



Executive Summary of the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton 2015 Parish Survey

Dear Parishioners,

Thank you to those of you who participated in the town hall meetings or completed our survey online. As you might imagine, in our diverse and multi-cultural community, there are many different opinions. Generally, most of you are quite satisfied with our liturgies and facilities. Below is a summary of the findings.

1) The first 16 questions on the survey were intended to find out if individuals feel welcome, facilities are pleasant, liturgies meaningful, and parish events convenient.

- a. Over two thirds of respondents marked Good to Excellent for:
 - i. Parking, welcome, offices, office hours, Mass schedules, homilies, music, and how fulfilling the liturgies are to you.
- b. Respondents tended to mark Good to OK for:
 - i. Pleasantness of the Narthex (vestibule), Fellowship Hall facilities, and understanding the language being spoken despite accents.
- c. Respondents gave themselves Excellent marks for Mass attendance and not leaving early.

2) The church sanctuary has been the subject of many discussions. Respondents had the opportunity to tell us how they experience the sanctuary. They were asked about potential changes, including some that were already planned.

- a. A small majority feel the sanctuary needs rejuvenation and doesn't seem Catholic. Many people find the current sanctuary peaceful and spiritual.
 - i. There were numerous comments on cleaning, painting, and repairing.
- b. Just over half of respondents think the current statues are all we need, but slightly more than one third want to have more.
 - i. Some of the comments here involved properly placing art, and better lighting.
- c. Half of those who responded think we have enough artwork, one quarter want to have more. One fifth would like to have the environment changed with more seasonal banners and linens.
 - i. The picture of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton is controversial; many are pleased, but some object to the image, others object to its placement. Some asked for banners, others said please no.
- d. A large majority think that our windows should be rejuvenated, have better shades, or be stained glass. There is a desire to keep the "Northwest" connection to nature.
- e. Nearly two thirds of the respondents want a Tabernacle in the sanctuary. If we combine this majority with those who are neutral, 80% would be comfortable with a Tabernacle in the sanctuary.
 - i. Many find the chapel a very sacred space, and would like to continue having a chapel.

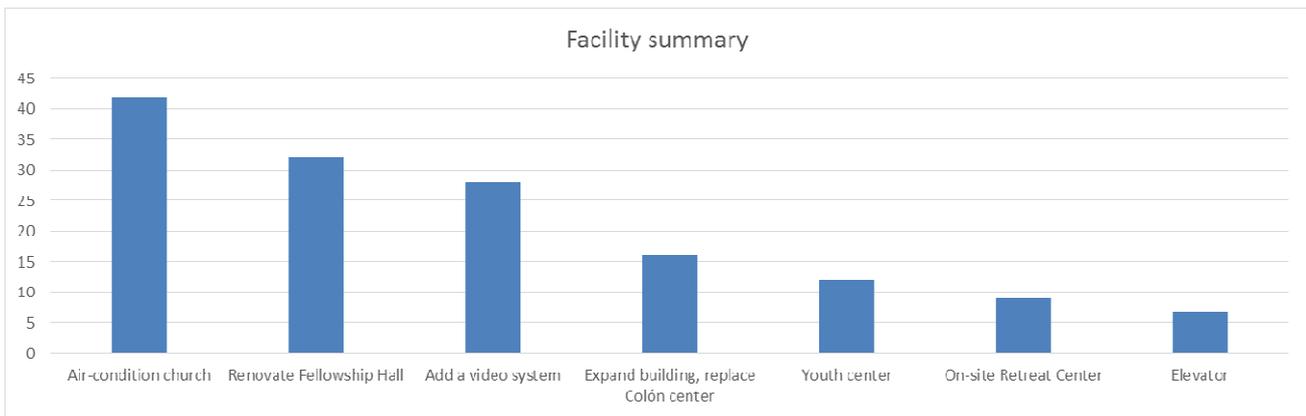
3) What about our image of the Risen Christ, and should we have a Crucifix above the altar?

- a. Nearly 40% of respondents were enthusiastically in favor of adding a Crucifix, but almost as many want to keep the current image. Many people said they would like a different image of the Risen Christ.
 - i. Comments included how the image of the Risen Christ brings hope, and the Crucifix reminds us of the depth of God's love. Several pointed out that the Risen Christ image is part of the history and symbolism of our parish.

4) We asked respondents to tell us how they feel when they attend our liturgies.

- a. Over one half feel invited and that all are welcome, one fifth feel uplifted and renewed. There is room for improvement as 15% feel left out, or would like to be invited to participate more fully.
 - i. The Missionaries of the Holy Spirit, and their homilies, were praised by many respondents.
- b. Over 80% responded that the liturgies met their spiritual needs, or excited them to share the good news.
 - i. Comments included asking for homilies that connect to everyday living, better sound levels, and better choirs.
 - ii. Holy Week and Easter were among the favorite liturgies mentioned.
- c. Our current English and Spanish Mass schedule was preferred by two thirds of respondents, but there was division in the comments.
 - i. Some asked for more bi-lingual services, but a nearly equal group asked that we have none. Concerns were mostly about bi-lingual services being disjointed and too long.

5) Our survey ended with an open request for ideas regarding our facilities. We did provide some ideas to help get respondents thinking, and here is how you rated those ideas



- i. Comments included adding a cry room, improving the sound system in the church, adding ceiling fans, re-opening the preschool, and many others.

Some other comments were very noteworthy. Some voiced concerns about funding improvements. Others worried that we are being too focused on things, and not on faith.

The Missionaries of the Holy Spirit, the Parish Staff, and Pastoral Council embrace our parish vision to be the Body of Christ. We understand it is easier to discuss facilities and more challenging to put our finger on faith and spirituality, but ultimately everything we do needs to point toward this. We look forward to integrating the insights of our community so that together we can realize our parish vision, and continue on our faith journey together.

Yours in Christ,

St. EAS Pastoral Council