



## St. Benedict Catholic Church, - Falcon, Colorado

### 2007 Discovery Survey Summary

In September, 2007, a four page “Discovery Survey” was provided to every registered St. Benedict parishioner 13 years of age or older. The survey gathered demographic information and gauged the current perception and future expectations of the parish. It also asked parishioners about supporting a Capital Campaign to build a parish multi-purpose building. Surveys were provided to 252 parishioners, and 33.7% responded to the survey expressing their options, preferences, and/or interest in various current and proposed programs and ministries. The following provides a brief summary of the response patterns to the most important categories and topics addressed in the survey.

[ The complete Discovery Survey with total responses to each issue can be found on the parish web site – [www.stbenedictfalcon.org](http://www.stbenedictfalcon.org) ]

#### Demographic Information:

- ✘ The majority of respondents were married, females between 35 and 44 year old, who attend Mass every week and have a household income between \$25,000 to \$49,999 per year.
- ✘ A solid majority of respondents indicated that they had children, and of these most said they would send them to a Catholic School associated with St. Benedict parish.
- ✘ Few indicated they logged onto the parish web site with any regularity.

#### Current Experience Indicators:

- ✘ Most respondents liked the current 9:30 AM Sunday Mass time, found it prayerful and reverent, the lay ministers and servers fulfilling their roles well and the homilies orthodox and relevant to their lives.
- ✘ There was a strong sense from the respondents that our Eucharistic celebration is an important part of parish life.
- ✘ Most parishioners did not feel they were being well informed about the financial obligations facing the parish. (NOTE: This was prior to the Oct. 1007 Stewardship Report to the Parish.)
- ✘ During the Offertory, most households give a dollar amount rather than a percentage of their income.
- ✘ While the majority of respondents think the Parish Director is readily available, slightly more than 1/3 indicated uncertainty or that this does not apply to their experience.
- ✘ Those with children in the Religious Education program expressed approval of the program, and the majority agreed that the youth programs are well planned.
- ✘ Being a welcoming and hospitable community is very important to parishioners.

#### Stewardship Indicators:

- ✘ Almost 1 out of 3 parishioners acknowledged they were minimally in parish life.
- ✘ Almost 3 out of 4 said they would not give more of their time and talents to the parish even if they were personally invited and trained.
- ✘ While most said they give in the Offertory a fixed amount rather than a percentage of their income (Question #14), of those responding about what percentage of income should Catholics give to the Church 45% said between 1 and 3 percent.

### **Future Expectations Indicators:**

- ✘ Parishioners look forward to St. Benedict having its own Pastor Priest, and would like to have a Saturday evening Mass and daily Mass when our situation permits.
- ✘ While a little more than 50% said greater availability of the Sacrament of Reconciliation was important, 95% said Holy Communion for the sick and homebound was important.
- ✘ Having paid staff in the future to conduct ongoing ministries, programs and administrative duties is important to approximately half of the respondents.
- ✘ Opportunities for spiritual enrichment are seen as very important to all segments of the parish (i.e. retreats, Bible study, RCIA, Eucharistic Adoration, Stations of the Cross, etc).
- ✘ Specific ministries were responded to with pronounced uncertainty (i.e. Holy Name Society, Angel Guild and Cursillo) indicating little knowledge of these programs.
- ✘ Some of the programs strongly seen as important included; a Bereavement Ministry, a Food Pantry, an Outreach Ministry, a Military Support Ministry, a nursery during Mass and our parish practice of hospitality.
- ✘ Those programs not seen as important in the future as others listed included: a Hispanic Ministry, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, Literacy Training, Evangelization Ministry, Prison Ministry, a Scouting Troop, Social Justice programs, a youth athletics programs, parish sponsored dinners/dances/plays/shows, performances and after school programs.

### **Capital Campaign Indicators:**

- ✘ Over ninety (90) percent believe St. Benedict Parish should conduct a capital campaign, while maintaining their current of Offertory giving, to fund a multi –purpose building to house our immediate future needs and eighty (80)percent said they would make a financial pledge to such a campaign.
- ✘ Of the respondents 20% said they would not give to the capital campaign.
- ✘ Of the respondents, 44 indicated they would pledge a total of \$176,220.00 over three years.

The 2007 Discovery Survey provides valuable information about how the members of this faith community see their parish now and what they desire for its future. Further analysis of this data is called for to determine indicators by different demographic consideration (age, family situation, etc.), just as repeating the survey process with increased focus on those areas most important to our strategic planning process.