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Dear St. Raphael Parish Family!

We are happy to let you know that over 430 parishioners, about 33%, responded to our parish survey. Thank you! That is a very good response rate to any survey. There were not many surprises in the results, but we want to share some key points about the parish, and more specifically, how the findings relate to our participation in *Courageously Living the Gospel*.

About the Parish

- Half of the respondents were under 60 years of age and almost 60% have been parish members more than 10 years.
- 32% of the respondents have children under the age of 18 living at home.
- 76% of parents with school age children attend Catholic School or Faith Formation.
- Over 90% indicated that the Parish Bulletin and Mass announcements are the main sources of information for parish activities and events. About 30% indicated websites, emails or other electronic methods were also important for communication.
- 70% of respondents are involved in at least one of the 30 parish ministries.
- 77% have encouraged someone to attend Mass while 52% have brought someone to Mass.
- 72% have invited someone to a parish program while 23% have invited someone to a school program.

Ideas about Parish Events & Programs

- 60% said they would be more likely to attend a parish event or program following Sunday 11:30 AM Mass or an evening during the week.
- The majority responded that they are willing to come to a 1 to 2 hour parish event 1 time a month.
- 55% are willing to help expand our welcome ministry with another 36% interested in becoming greeters at Mass or are willing to participate in some form of welcoming.
- 49% are interested in attending and helping with a quarterly "New Parishioner" gathering!
- Over 60% said they are interested in having speakers on church practices and theology. Second was community outreach and third was social events.
- 45% indicated that we need to grow the Young Adult Ministry.

As we move forward with our plans for *Courageously Living the Gospel*, we encourage parish members to attend and increase involvement in future parish programs, events and ministries. Watch the bulletin for your personal invitation to grow in faith and strengthen the evangelization message within and outside our parish.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Tim Sherwood, Pastor