

St. Anne of Littleton & St. Catherine of Westford
Collaborative Survey Feedback (July 2015)

In June, we asked parishioners at our weekend masses to provide feedback on two questions. We received nearly 2100 responses with 1214 associated with Question 1 and 884 with Question 2. Based on an initial review, we created a series of top level categories for each question. The Tables below outline the overall numerical results for the top five categories in each question. Looking beyond the numbers, our additional feedback focuses on specific themes contained in parishioner responses. Our Collaborative will use these results as one input to help develop the Collaborative Local Pastoral Plan's Purpose, Values, Vision and/or Priorities.

Unlike the Mass Schedule, Priest/Deacon, Music and Communication categories, the two remaining categories in the top five require some definition. For Question 1, the “*Collaboration*” category refers mainly to the Parishes and parishioners making good use and taking advantage of the Collaborative services and programs. “*Good Integration*” refers to things progressing smoothly and effectively as we continue integrating both Parishes (without loss of Parish identity) under a single Collaborative. For Question 2, these two categories imply the need to make further improvements to better collaborate and to better integrate our Parish services and programs for the benefit of all Collaborative parishioners.

The N/A category covers a variety of response conditions that did not fall into one of the defined categories. For example, many individuals left Question 2 blank while others either saw no issues or change that impacted them, self-identified as a visitor, or felt that everything was going well. In the majority of cases, input was provided for Question 1.

Q1. What is Working Well?

Row Labels	Count by Category	% by Category
Mass Schedule	246	20.3%
Priests/Deacons	233	19.2%
Collaboration	162	13.3%
Good Integration	152	12.5%
Music	131	10.8%
Category Total	914	76.1%

Q2. What Needs Improvement?

Row Labels	Count by Category	% by Category
N/A	251	28.4%
Improved Collaboration	106	12.0%
Improved Integration	92	10.4%
Mass Schedule	88	10.0%
Communication	70	7.9%
Category Total	607	68.7%

So what were the general themes in the top five categories for each question?

The Mass Schedule category, Question 1 responses indicate that the current schedule works well and provides fairness, flexibility and good opportunity to attend Mass within the Collaborative. Parishioners perceived no drop off in Mass quality and sensed that overall attendance is up. Question 2 responses stressed that more masses, especially weekday &

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Holy Day options, plus an early Sunday morning mass and a late Sunday afternoon mass would be nice additions to the schedule. The issue of crowded Christmas and Easter week services/masses was also raised.

The Priests/Deacons category Question 1 responses stressed that our priests represent a blessing and major strength. Beyond the quality of their homilies, feedback portrayed them as approachable, welcoming, caring, personable, and dedicated. Question 2 responses focused on the need for more priests to spread the workload, plus provide a greater priestly presence and availability.

The Collaboration category Question 1 responses indicated general acceptance of the Collaborative model. Also, parishioners sensed a welcoming spirit of cooperation, community, inclusion, and interaction while still maintaining individual Parish identities. Question 2 responses focused on the need to: increase parishioner participation in Parish social, liturgical and ministry activities; possible consolidation of ministries; and more cross-parish interaction and fellowship for adults, families and youth,

The Good Integration category Question 1 responses portrayed a process that seems seamless with little disruption or negative impact to date. Many responses noted that the priests, staff, leadership councils and involved parishioners are extending themselves to provide stability at both Parishes, engender a sense of community while maintaining individual Parish identities, share resources and promote a sense of a Collaborative community. Question 2 responses stressed the need for: greater interaction between the two parishes to build a stronger sense of community, plus more blending of staff and ministries to avoid duplication of services.

The Music category Question 1 responses depicted this Ministry as a clear sign of successful "Collaboration" and "Good Integration". Many noted that the musicians and choir provide a spiritually uplifting and inspirational presence that transforms the Mass experience and helps create a much more welcoming community. Question 2 responses varied widely from having little or no music to having more music including contemporary/youth music. Two common themes were getting more people involved in the Music Ministry, plus getting parishioners more involved in singing with the choir.

The Communications category Question 1 responses focused on the openness, transparency, quality and two-way flow of information in the Collaborative. Many noted that there are opportunities for information exchange and stressed that the priests and staff are listening to their concerns. Question 2 responses focused on the need for more outreach via announcements, town meetings, etc. to inform parishioners and get input/feedback in a timely manner. The use of a common bulletin, web sites and digital technology e.g., Facebook were suggested. Some responses noted that the purpose of, need for and expectations moving forward for a Collaborative are still not clear.

On behalf of Fr. Peter, Fr. Joe, the staff and the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) we thank you for your input and continued involvement in the collaboration process.