

Jon welcomed Kathleen DeCaire-Aden who is joining us as an assistant facilitator for our strong, talkative and engaging group. We have had 475 responses to the Parish Survey which is again record breaking for the archdiocese and demonstrates the commitment to this process from the parish at large.

John Lorbach began our evening presenting on the current State of St. Raymond Parish:

- strong liturgies and music
- education and spiritual formation of children
- energetic youth group
- effective adult outreach
- wonderful active senior community
- dedicated to social justice
- love for ecumenical and interfaith connection

Our greatest current challenge is that we do not have a pastor and must consider why.

In light of our current situation, Kathleen has revisited our hopes and concerns from our very first meeting on the grid which follows as a separate document.

We discussed the idea of our Pearls of Great Price. We studied examples of other churches that took a uniqueness of their parish and used it to evangelize – taking a core value “outside the box.” For example, St. Mary of the Annunciation was situated on a large parcel of land which was their uniqueness and was used for a Pork & Corn Roast and also for soccer fields for an emerging immigrant population.

We split into eight groups to begin to discern our Pearl of Great “Value” – a pearl which is lustrous and remains lustrous over time. To summarize the two Pearls identified by each group:

1. Welcoming – open to involvement by all
Generosity of the community – serving those in need, motivated to help
2. Sense of Community – ministries are the Holy Spirit in action, spiritual centers of growth
Joyful celebrations – vibrant music and engaging homilies
3. Ministry – within our community and reaching beyond our community
Worship – liturgy and music
4. Adult Servant Leadership – focused on Catholic ministry to serve and follow Jesus
Commitment to youth faith formation
5. Adult opportunities – growth in the spirit, a welcoming place for everyone
Common shared product of Catholic education and proponents of Catholic education
6. Offers everyone the opportunity to get involved – vibrant liturgical celebrations
School and Religious Education – faith education in general
7. Inclusive community embracing both traditional and progressive elements
Faith-filled, supportive, welcoming, engaged family – in a good central location
8. Many ministries which serve our community and are a vehicle for people to be more active in their faith life
Continuous presence for a long time of good music and liturgies – especially sacramental

Fr. Ed closed our evening reminding us that our Pearl of Great Value will illuminate what we value as a church and what it means to us. He again issued an invitation for all people who are spirit-filled to be part of this process to renew and invigorate our parish. We are encouraged to speak with candor – to

critically examine without judgement. Please read pages 20-37 of the Mission Workbook and join us next Tuesday, October 6 from 7-9pm in the Loftus Parish Life Center.