



SUMMARY OF JUNE 5, 2019 PARISH MEETING

Father Scott and the presidents of the three Parish Councils informed our parishioners about the decline in weekend Mass attendance for the parish. The meeting on Wednesday, June 5th was designed to provide an expanded explanation of Father Scott's presentation of June 1-2. The meeting was followed by an active Question and Answer session.

ABVM Mass attendance is down 17 percent from year to year. This is not unique nationally nor on a diocesan level.

The immediate financial impact is that we will not be able to set aside as much money from the 2019 Parish Appeal in the emergency fund as we planned and we must defer the recoating of the Parish Center roof. Additionally the continued repaving of the parking lot will be deferred. The Leadership Team recognizes that we need to address the attendance decline. We have designed an action plan whose theme is **RENEWING THE ABVM SPIRIT**.

Deacon Mike DeGrasse identified current programs which should be enhanced and new programs that can be initiated. The existing programs are:

- Rebuilding the Welcoming Committee
- Fostering small group Women's Bible Study
- Expanding Adult Faith Formation
- Fostering the Men's Prayer Group,
- Increasing use of FORMED.ORG
- Maintaining Alpha for Catholics
- Expanding the Guest Speaker Program

The new programs to be initiated:

- Small Group Home Bible Study
- Meet with those who have left the parish to determine WHY they left
- Establish a Young Mother's Group

Deacon Mike also discussed the need to involve families in the practice of faith, such as the Children's Liturgy at the 10 o'clock Mass.

Following the presentation approximately a 30 minute active Question and Answer period took place. Numerous excellent questions were asked and answered. Moving forward, this information will be considered. The primary issue was that the parish needs to contact parishioners that have left sooner to determine their reason for leaving. Another prime point of discussion related to us doing a better job of welcoming new families to the parish. Additionally, more than a dozen parishioners have offered suggestions for changes the parish can make to improve attendance at Mass. These suggestions will be reviewed, evaluated and considered for implementation.

The group recognized that implementation of many of the suggestions provided will require additional volunteers to be successful. Look forward to us reaching out to the Parish to meet these needs.

We are a vibrant parish and need to make a greater effort to reach the unchurched. There will be additional reports to the Parish as we implement **RENEWING THE ABVM SPIRIT**. Questions are welcome! Talk to Father Scott or send an email to genefogarty@verizon.net.

We exist as a parish to help people *Know Jesus, Love Jesus, and Serve Jesus*. Let us pray and work together to advance this mission.