

United By Faith

Together With Christ, For Our Future

Parishioner Survey

December 2013

This survey is the result of the 8 listening sessions held in our three parishes during October and November. We are grateful to all those who participated. It is time for all parishioners to offer their views on the various project ideas being considered for our parishes.

Please identify your parish affiliation: St. Michael St. Joseph Sacred Heart
(please circle one – you do not need to give your name)

Instructions:

Each parishioner, regardless of parish affiliation, is asked to complete the full survey covering all three parishes. *Answers will be weighted toward the parish of affiliation*; however, we still need to know the opinions of all parishioners about the various possible projects ahead of us.

Under each project, (divided as A. B. C. etc.), is a series of project elements, (1. 2. 3. etc.). You are asked to give your opinion about each element as follows:

SA = Strongly Agree **A** = Agree **N** = Neutral **D** = Disagree **SD** = Strongly Disagree

Please circle the appropriate letter(s) to express your opinion.

Please note, if you do not believe you know enough to offer an opinion, or you are not comfortable offering an opinion, please circle the last option:

DK = Don't Know.

You are welcome to offer comments in the margins if you feel a need to let us know more about your ideas. Please return the completed survey by December 15, 2013, either to your church or to the Pastoral Center in Paulina.

I. St. Michael Parish (including St. Mary's Church)

A. St. Michael Parish Hall is the most utilized building at St. Michael after the church itself. The festival, meetings, retreats, organization dinners, wedding receptions, bereavement meals, and the like are ongoing. So there is a need to renovate as well as maintain the condition of the building for optimum use. Please evaluate these various elements of the proposed renovation of the hall.

1. Metal fatigue due to age requires the replacement of the sheet metal walls and roof of the building.

SA A N D SD DK

2. A "drop ceiling" could be installed at 12 to 14 feet above the floor to better insulate and reduce utility costs for the building.

SA A N D SD DK

3. The restrooms are in need of some renovation to be adequate and ADA code compliant.
SA A N D SD DK
4. The kitchen needs to be updated to be more functional for food preparation and better serving.
SA A N D SD DK
5. Renovation of the electrical system is needed for safety as well as for better function and appearance.
SA A N D SD DK
6. Sheetrock walls can be installed to enhance the overall appearance of the interior.
SA A N D SD DK
7. Better windows for more natural lighting need to be installed if the walls are replaced.
SA A N D SD DK
8. The stage area can be reduced and storage rooms constructed on either side as a place for the tables and chairs when not in use.
SA A N D SD DK
9. The heat and air system needs to be renovated to provide better distribution and to reduce consumption costs.
SA A N D SD DK
10. An extended covering off the front of the hall can be constructed to provide a "drop-off" space in times of bad weather.
SA A N D SD DK
11. The floor of the hall should be worked on to make it more durable and enhance its appearance.
SA A N D SD DK
12. Parking that is more convenient for use of the hall needs to be provided somehow.
SA A N D SD DK
13. An open air pavilion should be constructed between the hall and the school building for the festival and other activities.
SA A N D SD DK
14. The sound system in the hall needs to be updated.
SA A N D SD DK
15. A sprinkler system needs to be installed in the hall for added safety.
SA A N D SD DK
16. Office space should be added to the hall for easier access than that provided by the school building.
SA A N D SD DK
17. The hall should be redesigned to be used for religion classes so not as much money needs to be spent on the school building.
SA A N D SD DK

B. The St. Michael School building is a significant part of the parish history and is still utilized for religion classes, retreats, meeting space, and the deacon’s office. When and if the repairs needed are accomplished, this building could be used for even more purposes and activities.

1. Because of water erosion under the building, there is a need to replace a number of piers and sills to support and re-level the building. This would be needed just to preserve the integrity of the building.

SA A N D SD DK

2. The concrete porch is just about beyond repair. It can be replaced with a lighter and better structure that would reduce strain on the building’s foundation.

SA A N D SD DK

3. Because of the un-level floors, many doors, windows, and sections of flooring need major carpentry work to be restored.

SA A N D SD DK

4. The bathroom spaces need to be fully repaired so they can be usable after the renovation is accomplished.

SA A N D SD DK

5. Because of its use for religion classes, it would be wise to install a fire alarm system for the safety of children, teachers, and others.

SA A N D SD DK

6. It may be possible, because of all the foundational work which needs to be done, to move the whole building further back on the property so that more parking could be offered for the church and parish hall. This option should be considered.

SA A N D SD DK

7. The current functions of the school building should be added to the parish hall and the school itself torn down because it is too expensive to be renovated.

SA A N D SD DK

C. St. Michael Rectory and attached Kitchen building are still utilized even if a priest is not in full-time residence. At the moment the Jesuits of Manresa are renting the rectory while their residence is undergoing renovations. As well, our own priests stay there from time to time, and it is similarly used for visiting priests. The kitchen building is part of the history of the parish, and is primarily used for storage and a few other church purposes.

1. Exterior maintenance needs to be done on doors, windows, shutters, steps, and the like to maintain the buildings.

SA A N D SD DK

2. Because it is still utilized by the priests the carport needs to be repaired or replaced.

SA A N D SD DK

3. The interior of the kitchen building could be “guttled” and re-purposed, albeit there is no simple way to make it handicap accessible.

SA A N D SD DK

4. Handicap access needs to be provided for the rectory itself.
SA A N D SD DK

D. St. Michael Church itself, even though it has gone through restoration and roof replacement, is still in need of attention. These ideas have surfaced for parishioner consideration.

1. Preservative maintenance needs to be done, such as, painting door and window trims and treatments.
SA A N D SD DK

2. The refurbishing of the sacristy was suspended some years back, and this needs to be finished.
SA A N D SD DK

3. There is a need to provide several handicap parking spaces on the east (Courthouse side) of the church near the ramp.
SA A N D SD DK

4. Because the choir loft is so small, it needs to be expanded and provided with some appropriate form of emergency exit.
SA A N D SD DK

5. The organs, pianos, and keyboard all need to be refurbished or replaced for the sake of better music in worship.
SA A N D SD DK

6. The pews need to have more space for people to enter and exit.
SA A N D SD DK

7. The kneelers are difficult for many people and need to be designed to be attached to the pews so they can be lifted out of the way.
SA A N D SD DK

8. Much of the exterior landscaping was removed, so now the church needs attractive landscaping to beautify our grounds.
SA A N D SD DK

9. The sidewalks need to be repaired and widened.
SA A N D SD DK

10. Some form of covered drop-off space needs to be created and covering provided between the church and parish hall.
SA A N D SD DK

11. A new steeple should be erected to replace the one destroyed by Hurricane Betsy some 50 years ago.
SA A N D SD DK

12. The parking lots, both in front of the church and the school need attention, such as, some resurfacing (asphalt overlay), some clean up, and re-striping to help make parking more efficient.

SA A N D SD DK

Please note: while some have asked to have the Communion Rail re-installed, permission to do such would most likely be denied by the Diocesan Liturgy Committee. It is not reasonable to pursue this request at this time.

E. St. Mary's church building, even if parishioner demographics and the availability of priests suggest that weekly and/or regular use of the building is unlikely, remains the responsibility of St. Michael Parish. There are occasional requests for funerals and weddings, but because of disrepair, the building is currently not useable. To preserve the building with its historical significance and potential use repairs need to be undertaken.

1. The roof is aged and has extensive damage, so it needs to be repaired but most likely replaced.

SA A N D SD DK

2. The heating and air system are likewise in need of major repair and/or replacement.

SA A N D SD DK

3. Extensive carpentry repairs to walls, windows, doors, and such need to be undertaken.

SA A N D SD DK

4. The floor throughout the church needs serious attention, possibly removing the carpet and returning to the original hardwood floor.

SA A N D SD DK

5. Electrical and plumbing systems need to be updated for efficiency and safety.

SA A N D SD DK

6. Walkways and exterior steps and railings need repair and/or replacement.

SA A N D SD DK

F. St. Mary's church building may be beyond the financial capability of St. Michael Parish to maintain adequately. For the historical preservation of the building, the very difficult decision might need to be made that St. Michael would surrender control of and responsibility for, (that is, sell and/or donate), the building. This does ***NOT*** mean the *church property* or *St. Mary's cemetery* would be surrendered, but only the church building. Options include:

1. The church parish would find a buyer who would promise to move (relocate off the property) the building to a new site for its renovation and upkeep.

SA A N D SD DK

2. The church parish would find a buyer who would purchase the building and enough land at its current site, freeing this new owner to utilize the building as they deem appropriate.

SA A N D SD DK

3. The church parish would invite private citizens and/or parishioners interested in establishing a “museum corporation” for their own preservation of the building, opening up the possibility of museum grants for the repairs and restoration.

SA A N D SD DK

G. Overall priority for the various projects for St. Michael Parish. Please number 1 to 6 the order of priority you would give each project.

- _____ A. St. Michael Parish Hall
- _____ B. St. Michael School building
- _____ C. St. Michael Rectory with attached kitchen building
- _____ D. St. Michael Church maintenance and parking lot
- _____ E. St. Mary’s repair
- _____ F. St. Mary’s surrender

II. Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish

A. The debt which Sacred Heart Parish still owes (approx. \$80,000) to the Diocese of Baton Rouge should be paid off before any other major expenditures would be undertaken. **Note:** this debt is the balance owed on the construction of the newer PSR building, plus some of the cost of the roof repair to the rectory following Hurricane Isaac.

- This debt should be retired before any other major undertaking begins.

SA A N D SD DK

B. The Sacred Heart Church roof is actually the original roof of the church, even if often repaired, and is asbestos shingles. It now needs to be fully replaced. The Pastoral Council and Facilities Committee have agreed that durability will be uppermost factor in determining the kind of replacement roof chosen.

- The old roof should be replaced as soon as possible with a long-lasting roof.

SA A N D SD DK

C. The Sacred Heart Church choir loft is particularly unsafe in case choir members would need to make an emergency exit because the existing chair lift causes an obstruction of the one and only way in and out of the loft.

1. One option would be to provide an emergency exit to the outside of the church with a metal fire escape.

SA A N D SD DK

2. A different “fix” for the choir loft would be to extend the space further into the body of the church and provide dual stairs.

SA A N D SD DK

3. A third option for the choir space would be to abandon the loft and create a space near the altar sanctuary for all choirs to use.

SA A N D SD DK

D. The Sacred Heart Church building has other needs which surfaced during the recent input sessions. We would like all parishioners to give their opinions about the list of projects.

1. The carpet needs to be removed from the church with a return to the old hard surface flooring.

SA A N D SD DK

2. The pews need to be re-arranged to give more space between the pews for entering and exiting.

SA A N D SD DK

3. The sound system needs to be upgraded and/or fixed and/or adjusted.

SA A N D SD DK

4. The church bathroom needs to be made handicap accessible and/or updated.

SA A N D SD DK

5. The heat and air system needs to be updated for better distribution of air and control of temperature.

SA A N D SD DK

6. The baptismal font needs to be moved for better visibility by the congregation.

SA A N D SD DK

E. Sacred Heart Center is utilized regularly (several times each week) for meetings, PSR classes and retreats, dinners, and bereavements, yet there is much renovation which needs to take place for the building to be at its best.

1. The bathrooms are in very poor condition and need renovations and ADA compliance.

SA A N D SD DK

2. The kitchen, especially the stove, cannot be used and is in serious need of renovation.

SA A N D SD DK

3. The heating and air system is antiquated; and updating could help reduce wasted utilities (and probably rid the building of the "gas" smell).

SA A N D SD DK

4. By renovations to the ceiling, a better sense of "openness" could be given to the space, enhancing its quality.

SA A N D SD DK

5. The lighting can be easily updated and enhanced, also reducing wasted utilities.

SA A N D SD DK

6. Doors and windows need to be replaced in order to provide better insulation value and improve the quality of the building.

SA A N D SD DK

7. A more attractive entry way could be constructed including a covered drop-off space.
SA A N D SD DK
8. The whole building, that is, the Center and the older PSR classroom space, could be demolished and a new and better designed center and classrooms should be built.
SA A N D SD DK
9. Interior furnishings, that is, tables and/or chairs, need to be updated.
SA A N D SD DK
10. In remodeling the Center, consider adding meeting space in this building to remove the meeting room from the priests' residence.
SA A N D SD DK

F. The older PSR building at Sacred Heart has become inefficient as a teaching space as well as in the consumption of utilities; it is in need of certain improvements.

1. The doors and windows could be replaced with more energy efficient products. And the ceiling could be insulated better for the same purpose.
SA A N D SD DK
2. The heating and air system could be centralized or improved to be more cost efficient for the space.
SA A N D SD DK
3. The bathrooms could be renovated for better utility and cleanliness.
SA A N D SD DK
4. Repeating what was suggested above, the whole building, that is, the Center and the older PSR classroom space, could be demolished and a new and better designed center and classrooms should be built.
SA A N D SD DK

G. Overall priority for the various projects for Sacred Heart Parish. Please number 1 to 6 the order of priority you would give each project.

- _____ A. Sacred Heart debt pay-off
- _____ B. Sacred Heart Church roof
- _____ C. Sacred Heart choir loft
- _____ D. Sacred Heart Church building issues
- _____ E. Sacred Heart Center
- _____ F. Sacred Heart older PSR building

III. St. Joseph Parish (including Lutcher Chapel)

A. St. Joseph Church building, while the outside has been waterproofed and painted and the roof and steeple repaired, still needs quite a bit of interior work.

1. The walls and ceiling damaged by water intrusion need to be repaired and repainted.
SA A N D SD DK
2. The heating and air system works correctly but the issue of hot/cold spots and a better thermostat system needs to be addressed.
SA A N D SD DK
3. Some pews and kneelers need repairs and all could stand to be refinished. **Note:** the pews are too historically significant simply to replace them; thus, they must be repaired and refinished as best as possible.
SA A N D SD DK
4. For some, the pew platform is a trip hazard, which might require removal if possible to avoid people being seriously injured by tripping and falling.
SA A N D SD DK
5. The carpet in the aisles and sanctuary could be removed to return the floors to the more original hard tile surface.
SA A N D SD DK
6. There is the possibility of a historical renovation of the sanctuary, to recover the original altar platform height (one step lower) providing slightly more room in the sanctuary. This would also entail re-installing the tabernacle in the high altar.
SA A N D SD DK
7. If still more space is needed for the sanctuary, the pews added in some time ago could be removed again.
SA A N D SD DK
8. The altar platform needs to be made handicap accessible.
SA A N D SD DK
9. The lighting inside the church, both in the central body and for the sanctuary and choir loft, could be enhance and updated.
SA A N D SD DK
10. Renovations can be made to enhance the front entry of the church and the way the space is utilized. That is, the doors, "cry room" spaces, reconciliation room, vesting sacristy, bathroom, and such would be renovated for better function.
SA A N D SD DK
11. The choir loft could use better storage space; the variety of steps, which pose a trip hazard for some, needs to be addressed, as well as the elevator safety issue and the emergency exit issue.
SA A N D SD DK

12. The sound system needs to be updated, especially if acoustical changes will take place.

SA A N D SD DK

13. A handicap ramp needs to be provided for the west side entrance as an added entrance beside the ramp to the front of the church.

SA A N D SD DK

14. The possibility of better automation for the lights, A/C, door locks, and such needs to be investigated as possible cost savings measures through improved efficiency.

SA A N D SD DK

B. Other needs for St. Joseph Parish and the Lutcher Chapel have surfaced during the recent input sessions. We would like all parishioners to give their opinions about the list of projects.

1. The use of solar panels should be investigated to reduce electricity consumption by the parish buildings as a whole.

SA A N D SD DK

2. The Pastoral Center, though recently renovated by the prior pastor, still needs better insulation in attic and under the first floor to reduce utility costs.

SA A N D SD DK

3. The carport and/or garage needs to be reinstalled for the priests.

SA A N D SD DK

4. The Lutcher Chapel has drainage issues which need to be addressed.

SA A N D SD DK

5. A covered drop-off needs to be installed at the Lutcher Chapel on the north (parking lot) side of the building.

SA A N D SD DK

C. Additional parking spaces need to be added at St. Joseph Church because of the number of people who park dangerously on the two-way road by the rectory and even in the fire lane next to the church. It is possible to provide as many as 85 safe and secure parking spaces by creating a parking lot on the grass lot between the Pastoral Center and the Maintenance shed in front of the cemetery.

- The grass lot should be made into an asphalt parking lot for the safety and convenience of parking at St. Joseph.

SA A N D SD DK

D. Overall priority for the various projects for St. Joseph Parish. Please number 1 to 3 the order of priority you would give each project.

_____ A. St. Joseph Church

_____ B. Other needs

_____ C. Additional parking spaces