

Our Lady of Lourdes Town Hall Meeting

Dates: February 21-22, 2009 and March 7-8, 2009

Total Participants: 225

Question #1: What led you to Lourdes?

Commentary: Recurring Themes: Community, Pastoral Leadership, History, Diversity, Music, Focus on Youth

Overwhelmingly, parishioners are attracted to Lourdes because of the community (33 respondents). Respondents expressed a familial sense of closeness describing the community as charismatic and spirit-filled. Second to community, pastoral leadership (13 respondents) was a popular reason parishioners were led to Lourdes. Parishioners connect with the homilies, finding the message accessible and relevant. Parishioners were drawn in by the public welcoming to celebrate mass. Other noteworthy comments were: the diversity of the parish (6 respondents) both cultural and intergenerational; Lourdes music ministry (6 respondents); Lourdes history/tradition (5 respondents); ministries (5 respondents); focus on youth (5 respondents); and symbolism (5 respondents).

Response - What led you to Lourdes?

| Community (33) | Leadership (13) | Diversity (6) | Music (6) | History/Tradition (5) |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Closeness ▪ Charismatic ▪ Spirit-filled ▪ Hospitality ▪ Felt Alive ▪ Family feeling ▪ Fellowship ▪ Spirit of Vat II ▪ Warmth of Spirit ▪ Lack of pretension ▪ Connection to others ▪ Downtown feel ▪ Welcoming Spirit | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Connect to Message ▪ Message accessible ▪ Mass Welcoming ▪ Contemporary/relevant to current issues ▪ Public Welcoming ▪ History of excellent pastors. ▪ Followed Fr. John ▪ Homilies ▪ Fr. John ▪ Homily in depth/intellectual | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Culture ▪ Intergenerational | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Music matches liturgy ▪ Great choir | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MLK ▪ Katherine Drexel ▪ Black Cultural Heritage reflected in mass |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Feeling of Love ▪ Upbeat non-traditional ▪ Dynamic Spirit/Genuine Worship ▪ Honest intellectual conversations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Modern Worship | | | | |
| Ministries (5) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Variety of Ministries ▪ Encourages new ministries Christ-like ministries. ▪ Message of love translates to ministries | Focus on Youth (5) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Religious Education ▪ Baptized during mass. ▪ Growing teen/youth activities ▪ Bible School ▪ Baptism | Symbolism (5) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Revival ▪ Palm Sun ▪ Bread shared w/ visitors ▪ Public welcoming of Catechumens ▪ | Social Justice Activism (4) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community Involvement ▪ Catholic Social Teaching ▪ Live the Gospel | Parish Participation (4) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Everyone has a voice ▪ Church needs mbrs to create opportunities to impact church via participation. ▪ Church engages members. |
| Intimacy of space (3) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Closeness of Alter ▪ Small intimate environment | My hood (2) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ accessible | Focus is on Christ as the center | Katrina | Church provided space for non-profit org. |
| YAG | Easter Miracle | Invited by Friends | Satisfaction | Not about \$ |

Question #2: What impact do you want Lourdes to have on our neighborhood, our city, our world?

Commentary: Recurring Themes: Youth Outreach, Social Justice, Values, Economic Development.

Participants resoundingly want Lourdes to have an impact on youth outreach (15 respondents) through communication (hold meetings, conversation, facilitate gatherings, hold a youth conference) and activities to excite, engage and mentor youth in the community and diocese. Respondents also wanted Lourdes to have a social justice (9 respondents) imprint on the community through current activities (serving the homeless, Lourdes lunch, St. Vincent de Paul, ABLE) and through economic development/partnerships (5 respondents). Several respondents wanted Lourdes impact to be value driven (6 respondents).

Response - What impact do you want Lourdes to have on our neighborhood, our city, our world?

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| <p>Youth Outreach (15)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintain connection w/ Catholic, school age children ▪ Hold meetings/conversations with younger members ▪ “bus tour” of catholic schools for youth gathering – youngster recommended. ▪ Collaborate with youth in community activities ▪ Excite/engage Youth ▪ Collaborate w/ other parishes – teen conference ▪ Children Nativity ▪ Youth mentoring outside of church led by Men’s club – United Men of | <p>Social Justice (9)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Serving Homeless ▪ Root cause of homelessness ▪ Cont. to serve people in community ▪ Lourdes Lunch ▪ Social Justice ▪ St. Vincent de Paul ▪ Member involvement in community issues ▪ ABLE ▪ Community outreach ▪ ID current new needs ▪ Worship thru action | <p>Share values (6)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintain honor of 1st African Amer Church. ▪ Do big new things “our” inclusive way. ▪ Acknowledge honor share our unique sacredness ▪ Radiate Christ – Live gospel ▪ Share our diversity, community of faith: race, economic ▪ Respectful of community | <p>Partner w/ business for neighborhood improvement (5)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Connection btw Lourdes and hood re our resources. ▪ Listing of Lourdes businesses ▪ Community solidarity ▪ Promote/educate economic community programs. ▪ Investment in community shared on all economic levels | <p>Continue relationship w/ other churches (4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Holiness Church ▪ Ebenezer ▪ Universal, diverse congregation ▪ Inclusion of church neighborhood worship |
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| <p>Jesus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Involve Young adults 20s – 30s ▪ Serve young moving into 4th ward. ▪ Pro bono, educational, entertainment anti-drug msg. <p>Youth Outreach Cont.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Get school back. ▪ Ministry for youth ▪ Identify needs for tutoring. ▪ John Hope tutoring ▪ Instill values of Catholic church w/ school – John Hope. ▪ Community childcare center year round | | | | |
| <p>Interface w/ King Center (2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Establish closer relationship with MLK & Park Service | <p>More intern'l trips</p> | <p>Reach out to non-practicing Catholics</p> | <p>Retreats, talks across diocese</p> | <p>Spiritual mentorship</p> |
| <p>Provide church jobs to parishioners in financial need.</p> | <p>Provide space for community to meet and gather.</p> | <p>.Ministry for men</p> | | |

Question #3 What does Lourdes stand for? What should Lourdes do more of?

Commentary Recurring theme: Zip Code Grouping

With the exception of zip code grouping (3 respondents), this question did not generate any distinct trends. Responses, however, fell into three broad categories: Increase youth focused activities (7 respondents); Time and Talent forms (4 respondents); and Family focused activities (4 respondents).

Response - What does Lourdes stand for? What should Lourdes do more of?

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| <p>Youth (7)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Teen led Kwanzaa – Patrick Turner will lead. ▪ Kid friendly activities ▪ Continue teaching/providing education to children ▪ Ministries for youth & men ▪ Involvement in Catholic Education ▪ School – (John Hope Consider) ▪ Teen ministry full-time program. | <p>“Time and Talent.”(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improve follow-up ▪ Confusion: do you want to join or do you already belong? ▪ Help people identify their talent. | <p>Family (4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Family fellowship outside of church – game night ▪ Parenting education/support to Lourdes and community ▪ Demonstrate commitment to Family ▪ A group for married w/children (Bridget) | <p>Zip code groupings to increase community (3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Small Faith communities ▪ Zip code brunch | <p>Better use of technology (3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Automated phone messages to communicate updates. ▪ Email communication – AirSet. ▪ Link on Lourdes site for disconnected (non-active) Catholics. Fr. John live blog |
| <p>Building/Space (3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Almost everyone thinks we should build a new building. ▪ Build in meeting space & class rooms ▪ Rethink parking, maybe a deck. ▪ Better use of space ▪ Space for people to come to church. | <p>Ministry Communication (2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ disseminate ministry activities in bulletin & thru FAQ on website. ▪ Better communication abt ministries - referral system? | <p>History (2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Capture & share history of Lourdes ▪ History of African American Catholics | <p>Social Justice (2)</p> <p>Increase support of Sullivan Center</p> | <p>Parishioner Involvement (2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Engage non-active Lourdes community to get involved. Spirit of invitation to “80%” – non-active ▪ Raise level of participation –same people do everything - |
| <p>Q&A on biblical passage.</p> | <p>Intergenerational</p> | <p>*Evangelization to</p> | <p>Continue Christian presence</p> | <p>Outreach to male</p> |

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| | events/ministries to benefit all. ▪ One-to-one encouragement | Community | in community | parishioners (young & older) |
| *Offer ways for members to engage, i.e., homily sharing | Seasonal study groups (lent, advent) | Growth in LAPS | .More social events. | Beacon for rest of community |

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| Serve physical needs of community | Reach out to catholic churches to encourage more ecumenical activities. | Continue involvement in other church communities | Adult formation ▪ Faith Formation Adult Education (Literacy) | Visits/Outreach to nursing home |
| Maintain who we are: Building/Simplicity/Practicality to continue | Dave Ramsey Series – Financial Peace University | Offer “Just-Faith” program | . Borrow St. Paul of the Cross for outdoor activities. They have 15 acres of land – Interfaith opportunity | Let neighborhood know more abt our ministries |
| Fewer meetings! | Reach out to GA State students abt mass | Address further material needs of neighborhood, like the 400 who come to Lourdes Lunch. | | |