don't want to have to worry about checking it for church activities. The library has been vastly improved and now is home to a gift shop. Why hasn't this been featured in the bulletin with its own insert? Why aren't archdiocesan-wide events featured in the bulletin? Aren't there men's and women's conferences in Maryland? I'm sure more would love to attend those if they heard about them. I also agree that things need to be announced more ahead of time. Receiving notice of a week or two is not enough for those of us who have things on our calendars month in advance. My family likes to see the advertisements on the back. We love to support fellow parishioners and that's how we found our real estate agent.
- I agree with this previous comment wholeheartedly! "Our faith offers something the world cannot give, something of ultimate consequence, yet we seem satisfied with reducing it to "fellowship" and "works of mercy". We seem more concerned with convenience than conversion."
- With improving signage, please put up better speed limit warnings and warnings of "Children at Play" or

“Caution: Children”. I’ve seen too many cars driving way too fast for a parking lot, including those from the Loyola lot.

- Establish a ministry focused on families with young kids and place on them the burden to make events more "family friendly"
- Have Sunday School of Religion parents organize a parent/teacher association
- Create an electronic forum for families to communicate (i.e. e-mail list)
- Same -- mixers and events, including prayer "households" -- like pasta for 8
- Or like a summer get together with food stalls in the garden of the Cathedral
- The 9:30 Mass with the children's liturgy downstairs is a great start! Family picnics in the summer?
- I think in general, the parish does a good job with this. I do like the suggestion below of making a designated outdoor space where people can comfortably engage with one another and that is conducive to socializing.
- I also think there are ministries that are not very well advertised. I’m part of the knitting group, but I would bet most parishioners don’t even know that exists. Perhaps a ministry fair where people could learn about the options and express interest would be helpful. (As well as a suggestion box for other opportunities not offered by Cathedral)
- Love the idea of offering a Sunday 4 or 5 pm Mass, and let's offer something like lemonade and cookies afterwards. And as for "doughnut Sundays", we need more doughnuts!
- Given: This is the one-day marriage retreat that I mentioned during the in-person town hall. I verified that Edward Herrera is director who handles it within the office of Marriage and Family Life in the archdiocese. (edward.herrera@archbalt.org)
- You are doing this well. Try to offer a range of activities on different evenings to see what works - music, movies, discussion groups, presenters, etc. Use the Parish Center and School as a hub for evening activities. Be all inclusive- women, men and youth (age appropriate, obviously). Do not segregate women's activities from men's. The goal is engagement and often this will be couples as well as singles, if successful.
- This year I taught Sunday School. Big thank you to Miss Sheri for her positive attitude and excellent communication with parents and teachers 🙏 I would like to encourage more parents to stay and help out at Sunday School so there are two adults per class. I also want to comment on the Children’s choir brilliant! Hope you will offer other travel experiences. Glad to belong to Cathedral! -Patricia Murphy
- Communication- bulletin, emails
- School communication - students know what activities are happening in the parish
- They could make Recommendations
- Clarity about the Mass style at particular times is a simple way to engage families. Having donut times (coffee hours in Protestant churches) is a good idea BUT it creates a problem of clearing the parking lot if another Mass follows. If people come to a later Mass and cannot park that is a problem. So the Mass schedule may need to be adjusted to accommodate this.
- Family cook-outs/Summer picnics
- Mass on the grass
- Expand on the Homecoming and Carnivale engagements
- Summer splash
- Re-do Front plaza – bench and picnic tables to encourage/invite families to connect
- Christmas tree lighting is a good event
- Make families comfortable in sitting in the lower sanctuary
- Welcoming attendees

- Provide informative booklet/pamphlet on the events, the church, etc.
- Coffees more often
- Form a Social Committee to help
- Child care provided at events
- Making Advent wreaths
- Primer for young families regarding holy days and events (educational and interesting)
- Marriage related activities ie: Given
- Family retreats
- Breakfast with St Nick and Easter Bunny
- CMOQ Mom's group

**How do we better serve the parish community and introduce new visitors to the church through our music and Mass?**

- Children greeters at mass - children can turn even the coldest heart warm.
- How about a Friday night Mass, meal and folk music concert. No alcohol, but have an actual feast to celebrate a feast day. Have the folk music be non-religious. Get people into the church, feed them, and get them interested in Mass.
- There should be music at every Sunday Mass, even if it's just a cantor. The 8AM Mass seems just lifeless without music. A number of others have commented about the style of music, particularly noting that the chants are not welcome. Indeed, music should be about participation, not performance. If congregational participation isn't appropriate for a particular piece, then the piece should not be included in Mass. And please: fewer songs in minor keys! Mass music should be uplifting, not funereal.
- Ushers should "mix-it-up" by asking different people to bring the gifts forward, rather than asking the same folks so frequently.
- There should be greeters at all Masses. I don't think there are any at 8AM. In addition to saying welcome, they might ask people to sit toward the front of the church.
- I absolutely can't believe some of the comments I read from other parishioners about them not liking the chants and use of Latin in the Mass- this is part of the beauty and heritage of our faith, something to be treasured and appreciated. "Self-serving"?!! How about serving God through the beauty of word made song? The young people of our parish ABSOLUTELY should have the opportunity to experience one of the greatest earthly treasures of the Church. It saddens me greatly that it is so difficult to find opportunities to expose my young children to this beautiful part of our faith. The children's mass is great, but the music is the worst part- I wish the kids got to hear some of the beautiful music from the choir, the chants, the organ- the BEAUTY of music. I strongly disagree with the notion that young people "need" or even prefer modern-sounding music in church. Kids don't need a driving beat and amplifiers to appreciate music. Modern music is fine too, but our kids deserve to experience worshipping God through beautiful sound, of learning the Latin chants and prayers (this is part of what makes us a UNIVERSAL church), of experiencing the vast liturgical and musical heritage of the church. Children recognize and value beauty, though it seems many adults have lost that ability, which is truly sad.
- MORE LATIN, MORE CHANT- say it with me folks, MORE LATIN, MORE CHANT
- offering a Sunday evening mass would be AMAZING
- I would love to have music at ALL Sunday masses, incl the early AM mass (cantor/organ)
- more TRADITIONAL Catholic music- I was SADDENED to attend Stations of the Cross on Good Friday and hear some modern Taize-style music instead of the Stabat Mater- I have NOTHING against Taize chant in the right time and place, but why do we keep sacrificing TRADITION for attempts at modernizing something that doesn't need to be modernized???? I certainly hope that you don't try to do

away with the Pange Lingua at Corpus Christi, etc. We are the CATHEDRAL of the Archdiocese of Baltimore- we need to set an example for AWESOME CATHOLICISM

- having a bi-annual ministry fair would be great (like after each Sunday mass one weekend, maybe)- to introduce what the parish's ministry opportunities are and to have people be able to sign up or sign up for more info, meet people who are in charge of each group, etc.
- I 110% agree with the person who made this comment: "... I would like to suggest that the "consumer approach" to music and/or the Mass is not a recipe for success. Regardless of personal preferences, the Mass must be celebrated with appropriate solemnity and dignity. Not only because reverence is key to participating in Mass but also because in a building like the cathedral a kind of "folksy" or informal style doesn't work well. ..." YES YES 1000x YES
- I agree with whoever said the Gregorian chant is outdated.
- We normally go to the family mass because we have children. We had a conflict and went to the 11 instead, and I can't tell you how much better I enjoyed the experience. I find the director's overperformance distracting. Please bring a children's choir for 9:30.
- I agree with the previous comment that, as much as it sounds nice to 'appeal to a younger crowd' with music during mass, a reverent atmosphere needs to be maintained. Our children need to learn proper respect during worship. The current mix of a quiet mass, contemporary music, and traditional music provides a broad range. Please keep the chants at the 11 am mass! It's wonderful to hear the talents of our fellow parishioners. I would LOVE to see a full-fledged children's, youth choir, and/or cantor group. Does the school have a choir and/or band? It would be nice to hear them perform one Sunday morning.
- In response to a comment I saw: Please keep the Gregorian chants and traditional music. I'm 40 years old so not young but not old. I converted to Catholicism 4 years ago and the traditions and rituals, including ceremonial music, were something that drew me in. We have enough Mass times to offer different musical styles and already do so quite well.
- Adjust the Mass schedule to provide time for parishioners to connect between the 9:30 and 11:00 Mass ... provide "breathing room" so that attendees of both services can attend programming (e.g. Meet our Seminarians, Casserole Club, etc.) by starting at 9:15 and 11:30
- Challenge us more in the homilies (e.g. abortion, pornography) and remind (educate) us more on the lives of the saints, martyrs, early church
- Stop signing Gregorian chants before the mass. It is only self-serving and no one in 2019 wants to hear it.
- acoustic and more "lively" music appeal more for the youth. -- This is how Church of the Nativity grew its parishioners...
- It would be welcoming to have cheerful greeters at the doors, and also ushers present at least 10 minutes before Mass.
- More upbeat music that will draw on people to sing.
- I usually attend the 9:30 Mass. The music at that service is very engaging. Not sure how you get the parish to sing though. That is a puzzle. The last time I attended the 11am service, I found the Latin chants very off putting. A throw back to the 1950s where we don't want to be.
- I like the hearty welcomes that are offered to visitors and those who attend mass. I also think the dinners with Monsignor Woy were very effective in introducing members to one another. I know I met people I had never met before.
- There are tons of parishioners who work behind the scenes to make the Cathedral a welcoming space. Msgr. Woy is really good at thanking people at Mass, but could we do more to post photos and name names? Examples: anniversaries of long-serving ushers, profile Cathy/Brigid who do CLOW, identify the high school students who assist at Mass, the children now singing in Eve's choirs, the faithful docents and the bereavement ministry members, the school leaders, the Boy Scouts, etc. etc. I know you already do a lot, but it really helps build up our sense of community to recognize faces and know NAMES.

- Finally, how can we get parishioners to not hug the end seat in the pew??? It sends a message, intended or not, that others are not welcomed to sit with you. (I know this is a small issue but it's bothered me for years). Just move into the pew, folks!
- Graduate Weekend: On the first weekend in June of each year, honor high school and college grads. (The date falls in the midst of most college and high school graduations, so they're more likely to be available.) Announce it ahead of time and solicit their name, school, and degree info to be featured that weekend in the bulletin. Be sure to include law school, med school, and other grads, too. During masses that weekend, honor them by asking them to stand and be recognized, plus say a special blessing for them while they're standing. Have a special Donut Sunday for them! \*\*This could also be done for those entering seminary or the military. For those enlisting, in addition to announcing their hs/college graduation and their chosen branch in the bulletin, also announce it later when they've graduated from boot camp or have returned from deployment.
- Keep building the music program, including the 4th grade and above, thru to the Adult Choir, with Mass participation and also other not at Mass events. Perhaps try offerings in the School gym, cafeteria, or Parish Center, with the goal to get 50-75 parishioners, and eventually more, showing-up at perhaps bi-monthly offerings. Mix popular and sacred music into the programs. The enthusiasm of the engaged and talented performers will spread through the participants and out to the larger community.
- The music program is outstanding.
- Concerts - 1 hr on front lawn- people bring their own chair, beverage
- A short article 2x a month about music history, compositions and composers in bulletin
- Seniors might enjoy
- There are many answers to this. However, I would like to suggest that the "consumer approach" to music and/or the Mass is not a recipe for success. Regardless of personal preferences, the Mass must be celebrated with appropriate solemnity and dignity. Not only because reverence is key to participating in Mass but also because in a building like the cathedral a kind of "folksy" or informal style doesn't work well. So many factors mitigate against that, especially the problem of sound, visibility, distance of celebrant, assistants and servers from the congregation, etc. One easy change is to stop turning the sound system up and down, adding reverberation and subtracting it, and in general "playing around" with the sound system. This is very distracting and unfortunate. See more in the following question.
- Increase greeter ministry
- Identify a point of contact for initial welcome and cover all masses
- Inform/train greeters with protocol/script/topics to cover (helpful info)
  - Is this your first visit to the Cathedral?
  - introduce themselves and share some interesting info on the Cathedral - windows, chapels, tours given, etc.
- Assist with disabled access
- Promote tours
- Docent/ Greeters and Ushers working together
- Gates to altar to be kept open
- Publicize and enhance Our Daily Bread service and include kids ( 14+)
- Explore what other churches are doing so we can partner (non-Catholic churches too)
- Volunteer Fair
  - Summer day event
  - Volunteer Coordinator
  - Publicize in bulletin
- Ushers and Greeters needed



- Challenge with the doors at the side and front – need to find a way to be consistent and greet no matter the entrance approach
- Prayer- organized rosary

### **How do we best to extend our ministry beyond the church and into the broader community?**

#### **What is needed?**

- See above, and have a labor union outreach program and not just for immigrants. Allow unions to hold meetings in the church. Allow them time at Mass to discuss union strikes, boycotts, or other organizing activity. Bring back the Labor priests of old, and new such as Fr. Kiley.
- Some of the responses are excellent and what is suggested in them should be replicated in all of our parishes.
- We should be connecting with communities of need in Baltimore. Whether it's through a sister parish or some other service activity. Most (not all) of current service opportunities do not bring our parishioners into direct contact with our Baltimore city community. Until we're up close and personal, too many of us will maintain our safe "us-them" attitudes. I don't mean this to suggest ill-will on anyone's part. I simply think we are too isolated: our empathy, such as it is, is more cerebral than heart-felt.
- Improve our reputation as a center of beautiful, solemn Liturgical reverence- we are the Cathedral, we need to act like it
- providing more REAL and MEANINGFUL service to the community- get our parishioners OUT THERE, visible in the community, working toward social justice- have MANY opportunities for service, varied times, varied places, varied opportunities, for people of all ages, for families to participate together, etc. Let people in the community SEE that Cathedral parishioners are living Christian values- AWESOME CATHOLICISM
- Contact representatives from Loyola And Notre Dame to get students involved in service projects
- I am not sure what you are asking here. I think the church does a good job with volunteering and community service. Are you asking how to make the parish more diverse and welcoming? Are you asking the role you can play in broader challenges facing the city with violence? I think the Church's broader credibility is greatly challenged after the scandals so I would be very mindful of that as well. I think the best way to reach beyond the church and affect the greater community is to take a full account of the Church's failings and be a strong example of organization committed to protecting children and helping victims going forward.
- Instead of a Volunteer Fair, host a Ministry Fair. Let's make sure that everyone knows about all of the ministries first, BEFORE asking them to give of their time or resources.
- My kids are Cathedral students and they used to do regular surveys. I wish they'd do them again
- Low hanging fruit is nice ... but what's the big ask? Pick one goal and don't stop until there is consensus that it's been achieved
- To pray in black sections of Baltimore, introducing ourselves with Pastors, to pray with them is a blessing and a joy. Much spiritual communication!
- To spend time of prayers and ministry at Planned Parenthood on Howard St. Pacific and active!
- Some of the responses are excellent and what is suggested in them should be replicated in all of our parishes.
- Online participation. Live- stream the Mass? We can create mini- series' as well (with video) just like the reflections that the Cathedral sends
- Offer an occasional speaker in the evening that might appeal to the area around the church. When you host the large concert in the fall with the Baltimore Community Chorus, it is standing room only.
- I think we are DEFINITELY moving in a positive direction as a parish. The music, the overall

communications, the excellent support staff, the quality of the homilies, the warm presence of Archbishop Lori, the transparency in addressing the abuse scandal...all have made many of us even more committed to the church.

- For Adult Faith Formation, could a schedule of the topics be published well in advance? Perhaps it's just me, but I'm consistently interested in what Chris is offering but also consistently already booked by the time I learn of a session. If I knew six weeks in advance, I could plan around attending a session.
- There is an active Christ Child Society chapter in Baltimore that includes several past and present CMOQ parishioners. We have partnered once this year with the school to collect water bottles for clients at Baltimore's homeless shelters. Can we expand that and ask the students to help in others ways?
- Is there a planning committee for the Cathedral's 60th anniversary/Homecoming?
- March for Life: A few of us who have attended the past couple of years committed to inviting others. This could easily be a part of the youth activities calendar. In addition, there are annual walks in Annapolis and at Notre Dame of Maryland, with the latter benefiting Pregnancy Center North on York Road.
- Other Catholic churches: While I understand and appreciate the ideas to pursue events or service projects with the churches in our immediate vicinity, I feel strongly that this is a time when we should be strengthening our bonds with our fellow Catholic parishes in the area. Between Cathedral, St. Pius X, St. Mary's, Immaculate Conception, Shrine of the Sacred Heart, and Ss. Philip & James, there is so much that could be done. Last year, the churches of Harford County hosted Faith Fest. (I was disappointed that it didn't work out for my family to go.) Here is the link to the website. (<https://faithfest.membershiptoolkit.com>) While their event was held at an equestrian center, the overall Cathedral campus (church and school) may be large enough to handle something similar.

- Take the music program on the road, perhaps into area senior retirement communities. Get School engagement and commitment for the time it takes.
- Thank you for taking the time to prepare this informative video and for your hard work for our parish. I also appreciate the opportunity to share my opinion with you, which I hope you will accept in the charity with which it is given. My husband and I tried to share these thoughts on the survey cards we filled out at Mass, but since they were not included in your results I assume we are in the minority. As elderly folk without children, our thoughts may be of limited interest to the young families building our future parish; but as one who has lived through the highs and lows of the post-Vatican II era and remained faithful to the Lord and His Holy Church, I feel compelled to speak.

I grew up watching the initial excitement and joy of VaticanII turn to confusion and dismay as countless numbers of religious and lay people walked away from the faith; and later turn to horror as a flood of financial and moral scandals, rampant throughout the Church, emerged. I am convinced that Pope Benedict is correct in saying that the cause of all this is the loss of sound teaching in both faith and morals. We have, all of us, for years, been given only the most shallow and superficial understanding of the deposit of faith, and an ambiguous moral education which should be a response to that deposit of faith. Even many of our priests have been inadequately formed. Our parishes and pastors seem more concerned with appealing to our culture than with boldly proclaiming the radically counter-cultural demands of discipleship.

We cannot introduce new members or retain our young people if we do not have a thorough and unambiguous understanding of who we are as Catholics and what that identity means in our daily lives. We cannot answer the challenging questions that our young people ask if we have not taken the time to pursue those questions ourselves. We are doing ourselves and them a disservice if we fail to give them at least a taste of the intense richness of our spiritual and contemplative tradition. Our faith offers something the world cannot give, something of ultimate consequence, yet we seem satisfied with reducing it to "fellowship" and "works of mercy". We seem more concerned with convenience than conversion. Our Church is in crisis (no matter how much our pastors and bishops may wish to pretend it is not), and it is the responsibility of each parish to face it and bravely respond to it. This is not the time to reach for "low-hanging fruit". I would recommend that the parish consider establishing a program for adult

religious formation, including classes/lectures in faith, moral theology, liturgy, sacraments and Scripture study, with opportunities for small group study as well as parish-wide lectures. It would be a wonderful opportunity to bring our parish together, both young and old, to share the joy of our faith and would enrich every other aspect of our parish life.

- Advertise in the local churches weekly bulletins  
Lectures, short musical concert of seasonal music with explanations of the piece being played - outside and inside.
- Invitation of Seniors in the community  
Card groups, Mah Jongg groups , board games, volunteer opportunities
- The addition of a noon Mass on Holy Days (a real problem for many), and the return of service leaflets. Despite the cost of service leaflets, the current "find it in the hymnal" approach is off-putting for many, especially because some of the musical settings that are used aren't even in the hymnal! Today only a small percentage of people read music fluently and even fewer can sing responses they have heard one time by a cantor. At least the printed words/music would be a guide. If the materials in Ritual Song are not going to be used, what was the purpose of purchasing it? One "draw" which often filled the cathedral in the past was the concert series which no longer exists. It needn't be a weekly event, but perhaps four or five times per year might be possible. Getting people into the space can be a first step in reaching the community. I realize part of this is about the cathedral itself but visitors do notice how things are done. Also on Holy Days there might be many more in attendance if a noon Mass was available - many who belong to other parishes, for example.
- Engaging Loyola and ND of MD students proactively and having their participation in mass and ministry
- Sister Mary Kerber ( contact at ND of MD)
- Sunday afternoon mass recommended at 4p
- Sunday Mass in the afternoon
- Primer for Holy Days for Families – in print
  - Written for families with some parent info and some information suited for children
  - Include what's to be expected at the mass – time length, events occurring, etc
- More outreach to new parishioners
- Ushers and more Greeters
- Better signage
- Music Together program offering
- Belonging program



Sent by Beth Mayr

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