

INFUSION OF A LIFE AND WORK-CENTERED SPIRITUALITY INTO PARISH LIFE

In order to better identify strengths as well as concerns regarding parish influence upon people's daily life and work, please complete this assessment form. (Work is defined here as any productive activity a person does for a significant amount of time - whether at home, in school, in the community, or at one's place of employment)

In the following page(s), please mark the response that best expresses your opinion about these issues:

Performance: How well are we doing as a parish?

4 = Excellent. Expectations (quality and frequency) are exceeded.

3 = Adequate. Expectations (quality and frequency) are met.

2 = Nearly adequate. Expectations are close to being met.

1 = Not adequate. Expectations clearly are not being met.

NA = Not applicable

DK = Don't know. I have no basis upon which to make a judgment.

Importance: How important is this issue to our parish?

A = Very important

B = Important

C = Not important

PARISH LEADERS

Performance	Issue	Importance
4 3 2 1 NA DK	1. We understand and articulate that the primary ministry of the laity is the transformation of the world—work, home, wider community—according to gospel principles of sacrificial love, justice, and peace.	A B C
4 3 2 1 NA DK	2. We foster a deep, life-centered spirituality. We affirm work and home life as ministries.	A B C
4 3 2 1 NA DK	3. We recognize the parish with staff as the spiritual center for preparing and energizing the laity and fostering their reflection and action concerning their work, home, and wider community life.	A B C
4 3 2 1 NA DK	4. We review our parish structures, policies, and organizations to determine how they can best foster our emphasis upon daily life spirituality and ministry and modify them accordingly.	A B C
4 3 2 1 NA DK	5. We learn from church documents and other articles, tapes, and workshops about the roles and formation of the laity.	A B C
4 3 2 1 NA DK	6. We are careful to avoid religious jargon that is unclear or unrelatable.	A B C
4 3 2 1 NA DK	7. We have included in our parish mission statement an emphasis upon the parish forming and supporting people for their daily life ministries	A B C
4 3 2 1 NA DK	8. We affirm the call of all deacons to be models of bridging the gap between faith and work.	A B C
4 3 2 1 NA DK	9. We have a parish committee or task force to encourage ongoing efforts to support people's daily life ministries.	A B C
4 3 2 1 NA DK	10. We reflect upon the connection between faith and leadership in daily life.	A B C

Based upon my evaluation of the previous statements:

- *I believe that in the **Parish Leadership** area of our parish life these are 2-3 strengths of our parish:*

- *I believe that in the **Parish Leadership** area of our parish life we most need to [express 2-3 concerns, priorities]:*

LITURGY

Performance	Issue	Importance
4 3 2 1 NA DK	1. We emphasize in word, music, and ritual that liturgy and life are interconnected.	A B C
4 3 2 1 NA DK	2. We preach homilies which address occupational, family, and societal issues.	A B C
4 3 2 1 NA DK	3. We preach ways that individuals can be more loving and just wherever they are.	A B C
4 3 2 1 NA DK	4. We use examples drawn from work, family life, and civic involvement.	A B C
4 3 2 1 NA DK	5. We get suggestions from the laity on what they need to hear.	A B C
4 3 2 1 NA DK	6. We get lay input on how to respond to certain issues that they believe to be important.	A B C
4 3 2 1 NA DK	7. We encourage laity, on occasion, to share briefly at Mass concerning work, home life, and/or societal concerns.	A B C
4 3 2 1 NA DK	8. We affirm the religious vocations of all the laity.	A B C
4 3 2 1 NA DK	9. We recognize/bless at our liturgies the market place ministries (e.g., public school teachers, health care workers, public charity volunteers, workers promoting justice).	A B C
4 3 2 1 NA DK	10. We reflect specific, real life and work concerns in the general intercessions (petitions).	A B C
4 3 2 1 NA DK	11. We encourage people from particular life and work settings to assist in writing the petitions.	A B C
4 3 2 1 NA DK	12. We encourage traditional devotions such as the rosary, the stations of the cross, novenas, and benediction to include meditations on contemporary life and work and justices issues (meditations which might be written by parishioners from their own experiences).	A B C
4 3 2 1 NA DK	13. We plan liturgies for specific feast days or holy days that might appropriately incorporate a work-related theme in the homily. (e.g., St. Joseph the Worker, St. Thomas More, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, the Visitation, Sundays closest to Labor and Election Days, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Holy Thursday, etc.)	A B C
4 3 2 1 NA DK	14. At times we include in our liturgical symbolic actions a work-related focus. (e.g., people bring up offertory gifts in their work "clothes," having people from various occupations as participants in foot washing on Holy Thursday, workers "tools" displayed appropriately, etc.).	A B C
4 3 2 1 NA DK	15. We consider celebrating liturgies at people's work settings or developing inclusive prayer services or faith sharing experiences that could be led by lay people at their work.	A B C

ALL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, FORMATION

Performance	Issue	Importance
4 3 2 1 NA DK	1. We emphasize the holiness of all of life; the God of ordinary experience, the call and mission of all to make a better world (to build the kingdom), the divine plan for total human reconciliation, solidarity, justice, and peace.	A B C
4 3 2 1 NA DK	2. We provide opportunities for people to identify their gifts.	A B C
4 3 2 1 NA DK	3. We facilitate a process to help individuals better use their gifts/talents in daily life, especially at work.	A B C
4 3 2 1 NA DK	4. We foster ways for getting people to reflect upon their ordinary human experience especially at school/work and home and to act according to gospel values.	A B C
4 3 2 1 NA DK	5. We welcome newcomers and involve them in a process that encourages them "to catch" the faith-life connection.	A B C
4 3 2 1 NA DK	6. We focus on real life and work-related issues that people request through parish surveys.	A B C
4 3 2 1 NA DK	7. We raise questions that encourage people to look very specifically at home and work concerns through the eyes of faith (e.g., meaning, relationships, balancing multiple responsibilities, deciding right and wrong, sharing faith, working for organizational or systemic development).	A B C
4 3 2 1 NA DK	8. We bring people together in such a way that they affirm, guide, and support each other in work and call each other to a loving accountability as disciples in the world.	A B C
4 3 2 1 NA DK	9. We encourage and teach forms of spirituality that can be deep and relevant to busy people with multiple responsibilities.	A B C
4 3 2 1 NA DK	10. We affirm and support people in non-paid work such as homemaker, parents, grandparents, students, the retired, community volunteers, seekers of justice.	A B C
4 3 2 1 NA DK	11. We develop retreats/programs that call people into a more integrated (not compartmentalized) and balanced (but not privatized) life.	A B C
4 3 2 1 NA DK	12. We offer books, tapes, articles, bulletin inserts, newsletter features, etc., that highlight the spirituality of work perspective - especially through examples of individuals making a difference in people's lives.	A B C
4 3 2 1 NA DK	13. We publicize what's already going on in the wider community that fosters human development, justice, and good work.	A B C
4 3 2 1 NA DK	14. We provide resources for families to discuss the faith at work emphasis (including children recognizing the spirituality of their school work, future vocation possibilities, and the call to be just in family life and at work).	A B C

Performance	Issue	Importance
4 3 2 1 NA DK	15. We foster a mentoring process in which people with a greater expertise in certain work (including those retired) can guide and support others.	A B C
4 3 2 1 NA DK	16. We reach out to support and guide the unemployed, underemployed, and those in any work transition.	A B C

Based upon my evaluation of the previous statements:

- *I believe that in the **religious education and formation** area of our parish life these are 2-3 strengths of our parish:*

- *I believe that in the area of **religious education and formation** in our parish we most need to [express 2-3 concerns, priorities]:*

SCC (SMALL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES)

Performance	Issue	Importance
4 3 2 1 NA DK	1. We guide the SCC pastoral facilitators in a way that they "catch" this vision of a spirituality of all of life and an emphasis upon daily life ministries.	A B C
4 3 2 1 NA DK	2. We include among the resources they use (including scripture) and the questions they share material that has an emphasis on living faith and seeking justice for all in every life situation.	A B C

Based upon my evaluation of the previous statements:

- *I believe that in the **Small Christian Communities** area of our parish life these are 2-3 strengths of our parish:*

- *I believe that in the area of **Small Christian Communities** in our parish life we most need to [express 2-3 concerns, priorities]:*

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

BAPTISM

Performance	Issue	Importance
4 3 2 1 NA DK	1. We ask parents to reflect: What values would you like to hand on to your child concerning work, home, and civic life; and how will you do that?	A B C
4 3 2 1 NA DK	2. We ask parents to reflect: What does baptism mean for what we do out in the world and how we view what we do?	A B C
4 3 2 1 NA DK	3. We ask parents to reflect: What kind of spirituality will you model and encourage?	A B C

CONFIRMATION

Performance	Issue	Importance
4 3 2 1 NA DK	1. We ask youth to reflect: How might your abilities and interests be used to make a better, more just and loving world?	A B C
4 3 2 1 NA DK	2. We ask youth to reflect: What kind of job would you like to have as an adult? Why?	A B C
4 3 2 1 NA DK	3. We ask youth to reflect: In what ways could your faith be an influence in the job you choose?	A B C
4 3 2 1 NA DK	4. We ask youth to reflect: In what ways could your faith be an influence in the way that you do your job?	A B C
4 3 2 1 NA DK	5. We ask youth to reflect: How does or how could your faith influence your attitude and work at school?	A B C
4 3 2 1 NA DK	6. We ask youth to reflect: How might the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit influence your present activity and future vocation?	A B C

EUCCHARIST

Performance	Issue	Importance
4 3 2 1 NA DK	1. We ask parents to reflect: What value do you, as parents, place on family meal time? How can you foster that, especially with all your responsibilities?	A B C
4 3 2 1 NA DK	2. We ask parents to reflect: If the Sunday Eucharist is meant to remind us that the heart of God's plan for life is sharing and being in communion with God and one another, how does or can that influence the way you view and treat your co-workers, your competitors, the poor and needy?	A B C
4 3 2 1 NA DK	3. We ask children to reflect: How does the Sunday Eucharist influence the way you treat your classmates and teachers? How should it?	A B C

RECONCILIATION

Performance	Issue	Importance
4 3 2 1 NA DK	1. We ask parents to reflect: What sins of commission or omission have you committed in your work? How could you be more competent and caring at work and/or in the community?	A B C
4 3 2 1 NA DK	2. We ask parents to reflect: How might you foster greater reconciliation in society between the haves and have-nots? Between groups or individuals who resent or are prejudiced against one another?	A B C
4 3 2 1 NA DK	3. We ask the children to reflect: What wrong have you done, or what good have you failed to do at school?	A B C
4 3 2 1 NA DK	4. We ask everyone to reflect: Whom in your work or school do you need to forgive or be forgiven by? What action will you take?	A B C

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Performance	Issue	Importance
4 3 2 1 NA DK	1. We affirm and enable the ill in their ministries of prayer, witness to faith, and/or outreach by phone or letter to others.	A B C

MATRIMONY

Performance	Issue	Importance
4 3 2 1 NA DK	1. We ask couples to reflect upon their work lives and how that affects each individually and together, as a couple.	A B C
4 3 2 1 NA DK	2. We ask couples to reflect: How do you see balancing work, love (family life, friends), community responsibilities, and play (rest, recreation)?	A B C

ORDINATION

Performance	Issue	Importance
4 3 2 1 NA DK	1. By our words and actions we express the view that an essential part of ordained ministry and parish life is to encourage, prepare, and support lay people for their vocation in the world (not just for their work in internal church ministries).	A B C
4 3 2 1 NA DK	2. As church, we develop in priests the necessary skills to facilitate and empower the laity in the local parish to be effective Christian witnesses at work and in the wider community.	A B C

STEWARDSHIP BEYOND THE PARISH

Performance	Issue	Importance
4 3 2 1 NA DK	1. We encourage parishioners to recognize and utilize their gifts, time, energy, and money not only in internal church life, but especially beyond the parochial boundaries.	A B C
4 3 2 1 NA DK	2. We affirm and support all people who are presently not active in internal church ministries but who are seeking to make a difference by carrying church values and teachings into the world.	A B C
4 3 2 1 NA DK	3. We reach out to all people of good will and let them know that we value and see as spiritual the work that they do—especially when done with a loving intention and spirit and in accord with the basic gospel values that Jesus taught.	A B C
4 3 2 1 NA DK	4. We partner with others in the community to promote healing, reconciliation, integrity, justice, and love.	A B C

Based upon my evaluation of the previous statements:

- *I believe that in the **stewardship beyond the parish** area of our parish life these are 2-3 strengths of our parish:*

- *I believe that in the area of **stewardship beyond the parish** in our parish life we most need to [express 2-3 concerns, priorities]:*