

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish – Update #2

January – February 2024

As part of the comprehensive study of building options and a strategic ministry plan, this update provides an informational resource so that all parishioners are made aware of the developments in the planning process. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish has contracted with Meitler, a Milwaukee-based national Catholic school and parish consulting firm which conducted similar projects in the Diocese of La Crosse to facilitate the study. The draft of the Strategic Plan report can be accessed on the parish website.

What are the Proposed Parish Priorities for the Future?

After listening to parish leaders and parishioners and reviewing the projections and forecasts for the area's future, four parish priorities have been proposed. These priorities are:

1. To increase participation in weekend Masses, involvement in parish ministries and activities, and increase communication efforts.
2. To enhance and expand faith formation for all ages, especially for young adults and families.
3. To expand outreach activities which care for the vulnerable and those in need.
4. To develop a master building plan, financial resources, and staffing to support parish growth.

What is the Profile of Parishioners Who Participated in the Recent Parish Survey?

A parish survey was conducted from January 27 to February 5, 2024. There were 369 responses. Here are some quick percentages which provide a profile of parishioners who participated in the survey.

- **46.2%** - There are 799 households in the parish and the 369 responses represents this percentage of all households.
- **23.1%** - If each household consisted of two adults, there would be approximately 1,598 adults in the parish and the 369 responses represents this percentage of all adults.
- **98.6%** - of all respondents are registered parishioners.
- **71.1%** - of all respondents have been parishioners for 11 or more years.
- **64.4%** - are aged 55 or older (only **6.8%** of respondents are under the age of 35).
- **69.8%** - attend Mass weekly (**14.4%** of respondents attend Mass several times a year or “not at all”).
- **71.6%** - of respondents were “somewhat knowledgeable” to “very knowledgeable” about the building study and strategic plan.

What Are the Survey Results?

The survey focused on the key issues of the planning effort. Here are the full results.

Facilities Options for the Future

- **55.6%** to renovate and build at the current parish site
- **12.2%** to use buildings at the current site and construct at the new site
- **31.1%** to build at the new site
- **1.1%** to purchase land and construct at a different site

Possible Future Ministry First and Second Preferences (The first number is the percentage of first preferences. The number in parentheses is the percentage of second preferences.)

- **55.2% (23.5%)** - Increase participation at Mass, involvement in the parish, and communications
- **6.1% (13.0%)** - Open an early childhood center
- **10.5% (9.7%)** - Establish a Catholic School as part of the Aquinas School System
- **17.7% (34.3%)** - Enhance faith formation for all ages
- **10.5% (19.4%)** - Increase activity to help the vulnerable and those in need

Participation in a Capital Campaign – How willing are parishioners to contribute

- **8.8%** - Very willing
- **30.2%** - Willing
- **22.3%** - Somewhat willing
- **26.4%** - Unsure
- **12.4%** - Not willing (Respondents were asked to give a reason for their unwillingness and these responses fell into three categories: 1) Respondent was a senior on a fixed income; 2) Person already gave to a past campaign; 3) There should be more people in church before building anything.

Survey Results (continued)

Preference for a Vision Phrase which Captures the Spirit and Intent of the Planning Effort

- **29.6%** - Building on the Past, Building for the Future
- **11.7%** - Becoming a Growing Sign of Christ's Presence
- **26.5%** - Building a Vibrant Future in Christ
- **22.3%** - Growing as Partners in Christ
- **4.5%** - Vibrant Faith with Hearts on Fire
- **5.3%** - Building in Christ with Hearts on Fire

Respondents were further invited to share any comments. There were many submitted. These will be reviewed and studied by the Planning Committee and the Building Committee for consideration and action.

What Happens Next?

Here is what parishioners can expect for their next steps.

- **Development of a Final Draft of the Plan** – Now that the survey has been completed, the Planning Committee can develop a final draft for review by parishioners and approval by the parish and finance councils.
- **Parishioner Review of the Survey Results and a Possible Final Plan:** All-parish meeting will be held on March 19, 2024, from 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm, in the church, to accommodate as many people as possible. The parish survey results will be reviewed, the ministry plan will be presented, and feedback will be gathered from parishioners.
- **Review and Approval of a Final Plan:** The parish and finance councils will review, edit, and approve a final version of the strategic plan. The plan will then be turned over to parish leaders for implementation. The progress of the implementation will be monitored by the councils.

Please keep this important study and planning process in your prayer.

