

# Report for St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Holmen WI - Parish Survey

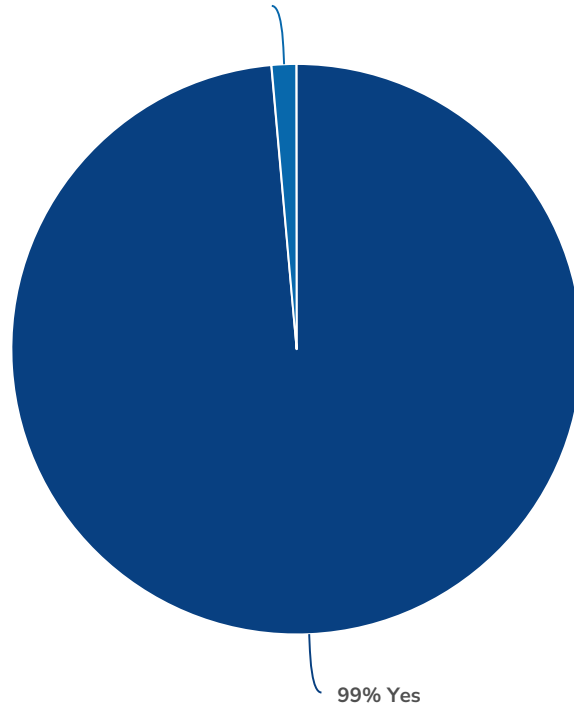
## Response Counts



Totals: 369

# 1. Are you a registered parishioner of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton?

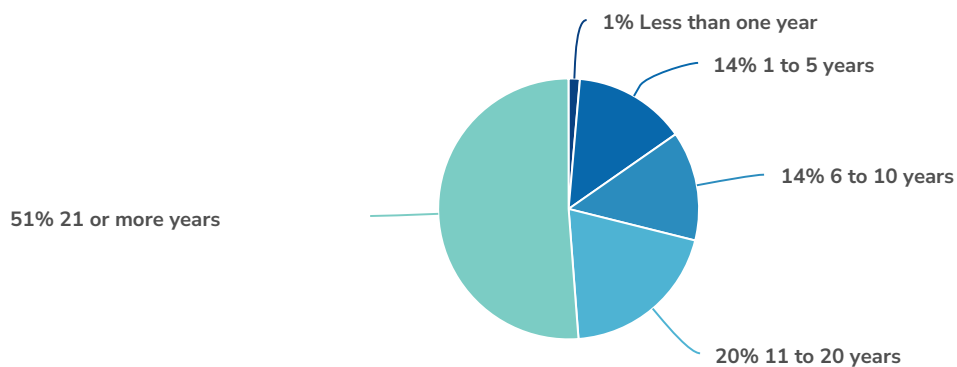
1% No



Value	Percent	Responses
Yes	98.6%	364
No	1.4%	5

Totals: 369

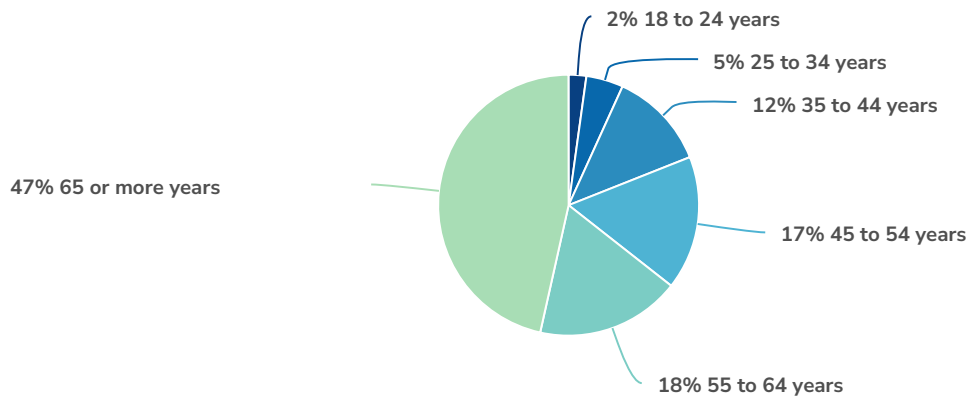
## 2. If yes, how long have you been a member of the parish?



Value	Percent	Responses
Less than one year	1.4%	5
1 to 5 years	13.9%	50
6 to 10 years	13.6%	49
11 to 20 years	19.9%	72
21 or more years	51.2%	185

**Totals: 361**

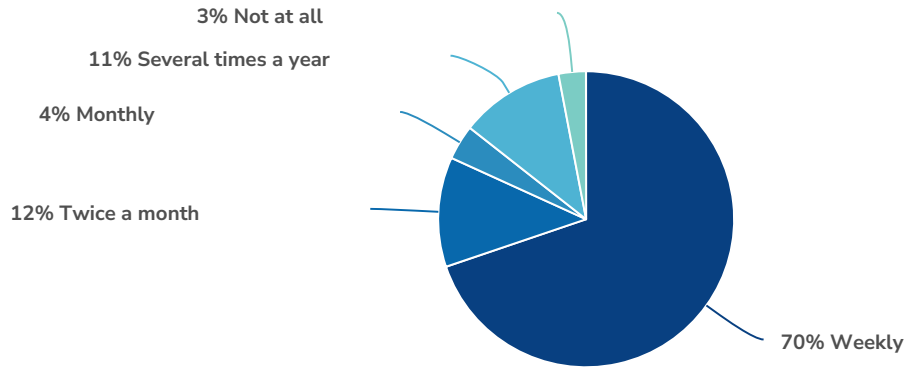
### 3. What is your age group?



Value	Percent	Responses
18 to 24 years	2.2%	8
25 to 34 years	4.6%	17
35 to 44 years	12.2%	45
45 to 54 years	16.6%	61
55 to 64 years	17.9%	66
65 or more years	46.5%	171

Totals: 368

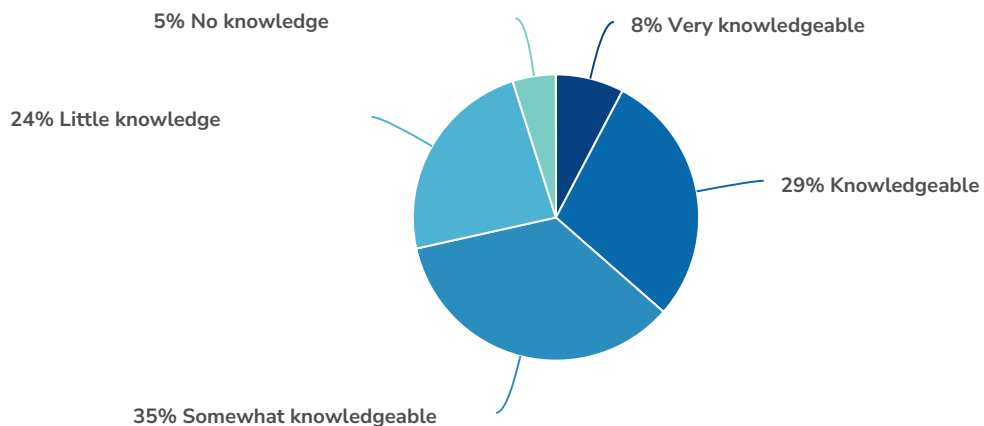
#### 4. How frequently do you attend Mass on the weekend (Saturday evening or Sunday)?



Value	Percent	Responses
Weekly	69.8%	256
Twice a month	12.0%	44
Monthly	3.8%	14
Several times a year	11.4%	42
Not at all	3.0%	11

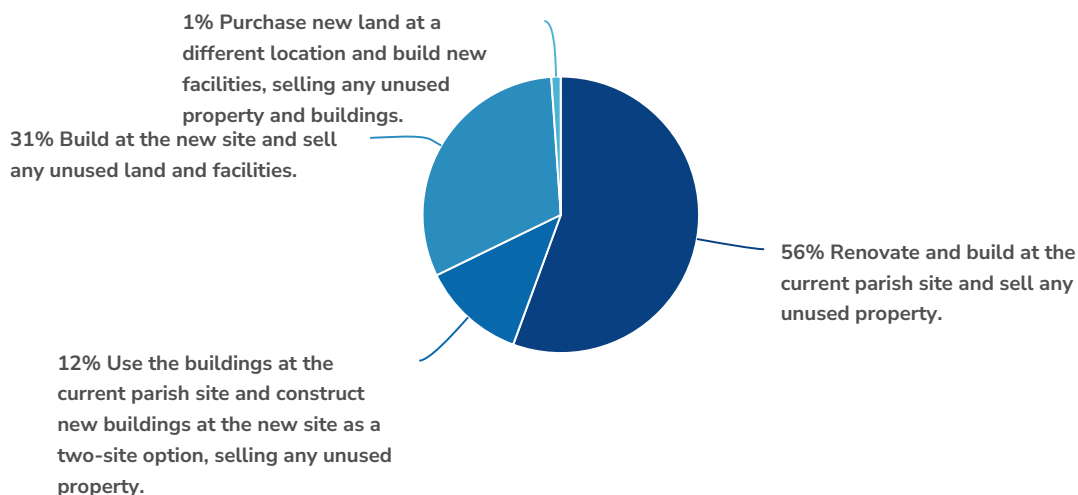
Totals: 367

## 5. How knowledgeable do you feel you are regarding St. Elizabeth Ann Seton study for the future of the parish?



Value	Percent	Responses
Very knowledgeable	7.7%	28
Knowledgeable	28.8%	105
Somewhat knowledgeable	35.1%	128
Little knowledge	23.6%	86
No knowledge	4.9%	18
		<b>Totals: 365</b>

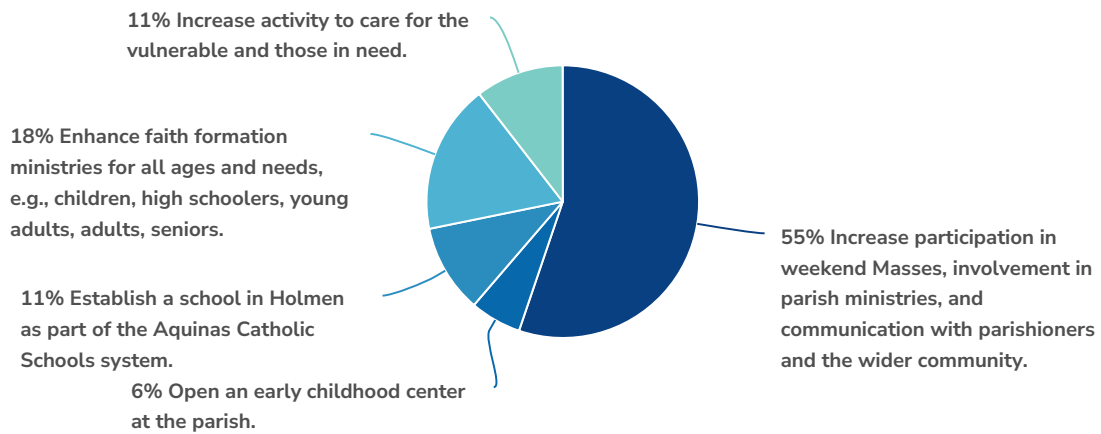
6. Facilities Options for the Future -- In consultation with parish leaders and suggestions from parishioners at parish meetings, several building options have been identified. Which of the options below best advances the mission of the Catholic Church at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton? (To read more about the options, go online at Update Communication)



Value	Percent	Responses
Renovate and build at the current parish site and sell any unused property.	55.6% 	200
Use the buildings at the current parish site and construct new buildings at the new site as a two-site option, selling any unused property.	12.2% 	44
Build at the new site and sell any unused land and facilities.	31.1% 	112
Purchase new land at a different location and build new facilities, selling any unused property and buildings.	1.1% 	4

Totals: 360

7. Possible Future Ministries -- Expanded facilities will allow for the parish/school to increase its ministerial activity. The ministries referenced below have been suggested by parish leaders, refined by parishioners at parish meetings, and summarized by the Planning Committee. Check your first choice for an area of ministry which you feel is most essential for the future of the parish.

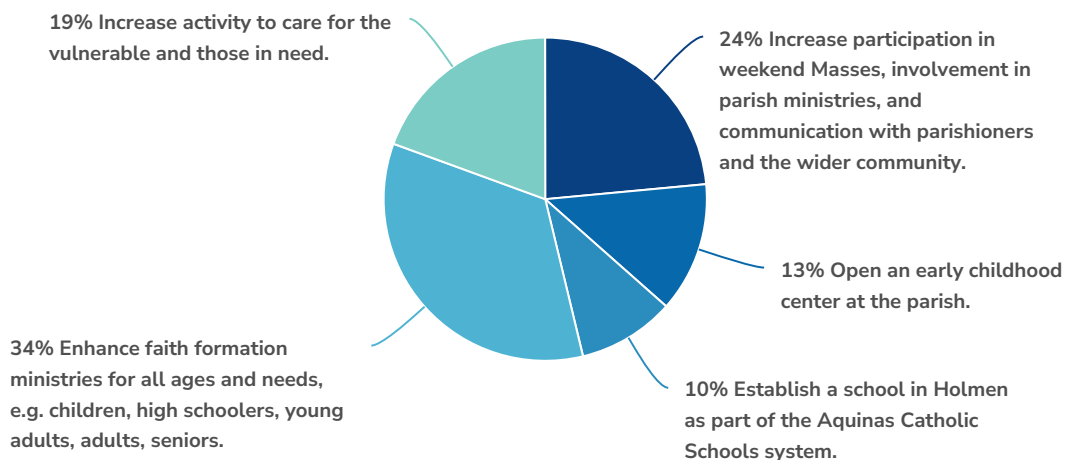


Value	Percent	Responses
Increase participation in weekend Masses, involvement in parish ministries, and communication with parishioners and the wider community.	55.2%	200
Open an early childhood center at the parish.	6.1%	22
Establish a school in Holmen as part of the Aquinas Catholic Schools system.	10.5%	38
Enhance faith formation ministries for all ages and needs, e.g., children, high schoolers, young adults, adults, seniors.	17.7%	64
Increase activity to care for the vulnerable and those in need.	10.5%	38

Totals: 362



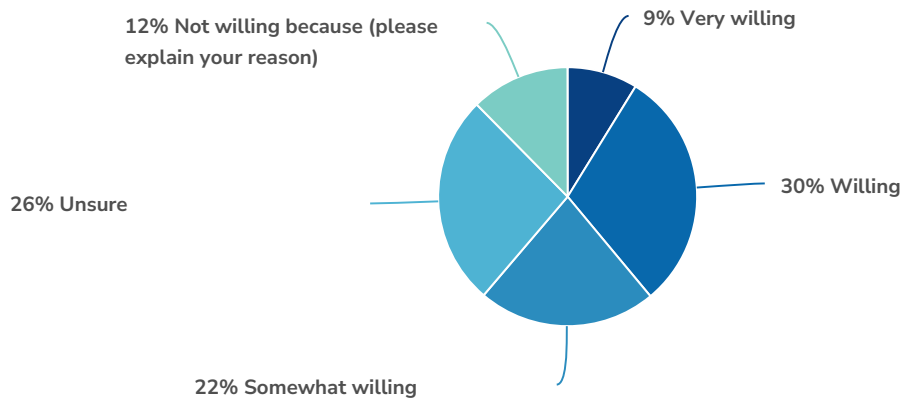
8. Possible Future Ministries -- Expanded facilities will allow for the parish/school to increase its ministerial activity. The ministries referenced below have been suggested by parish leaders, refined by parishioners at parish meetings, and summarized by the Planning Committee. Check your second choice for an area of ministry which you feel is most essential for the future of the parish.



Value	Percent	Responses
Increase participation in weekend Masses, involvement in parish ministries, and communication with parishioners and the wider community.	23.5%	85
Open an early childhood center at the parish.	13.0%	47
Establish a school in Holmen as part of the Aquinas Catholic Schools system.	9.7%	35
Enhance faith formation ministries for all ages and needs, e.g. children, high schoolers, young adults, adults, seniors.	34.3%	124
Increase activity to care for the vulnerable and those in need.	19.4%	70

Totals: 361

9. Capital Campaign -- The parish has a building fund of \$1.5 million from previous campaigns which is restricted to new construction and/or renovation only. The Parish also has considerable real estate assets but will still need additional capital to fund a building project. How willing are you to consider contributing financially over the next 3 to 5 years to a capital campaign? This would be above your current giving to the parish.



Value	Percent	Responses
Very willing	8.8%	32
Willing	30.2%	110
Somewhat willing	22.3%	81
Unsure	26.4%	96
Not willing because (please explain your reason)	12.4%	45

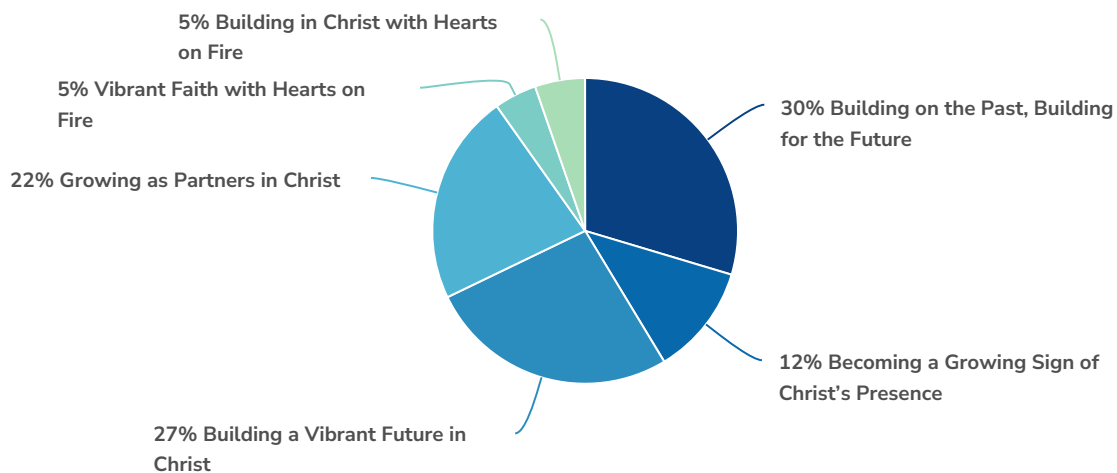
Totals: 364

<b>Not willing because (please explain your reason)</b>	<b>Count</b>
1.5 million should take care of it	1
70 years old with set income and set expenses	1
Already gave	1
Already paid thousand in past and my financial situation has changed. sts and my fiancial fiananst plans and my fiancial	1
Been thru this before and then the market changes and things are put on hold and people aren't going to church much anymore.	1
Financially unable would consider a one time donation	1
Gave substantially to previous effort	1
I already give plenty to parish	1
I already pay over 10% of my income to the church	1
I am contributing to inspired by the spirit with funds earmarked for the SEAS building project and the annual diocesan appeal	1
I am low income now. When the parish first had the campaign for purchasing new land and building a new church I contributed. Then the plan was put on hold. Since then that money should have been gaining in value. Money was wasted on plans for the new church etc. I think before we look at expansion we need to get participation increased and get the new parishioners to have a stake in future investment for the parish.	1
I don't have confidence that the money will be used responsibly	1
I don't think asking for more money is wise. If you do get more parishioners from your expansion ideas they also won't appreciate having to dish out more money right off the bat. Do what is feasible without asking for more money is our suggestion.	1
I'm not from the area & will most likely return to my home state.	1
I'm retired with not a lot of income	1
It's hard to respond when I'm not sure how much this will cost the parish and I don't want to saddle us with big debt for the future.	1
Less than 50% attendance (visual observation at weekend mass) seems to indicate no growth needed. Renovation only seems adequate	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>45</b>

<b>Not willing because (please explain your reason)</b>	<b>Count</b>
Limited income	1
My husband is of a different faith. If i can give cash weekly I can work with that faith. This could be a source of conflict. If i could use cash th	1
No expansion or renovation is needed. Selling of assets is a huge mistake. Creating a worship space based on 1950s worship style is a mistake.	1
Not needed. At a time where inflation is untenable you want to build and expensive new building when what we have is sufficient. Ridiculous	1
Retired, fixed income. Have contributed to all previous campaigns. Money you currently have, including the original church.	1
Retirement	1
Senior fixed income	1
There is still plenty of room at all the masses	1
To much money required	1
Very limited income	1
We are moving	1
We do not feel it's fair to ask the parishioners to commit to donating to any project without knowing the cost of any option. There seems to be a lot of open seats at Saturday/Sunday mass. Why the decrease in attendance? Would rather have that addressed first before committing to new building projects.	1
We donated to the first building project	1
We gave a large sum of money the last time a campaign was held	1
We gave to the first campaign and don't know if the 2nd campaign will succeed	1
Weekly attendance at Mass shows a lot of excess capacity. During the 2000 campaign, it seemed like every mass was standing room only. I don't think we are even at 60% capacity.	1
Would like to know more about plans/aims/goals before committing monitarily.	1
You're losing membership, you have enough for what is needed.a parish hall & or gym new ministries can be accodated as well as storage & food pantry area in such an expansion	1
do not see the need for new buildings.	1
Totals	45

<b>Not willing because (please explain your reason)</b>	<b>Count</b>
limited income	1
low income	1
my age and living on social security only	1
none	1
our priority is sponsoring 3 Grandchildren in mission work	1
personal	1
retired & on fixed income	1
somewhat willing, we did contribute the last times and nothing was done. We unerstand that money is still around in the 1.5 million but would take that into consideration when pledging	1
we don't to the first building project.	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>45</b>

10. Vision Phrase or Theme -- Parish leaders want to determine a phrase or theme to be able to promote and easily refer to our plan. Check the phrase or theme below which you feel will inspire and explain our future.



Value	Percent	Responses
Building on the Past, Building for the Future	29.6%	106
Becoming a Growing Sign of Christ's Presence	11.7%	42
Building a Vibrant Future in Christ	26.5%	95
Growing as Partners in Christ	22.3%	80
Vibrant Faith with Hearts on Fire	4.5%	16
Building in Christ with Hearts on Fire	5.3%	19

Totals: 358

## 11. Comments -- Please add any comments or concerns you wish to share with the Planning Committee.

### ResponseID Response

12	I think the main concern should be more space at the existing site. Adding more space at both the north and south ends of the building would be one way to gain more offices on the south end of the church and more storage on the north end.
13	If a new church is to be built it would be advantageous to be a place of beauty. Beauty and tradition are attractive. We don't need another multi-purpose church.
14	I don't feel that our parish can support a school at this time.
18	Requested tuition asst. for St Pat's when my husband lost his job but there was no money from the church for that. It seems like there is always a desire for a new building when we are not even able to meet the actual needs of parishioners.
22	The community is growing fast and we need to grow with it
23	Looking forward to the growth of our SEAS.
24	Let's get started.
26	Been waiting a long time, Let's make this happen.
36	The parish has trouble collecting the \$89,000 at the diocese now. How will they pay off millions?
37	Classrooms for the Faith Formation that is connected to the church would be amazing! Since the new faith formation format, we have to be a church for song & praise then walk directly to classrooms. Parents are in one spot and easier for pick ups.
48	Our caring and sharing homebound workers are wonderful. They mean a lot to us. Have faith in the church and planning committee that they will do it right.
51	My savings are designated for my funeral, anything left will be split up between our children
56	In reference to #9 - Since I live on Social Security, my finances are limited. I give what I can weekly. Giving any more would be a hardship since I barely make it from month to month at this time. Everyday living expenses are getting worse..
60	Can create free QR code in future. People scan with phone camera and it goes directly to survey
61	We should build a church with a reception hall and a child care center for families. It should have a few rooms for instruction.

## ResponseID Response

70	Build a school first
72	Not to tear down the beautiful parish we have. Think will have people thinking about going elsewhere.
75	This only allows 250 characters. My message was too long. Can you offer a way to share comments with character restrictions?
79	Current church needs kneelers. And needs more space for sitting. Pews would be best.
81	Are caring and sharing homebound workers are wonderful, they mean a lot to us. Have faith in the church and planning committee that they'll do it right. In response to #4: Normally watch tv mass-memory caregiver and #9: Because of our age
85	Singles group in 50. Have activities to do. Movies etc. I suggested long time ago when Sister Bridget was alive. Would help those with depression I think
86	Building on the Past, growing for the future with Christ.
89	School not needed at this time. Declining population
90	Need to recognize that a diverse parish has more to offer each other and the community
94	Biggest need is a facility to hold events breakfast, rummage sale, bazaar, funeral dinners.baccalaureate, etc.
99	None at this time.
105	Since Covid I listen to church at home & contribute my church offerings envelope monthly
108	My job took me to 20other states overtime. What happened to earlier building fund collections and status?
111	Let's not take 5 years to get this done!
120	Although willing to give financially, many families will need to give what they can vs. a set amount of money or time.
123	Where have all the young couples gone? Why has the church become so political?
127	If we want to grow our parish, we need to focus on youth and young families. We need to work to make them feel welcome and create a place and events/programs that increase their thirst for knowing and learning about our faith.
129	having to support the bishops appeal as well as this and then any other "one time need" not to mention to keep giving weekly directly for St Elizabeth which should be number one priority. When the Bishop appeal isn't met it comes out of st Elizabeth



## ResponseID Response

131	I was on the planning committee years ago and liked what we accomplished
132	Financial concern re: all other requests. When bishops appeal isn't met it comes out of St Elizabeth so that is a concern. Would love to see some building (community hall)to enhance worship/fellowship
134	Thank You Committee. May God Bless.
136	Increase amount of parking near building for those with limited mobility.
137	Unrelated to building, but I think we need to go back to the original way of catechism class where it was led by teachers in a classroom.
153	Struggling to see the need to build with attendance at mass down
154	Consider integrated storage as opposed to "yard barns". Consider on-site housing for pastor as opposed to separate house.
158	Until we gain in membership and make St. Elisabeth viable financially, we should not go forward. We see by weekly contributions and the Diocesan appeal that new parishioners aren't willingly to step up. Until the numbers increase we cannot afford it.
160	I don't think we need a new church. Remodel the current church. Attendance at Mass is mainly senior citizens . Many young people do not attend church.
166	I understand the need for more space for ministries and activities.
169	Thanks for your service/efforts
171	The most important thing is to get people back in the pews. It seems the 30- and 40-somethings are missing, along with their kids. Make sure there is adequate parking..
174	Build a new church and rectory on the Hwy 35 location. Retain land on this site for future school with a view that community growth is anticipated to be 4000 and hopefully more people will attend church. Sell the existing rectories and land.
175	If every mass was as full as the 4:00 Christmas Eve then I would support a new building project.
178	It is hard to understand any of it without knowing a cost factor on any of it. We voted as a parish before not to have a school. I believe we should sell excess land and see how much money we have and then determine a good course of action.
180	What's difficult right now is the diocesan appeals (both the annual and Inspired by the Spirit). Most older individuals are on fixed income and can't afford all of these at one time,

## ResponseID Response

186	I feel that we should keep the 48 acres so SEAS can build the new facilities, have room to grow with Holmen, and land is an investment that will continue to gain value.
188	I wish we had a larger gathering area.
191	women's bible study group
195	We dont fill our masses now. New construction, no matter the population gorwth doesn't mean more people come. You can't make them come to church. You can only invite them.
201	Thanks for your time and efforts.
202	Thank you.
203	My thought- Parish seems to be declining. Catholic faith also on decline. I am 85yrs old have 4 children, 13 grandkids. Out of 21 only 1 goes to church regularly! The phone has taken over
214	I would like to see more social events for our middle and HS students that don't involve religion: fun events inviting other kids that may encourage them to join our church-bands/social gatherings-daycare for at home moms-Improved handicap access
215	What happened with all the money from the land that was purchased and then sold at a different site? That should've been over 1 million. Those were collections from the parishioners?
219	Although we attend weekly mass it is usually not at SEAS.
225	Would love to see kneelers added to wherever the renovations/building takes place.
228	Not enough information on financing these options.
230	Ability to pledge financing is affected by all the diocesan solicitations. Don't see a need for church building or expansion. If masses ever become crowded, could add an additional mass.
235	Perhaps a loan will be needed. Diocese gives best rate-make sure it has money to loan. Build only on new site. Sell present site & 909
236	Build only new site. Sell none of it. Save for future needs. Build to take it off the grid with sun and underground water
239	Had there been a Catholic school in Holem when we moved here, we would have enrolled our children. But I worry the demand across all of Holmen is not high enough to sustain a school. I would need to see a careful analysis, which might change Q 6 & 7.

## ResponseID Response

243	Please take into consideration that for a period of time a greater percentage of parissoners will be 65 and older and on fixed incomes when making the final decision.
263	Adding a recreational space would be an innovate approach to engaging members and bringing together those in the church family.
266	We love our community and the building in which it was formed. Let's not throw away a perfectly good building.
275	We took our 4 children to mass every Sunday. Now 2 don't go to mass. The 2 go sparingly. I see this in many families. They've not given us a good reason for not going. Is our church growing or decreasing?
278	My concern is why we would build when our services aren't even currently full and our gift offerings don't cover current expenses. I love the parish, but definitely don't want to stretch us too thin.
283	Our planning committee is a variety of ages, experienced backgrounds and are active in our church . They offer knowledgeable options for our future plans. Fr. Jim's homilies are inspiring and revealing the truth of our Catholic faith. With these characteristics we have alot to look forward to in the future. The duty now is to grow our attendance that would require a larger church building to accommodate the community of faithful. Let's concentrate on inviting new people into the Church that Jesus Christ established, the Catholic Church..
287	Master plan: build new rectory, church and facilities ofr CCD/food pantry and hall at new site and sell some lots for more assisted living or something, one step at a time. Have as much money on hand. Don't borrow a lot to keep debt down.
288	Our current site w/side lot has ample room for growth. Agree that we need to plan and take action, but a whole new building area w/ cost a multiple of millions and give way to even more wants and expenses.
290	Appreciate the work done on this and hoping for quick action.
293	Since the study seems to indicate there will be slowing growth in population, it doesn't seem wise to build a new building on the vacant land owned by SEAS. Also, building a school wouldn't be feasible, if school age children have plateaued.
295	This comment box is way too small. It does not scroll, for easy corrections. I was at 515 characters and had to retype, it was easier to delete and let you know that this box is in adequate.

## ResponseID Response

296	I'd say get attendance up, before expending too much resources. What are pain points ( kneelers?) driving the idea of building or renovation? What common sense (low\$) to fix?
297	Thank you
307	In response to #9- Already giving
316	I have none
336	Bringing in a Catholic school would be key to bringing in younger members to reinvigorate the church. Catholic education would also bring younger families into the Parish and get younger involvement.
338	VIBRANCY!!! A good word forw
339	Somehow figure out how to grow our parish through bringing the Millennials, and Generation Z's to participate and attend church services....possibly through a better online messaging and local mass online.
344	Please use the money prudently, wisely.
350	May God bless this plan and the Parish community. Help us do Your will.
351	Although I feel that increasing participation in Mass, growing ministries, and enhancing faith formation is currently vital for our parish, I also pray and hope that an early childhood center and/or school could be an option in time (God willing).
352	I think the Bishop should be more engaged with these fast growing communities. They are the future.
354	1. Cost
360	God bless decision makers. Modernize our facilities and our messaging. Keep physical assets but wait - build when seats are full. People come for the message and stay for the company - have we received feedback on how we are doing with those aspects?

## ResponseID Response

361	Some of the numbers from the researchers seems to say future growth of the parish will be limited. Hard to how we can meet our needs for better spaces but not go into too much debt. I fear we're struggling to meet our current needs.
362	I find it difficult to believe the average household income that was presented
366	Always have to consider average age of parishioners will there be ample room in the next 10 years
370	The need for a new worship,meeting center has been around for a long time, dating back to John Mc Hugh. That 1.5 million would have put up quite a structure at that point in time. Question is,
373	Where along Hwy 35 is the already purchased land for the proposed new building?
375	Please remain in the heart of Holmen and not off the beaten path
376	Why is it always the same people involved in these committees? The parishoners have no idea they are formed ir how they were chosen. New people, new ideas!
378	No comments
379	Restricting a future school to an extension of Aquinas is short sighted. This area needs an alternative Catholic option besides Aquinas & Providence. Building a school w/ the church will slow down progress.Use current building for school/ministries.
381	St. Elizabeth's needs kneeled for everyone. A communion rail and less Eucharistic Ministers to start.
387	Community involvement, enriching what is offered to young families, standing for Catholic values, local events involving community like Kornfest run are great way to build our reputation and parish, thank you for being a light for Holmen.
398	Limit any sale of lots on Hwy 35 (48A) to community oriented organizations, complementing to church and school expansion in the future.
401	If every mass was as full as the 4:00 Chirstmas Eve mass was, then I would say/support a new church and building
402	Design of facilities should be done so parking can be shared for multi use. I do not believe a school should be built, we are paying tax \$ for public schools & shortage of teachers. Some don't have online capabilities, elderly. Concern about cost
405	response to #9- retired, not working, one income. Perhaps after Inspired by the Spirit is done.
408	I would like space in the church to provide space for kneeling in church

**ResponseID    Response**

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409                    Current property is adequate for # of parishioners now but property is land locked and limited in what facilities can be built for additional educational and social opportunities. A new church should include an organ using the current pipes.

413                    We need to build meeting and storage and office onto the current church and save the site on 53. Take care of the short term space problem. That land will never do nothing but go up in value until you really need it.

414                    We do not need more church seats at this time. Church is not full. Parish ministry can address care for those in need and all age groups in our building. What about collecting \$2x1yr to increase building fund?

415                    If it isn't broken, don't fix it, no need.

416                    I believe that the proper course of action can only be determined after needs, goals and directions have been set. Example: possible consolidation of churches with Galesville and/or Trempealeau. Does the number of likely students justify a school?

422                    If we cannot fill the church today with participants of faith - we should not grow our debt for those who do.

428                    Still need more communication on what is needed and why