

The following thoughts represent the collective mindset of approximately 30 parishioners

**Question 1 – What do you identify as our community's WEALTH?**

- The love and closeness we have with each other – Unity
- Our closeness, family, willingness to help, and faith
- The kindness of the people. Always a smile and salutation.
- Sense of family as most families here are large and stay together
- Our diversity and the harmony in which we live together
- Kindness, Willingness
- Generosity and compassion to our neighbors within our community. If a person is sick, in need of, death; someone in the community will assist
- Family
- Liturgies, St Ignatius School, a beautiful church
- (Willingness) to give to the parish as much as we can
- The resources at the College, the historical presence of the Church, the elderly and their historical knowledge, the Academy
- Our richness in strong religious teachings and history in our community
- Our diverse community as far as welcoming everyone into our Church
- Family ties, friendship, support each other, community involvement
- So many priest and religious surrounding our parish, the retreat center, Jesuit center, catholic school, Beautiful Church with such history, close-knit families
- We have a lot of good things and places
- The prayerful inclusion of all people in our community and the welcoming attitude of parishioners
- People of faith, caring, and compassion
- Spiritual resources, spiritual “aura” of vicinity/area, neighborly-ness
- Faith-filled People of God, humble people, prayerful people, loving, compassionate and accepting people
- Our bible study classes and our access to the spirituality offered
- Father Derrick and the priest we have had over the last couple of years, Deacons, Lay persons, lectors, Eucharistic ministry, prayer blanket ministry, church personnel
- Diversity and Willingness to give, to help those in need
- The wonderful places of worship, the giving of self from our church community and those outside our church, ASH (boys and girls), Jesuit home, Our Lady of the Oaks, St Charles Church body and place
- Strong connection with Jesuit College and heritage.

**Question 2 – What do you see as our community's POVERTY (unmet needs)?**

- The lack of knowledge of those in need
- Education
- The roadblocks and conditions that make it difficult for us to get together, and spend time together.
- Poverty in the lack of education in our community

- Love unconditionally is hard to give without expecting something in return. As a community we struggle not giving of ourselves without expecting a pay back
- Old age - sickness
- The pastor is now superior of the Jesuit community – therefore he is unable to spend as much time at the church as he used to.
- Religious education for elementary school students
- Building maintenance obligations
- A lack of education/catechesis in our young people; lack of involvement in city, parish, church
- The many people always in need both in lack of clothing, food, shelter as well as not being part of our church parish
- Loss of family roots (through divorce, death, leaving church for various reasons). Support and hope for divorced individuals who don't seek annulment – grief process after divorce and death of spouse.
- There is no list of various organizations and ministries available to lay people of the parish
- Lack of catechesis, instilling reverence for liturgy (which may be due to a lack of understanding of our faith), Ir-reverent mode of dress
- Not enough union prayer
- We need more adult education and more participation in prayer groups
- Low participation in church offered activities (mass, studies, novenas)
- Lack of discipleship, and continuing catechesis
- Still thirsting for God and His Holy Word in Scripture, true understanding of walking in someone's shoes
- People not taking advantage of bible studies and the spirituality offered.
- Number of study groups and not enough Lay people stepping forward at Mass
- Not putting God first, making excuses for not attending Mass
- No fellowship
- Division of beliefs
- (No) youth outlets

After reviewing what a representative sampling of parishioners say is our wealth and poverty, consider the following;

In (Matthew 28:19), Jesus commands his disciples, "Go, therefore, and make disciples,..." Since the Catholic Bible is based on the Greek version of the Hebrew Bible (i.e Septuagint), to best understand what a disciple is we consider the Greek meaning of the word disciple - which means; a "*learner*" or, on a more committed level an "*adherent*."

"Go and Make Disciples," is the mission of the Universal Church. The website for United States Conference of Catholic Bishops ([www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)) details its National Plan and Strategy for Catholic Evangelization in the United States.

You can also find this offering by googling or searching the internet using the term, "go and make disciples usccb."