

PARISHIONER CHURCH HALL MEETING

MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2016

ST. CHARLES CHURCH HALL

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM POST-IT NOTES

A poster with the questions below was available at the welcome table at both sessions. Parishioners were invited to write their comments and questions on post-it notes and add them to the poster.

What does the planning team need to keep in mind?

--Let's make sure that the final school location is linked to a final active church location.

--If there are 2 priests, consider having 1 be a young priest with high energy and enthusiasm to help draw in young families and youth.

--Be open-minded when considering a final school location.

What needs attention?

--Please raise the screen or use a larger one; half of us couldn't see.

--Answer to priest shortage—use women (from 5 people).

--Maybe it is time to consider having married and female priests.

--Suggestion: Get Matthew Kelly to talk to children.

--The financial officer needs to work with the people who are trying to raise money that would help the parishes.

--What about holding a well-publicized youth rally just to try to recruit those that don't know us?

--The planning committee or the diocese should find out what it is in the evangelical churches that is drawing thousands of Catholics, and use these same

tactics to keep them here, and to draw in fallen away Catholics and non-Catholics to our church.

What are your additional thoughts, questions, and concerns?

--Why can't Our Lady of Lourdes rectory be sold and Fr. Scott could live at St. Casimir's convent?

--If every family puts in \$5.00 or \$10.00 more a weekend in the envelopes, wouldn't that make a difference? (Or those that could).

--Consider African priests in residence who matriculate at Elmira College.

--Objectively, each parish needs to ask parishioners for an increase in giving to close the financial gap.

--How does Elmira Community Kitchen fit into the planning?

--There are 3 Masses at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday in Elmira. Why not vary the time of Mass to attract more people?

--Why golf tournament dropped at St. Mary's when DOR (Diocese of Rochester) has one?

--There are thousands of priests who have left the priesthood and are now married. If the Vatican would come into the 21st century, these priests would come back and the priest shortage would be solved.

--Have the principal at Holy Family explain Common Core.

--A big void in church is missing out on more opportunities for women. Specifically, women as deacons. Other denominations make better use of women members. By opening the Diaconate to women, pressure would be relieved on ordained priests. More women (especially young) would see expanding opportunities for involvement in church. Could perform more outreach to women and their unique needs. Is anything being done to open the diaconate to women? And to married priests as well?

As a parishioner, I am feeling...

--What churches are making a profit? Will they share with us what they do so we can turn things around?

--Why are there not more efforts to evangelize Catholics?

--What about a reading book club?