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Parish Feedback Summary **St. Justin Martyr Parish**

Sunset Hills, St. Louis County—Planning Area 5

January 2023

Section 1. Introduction

St. Justin Martyr parish had a 2022 mass attendance of 571 people. Approximately 383 people attended the two parish listening sessions. The online feedback survey had 146 respondents. Other feedback from Planning Area 5 as a whole, including free form feedback, totaled 22 pages (11 pages general planning area feedback and 11 pages of parish specific feedback), but most did not directly regard the situation of St. Justin Martyr. Planning Area 5 had 4 draft models.

Model A showed St. Justin Martyr merged with St. Elizabeth of Hungary and Our Lady of Providence

Models B,C and D showed St. Justin Martyr parish merged with St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish and St. Catherine Laboure.

Section 2. Listening Session Summary

There was significant support for option “A” for several reasons: it includes a combination of 3 relatively small parishes, St. Justin, St. Elizabeth, and OLP. Geographically, these parishes are proximate and there is already crossover in Mass attendance and ministries among the three parishes. There was concern expressed by many about the other models creating parishes that would be too large and they fear losing the sense of community. There were several comments on the lack of school data. The concern is the effect on young families and the fear of losing families to the Lindbergh School District.

- “Very frustrated that school data is not available because it impacts perspective on models” One Listening Session Attendee
- “Really big parishes might lack community and may not achieve goal of evangelization.” One Listening Session Attendee
- “Have multiple worship sites for merged parishes.” One Listening Session Attendee

Section 3. Online Survey Qualitative Summary

There are a number of comments focused on “Evangelization” to the various age groups. Most are on attention to the younger generations from just after high school to young adults from 54% of the respondents and specific comments from (19); there is also attention from 3 respondents on the older generation being left out of evangelization.

There are comments about the physical and psychological boundaries of the major highways and Meramec River (2)

This parish too is very concerned about the sizes of the combined parishes. With them being too large, hard to manage, loss of intimacy, and uninviting (68). However, there are a few stand out comments (3) for example, “the size of the combined parishes seems on target with the goal of this initiative”

There is a growing number of concerns with culture as well. Most are focused on difference of opinions or way of thinking. Also that the bigger/biggest church will have the most say and over power the smaller joining parishes. (28)

- “The area in yellow is geographically too large requiring people to drive to far to receive the sacraments and attend mass.”
- “Whitecliff Park and Grant's Farm create a sort of wall between St. Justin and OLP. The route to OLP for most people involves jumping on Pardee Rd somewhere between Eddie and Park and Grant Rd. It is a somewhat treacherous road, especially at night or in bad weather. This is probably one reason why so many people who are within OLPs boundaries end up at St. Justin.”
- “In addition to similar parish cultures, I think our existing ministries would really complement each other. We could work together cooperatively instead feeling like we have to compete to keep the ministries we are used to.”

Section 4. Free-Form Feedback Summary

The majority of the feedback concerning St. Justin Martyr discussed two different model options. The model in planning Option A that combined St. Elizabeth, St. Justin Martyr and Our Lady of Providence was received with strong agreeance (4.6 out of 5) and high priority (two number one votes, one number two vote, and one number three vote) from the key parish leaders. This grouping was also mentioned positively in the feedback three separate times by the key parish leaders. The model in planning Option B, C, and D was met less enthusiastically. The key parish leaders though that St. Justin merging with St. Catherine Laboure should be an option; however, only three key parish leaders spoke in favor of it, and four key parish leaders gave reasons why it should not be combined.

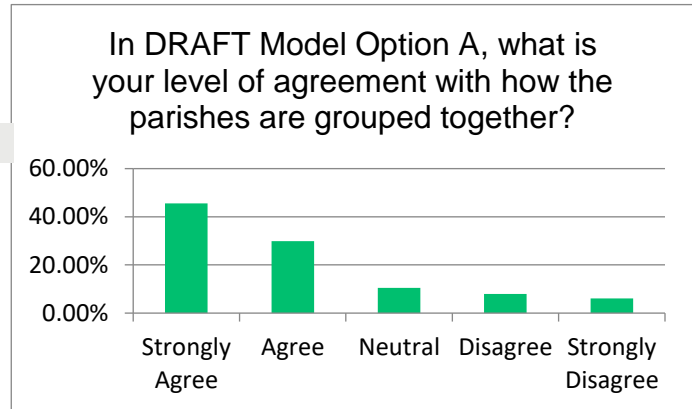
The best quote that encapsulates the feedback received was a comment from a key parish leader listed under the heading ‘what works and what makes sense’: “Our Lady of Providence, St. Justin and St. Elizabeth [being] grouped.”

Section 5. Online Survey Quantitative Summary

Section 5.1 Model A

In DRAFT Model Option A, what is your level of agreement with how the parishes are grouped together?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Strongly Agree	45.61%	52
Agree	29.82%	34
Neutral	10.53%	12
Disagree	7.89%	9
Strongly Disagree	6.14%	7
Answered	114	
Skipped	32	



What is strongest about DRAFT MODEL Option A?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Shares resources effectively	23.42%	26
Builds upon existing relationships among parishes	57.66%	64
Enables a platform for more robust evangelization or social outreach	6.31%	7
Provides better accessibility to a priest	12.61%	14

What is most challenging about DRAFT MODEL Option A?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Brings together communities that are too different	8.51%	8
Requires unrealistic demands on the clergy	4.26%	4
Creates a lot of difficulty for accessing Eucharist and the sacraments	15.96%	15
Neglects the financial needs of the community	7.45%	7
Other (please specify)	63.83%	60

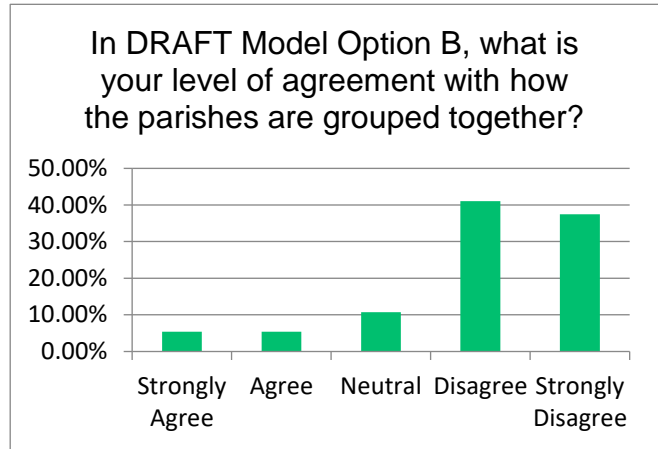
My DRAFT Model Option A feedback is driven primarily by...

Answer Choices	Responses	
Differences/Similarities in parish cultures	41.44%	46
Differences/Similarities in socio-economic factors	9.01%	10
Topography between parishes (hills, rivers, bridges)	1.80%	2
Distance between parishes	21.62%	24
Size of the potential parish(es)	23.42%	26
Potential or lack of potential for ministry opportunities	2.70%	3

Section 5.2 Model B

In DRAFT Model Option B, what is your level of agreement with how the parishes are grouped together?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Strongly Agree	2.78%	6
Agree	16.67%	6
Neutral	27.78%	12
Disagree	41.07%	46
Strongly Disagree	37.50%	42
Answered	36	
Skipped	48	



What is strongest about DRAFT MODEL Option B?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Shares resources effectively	33.71%	30
Builds upon existing relationships among parishes	15.73%	14
Enables a platform for more robust evangelization or social outreach	19.10%	17
Provides better accessibility to a priest	31.46%	28

What is most challenging about DRAFT MODEL Option B?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Brings together communities that are too different	46.79%	51
Requires unrealistic demands on the clergy	11.01%	12
Creates a lot of difficulty for accessing Eucharist and the sacraments	11.93%	13
Neglects the financial needs of the community	1.83%	2
Other (please specify)	28.44%	31

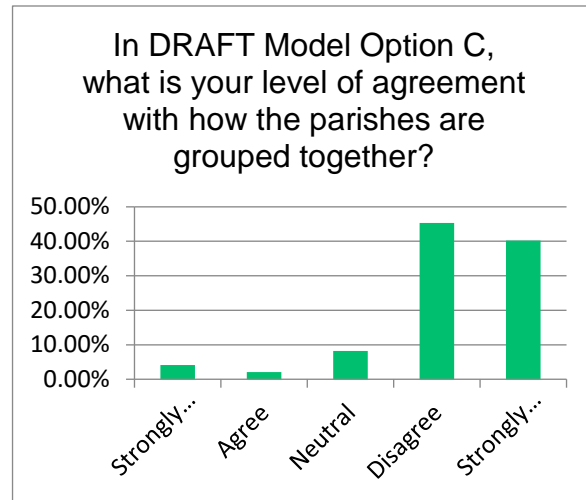
My DRAFT Model Option B feedback is driven primarily by...

Answer Choices	Responses	
None of the above	6.36%	7
Differences/Similarities in parish cultures	36.36%	40
Differences/Similarities in socio-economic factors	7.27%	8
Topography between parishes (hills, rivers, bridges)	0.91%	1
Distance between parishes	2.73%	3
Size of the potential parish(es)	46.36%	51
Potential or lack of potential for ministry opportunities	0.00%	0

Section 5.4 Model C

In DRAFT Model Option C, what is your level of agreement with how the parishes are grouped together?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Strongly Agree	4.12%	4
Agree	2.06%	2
Neutral	8.25%	8
Disagree	45.36%	44
Strongly Disagree	40.21%	39
Answered	97	
Skipped	49	



What is strongest about DRAFT MODEL Option C?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Shares resources effectively	30.14%	22
Builds upon existing relationships among parishes	13.70%	10
Enables a platform for more robust evangelization or social outreach	17.81%	13
Provides better accessibility to a priest	38.36%	28

What is most challenging about DRAFT MODEL Option C?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Brings together communities that are too different	38.71%	36
Requires unrealistic demands on the clergy	12.90%	12
Creates a lot of difficulty for accessing Eucharist and the sacraments	20.43%	19
Neglects the financial needs of the community	0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	27.96%	26

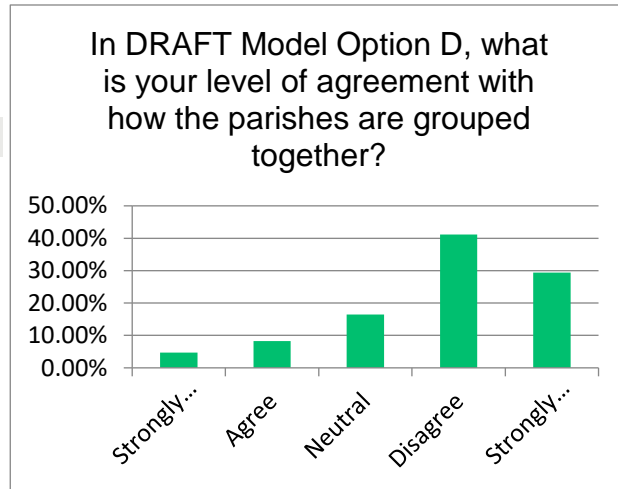
My DRAFT Model Option C feedback is driven primarily by...

Answer Choices	Responses	
Differences/Similarities in parish cultures	33.33%	31
Differences/Similarities in socio-economic factors	4.30%	4
Topography between parishes (hills, rivers, bridges)	3.15%	2
Distance between parishes	18.28%	17
Size of the potential parish(es)	39.78%	37
Potential or lack of potential for ministry opportunities	2.15%	2

Section 5.5 Model D

In DRAFT Model Option D, what is your level of agreement with how the parishes are grouped together?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Strongly Agree	4.71%	4
Agree	8.24%	7
Neutral	16.47%	14
Disagree	41.18%	35
Strongly Disagree	29.41%	25
Answered	85	
Skipped	61	



What is strongest about DRAFT MODEL Option D?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Shares resources effectively	37.50%	24
Builds upon existing relationships among parishes	20.31%	13
Enables a platform for more robust evangelization or social outreach	17.19%	11
Provides better accessibility to a priest	25.00%	16

What is most challenging about DRAFT MODEL Option D?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Brings together communities that are too different	41.03%	32
Requires unrealistic demands on the clergy	6.41%	5
Creates a lot of difficulty for accessing Eucharist and the sacraments	23.08%	18
Neglects the financial needs of the community	3.85%	3
Other (please specify)	25.64%	20

My DRAFT Model Option D feedback is driven primarily by...

Answer Choices	Responses	
Differences/Similarities in parish cultures	25.64%	20
Differences/Similarities in socio-economic factors	11.54%	9
Topography between parishes (hills, rivers, bridges)	6.41%	5
Distance between parishes	16.67%	13
Size of the potential parish(es)	38.46%	30
Potential or lack of potential for ministry opportunities	1.28%	1

Section 6 Alternative Models

Merge St. Justin and St. Elizabeth with half of St. Simon and merge the other half of St. Simon in with the Lemay parishes.

Section 7. Further questions

A Key Parish Leader identified that there is a strained relationship between the people of St. Justin Martyr and St. Elizabeth. Will this strained relationship change if these parishes are combined? How would a pastor of a combination parish with St. Justin Martyr and St. Elizabeth best navigate this tension?