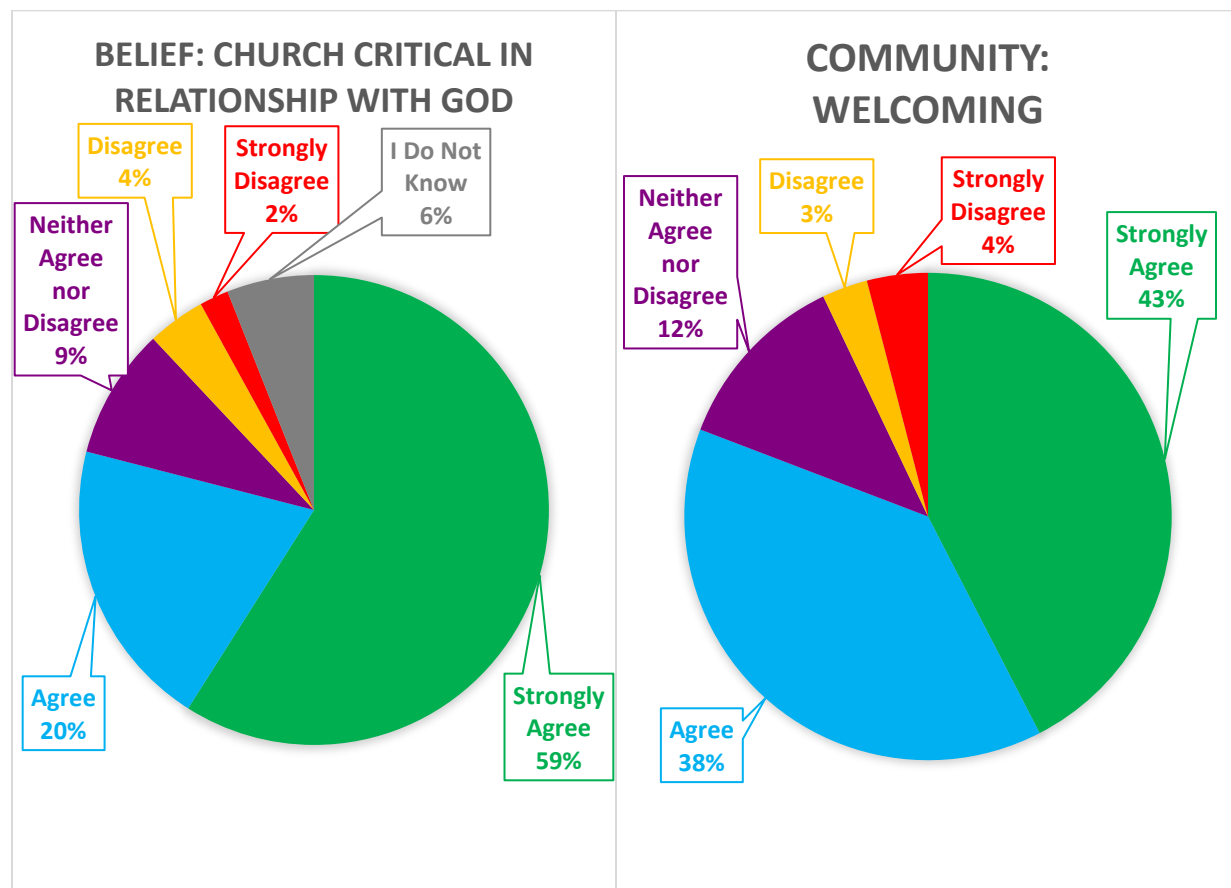
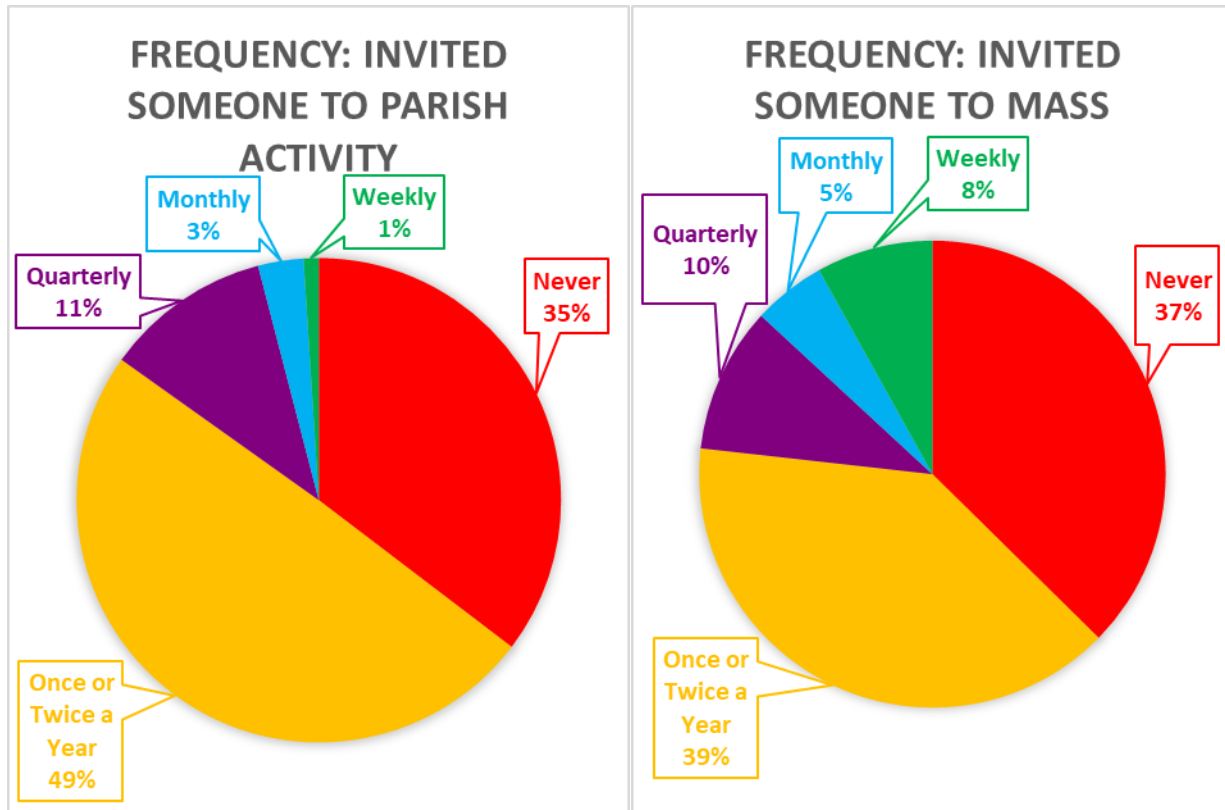




Dear Parishioners:

You may remember, this past Lent, parishioners were invited to participate in the Disciple Maker Index, a nation-wide survey on parish engagement. 319 parishioners responded to the survey, which was conducted in collaboration with the Catholic Leadership Institute (CLI). The goal of this survey was to provide our parishioners with an opportunity to reflect on their spiritual growth and involvement in the parish, which, in turn, would provide insight to our parish leadership as to how we can improve and grow as disciples of Jesus. Over the past four months, four members of our Parish Pastoral Council, along with Father Roy, Christine Brandt, and myself, have met in working sessions with the CLI to evaluate the results. CLI has helped us to interpret the results and to create an action plan based on our strengths and areas of opportunity. We have identified three priorities for our parish as we unpacked the data and discerned its implications. With these priorities, we have designed an action plan which will be enacted over the course of the next one to two years. Today we want to share with you a sampling of a few SML parish responses to the survey.





These highlighted results from the Disciple Maker Index have assisted us in developing the following three objectives, which will be covered in our parish plan during the next one to two years.

1. **Increase parishioner understanding of the Church's identity.** To do so, we will be making in-person studies and asynchronous self-education resources available to our parishioners.
2. **Inviting and sharing.** We intend to develop a culture of invitation within the parish and encourage our parishioners to invite friends and family to parish events. We are developing exciting events which will be widely announced at Masses, in our bulletin, and on our website and social media.
3. **Make the Sunday experience more welcoming.** To do so, we will be starting a greeter ministry to welcome parishioners and guests as they arrive at Sunday Masses. Additionally, St. Mary of the Lakes will begin hosting monthly community Sundays and the Knights of Columbus council will begin hosting monthly breakfast fundraisers. Both of these will serve as opportunities to increase our parish's capacity to provide a welcoming experience.

Specific details will be shared as we put our parish plan into effect. I would like to thank all the parishioners who took the time to participate in the Disciple Maker Index Parish Survey. Thanks to your honest feedback, we were able to identify opportunities to better fulfill our mission, "We Make Disciples."

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Father Dan