

NATIONAL CHURCH LIFE SURVEY 2006
Summary of Church Profile for St. Augustine's Parish

A total of 220 questionnaires were completed by parishioners of our Parish. The main survey results for the Parish relating to what parishioners value and hope for are set out below. They are listed in priority order, as determined by respondents to the survey.

The aspects of Church that people say they value are deemed to speak of how the Parish sees itself, while the aspects parishioners have indicated they hope for, or need attention, are deemed to speak of what the Parish wishes to become.

Aspects of Church Most Valued

- Celebrating the Eucharist/receiving Holy Communion
- The Parish School
- Praying for one another
- Traditional style of worship or music
- Practical care for one another in time of need
- Social activities or meeting new people
- Sermons or homilies
- Wider community care or social justice emphasis
- Contemporary style of worship or music
- Ministry to children or youth
- Reaching out to those who do not attend Church
- Small prayer, discussion or Bible groups
- Openness to social diversity

Aspects of Church That Should Get More Attention

- Increasing the number of people at Mass and starting a program for reaching people who do not go to Church
- Building a strong sense of community in the Parish
- Worship services that are nurturing to people's faith
- Ensuring new people are well included in Church life
- Encouraging people to discover/use their gifts
- Ministry to children and youth
- Supporting social action and aid to people in need
- Creating a clear vision for the Parish's future
- Small groups focused on Christian growth
- Encouraging people here to share their faith or invite others

Responding to the Survey Results

It would be impractical to endeavour to simultaneously address all the issues identified. The approach recommended by NCLS Research, the company who conducted the survey and who has been carrying out such surveys for over two decades, is that one or two of the topics parishioners have identified be selected and action implemented to address these, having regard to the detailed information provided via the nine Core Qualities and the Attendance Measures set out in the survey results. This would include the strengthening of aspects most valued as well as considering areas in need of more attention.

Ultimately, the Parish, most likely through the Parish Pastoral Council, will need to decide how the survey results will be addressed.