

## What are the small group's key takeaways from the data and current reality? (1<sup>st</sup>)

- Christ the Servant percentages are far better than the comparison parishes.
- Numbers are out of proportion. Percent of increase or decrease would be more accurate, and believable.
- The Christ the Servant contributions are about \$370 per parishioner in the saving account. Our Lady of Peace is \$313 per parishioner, and St. Scholastica is the lowest.
- Almost 40% of Christ the Servant parishioner attend Mass. Our Lady of Peace = 15%, and St. Scholastica = 15.8%
- Reason for meetings was not covered by speaker.
- Some parishes in comparison are parishes supported by a Religious Order priest.
- This small group from the presentation by the consultant, the Diocese of Joliet has already made their decision.
  
- What is the targeted number for a church? Is it 6,000 for parishioners and one priest to serve?
- How were “fixed plant”, major maintenance, requirements for all parishes considered? If this is a future looking decision, area their church plants who will need major funds? This parish has not major needs.
- The data should be reported as a percentage of registered parishioners.
- The key takeaway is that the Diocese is grossly mismanaged. The result, hundreds of Catholics will have to suffer.
- The slides and data need to be presented to the decision committee as a percentage. The current numbers fail to make sense, and decisions cannot be made.
- The “Savings on Account” amounts we are told represent the operating cost for the year. When put next to and compare the offerings brought in, Our Lady of Peace is losing \$1 million dollars every year, and St. Scholastica should have paid off the loan since they are making \$1 million dollars. This DOES NOT MAKE SENSE.

- Since there are 155 priests, how many parishes are in the Diocese? Don't we have enough priest?
- One of the takeaways for this group is, Christ the Servant was categorized as a support parish, not a primary parish in the restructuring roles. Does this mean we won't face closure, but will support other parishes? We hope this is the case verses actually closing as we are a strong parish, financially and spiritually.
- Points stated that a church needs to be evangelized. We have this with our worship, a happy priest, skilled music director, no debt.
- We always meet our budget.
- If we are able to sustain on our own, we should be able to remain open.
- The Diocese of Joliet is more interested in the value of this property, and not the parishioners.
- The data from Our Lady of Peace and St. Scholastica DOES NOT represent reality of the two parishes. I feel the two parishes are not welcoming, or hospitable.
- You need data on numbers of Christ the Servant parishioners that come from other neighboring parishes and found a home here. Christ the Servant is welcoming, inspiring, down to earth, patient, truthful, realistic. All characteristics you presented tonight of Bishop Hicks vision.
- We are made up of an older population at some Masses, but younger families on Sunday. This church has not steps and is totally accessible for people with Disabilities.
- Our offertory has increased to a higher percentage: 3.9% as to 2.8 and 0.3%, and 8% compared to -15.1 and -1.5%
- Church as zero debt.
- General feeling is that Diocese has already made the decision about the fate of the parish.
- The 1970's data is not relevant to today's reality.
- Consider number of resisted parishioners does not necessarily represent the number of active and continuing parishioners.

- Why are we a small church being compared to larger parishes?
- This is all bull \*&^%.
- We are a smaller parish, but our numbers are better. Our membership is growing because several new members have come from neighboring churches due to not feeling fulfilled.
- How did the committee arrive at these 19 parishes?
- The needs of the parish are being covered by present staff and volunteers.
- We have a priest who wishes to serve here. We are financially solvent. Our church is in good repair. We meet our annual CMAA goal. We don't have a school, so of course our sacramental number will be lower. There is no need to close this parish.
- This is most difficult to answer without studying the whole data.
- What are the criteria used to make the decision? Yes, we receive data, so how did we get into the grouping we are in?
- Aren't sacraments down across the board – throughout the diocese?
- Why are we not focusing on the root cause of why people are leaving the Catholic Church, instead of just closing down churches?
- Statistics are bias and unbalanced. You can't compare numbers. Numbers do not tell the heart of the parishes. We feel like the decision has already been made and unfairly.
- Recheck the math and spelling on the PowerPoint slides.
- There should be one committee member at the next meeting.
- Data on sacraments should be percentage of student enrollment.
- Some data in percentages and some in numbers – can be manipulated to look like our church doesn't have the numbers.
- Meeting not very informative, too many statistics, not enough concrete information.
- We the parishioners paid to build this parish.

- Surprise, Surprise – there's not a church one (1) church on the list located in Naperville.
- No one who represents the Diocese is here for these sessions.
- If the church building and property is sold, who would benefit from the money?
- Priests should have permission to marry.
- Bishop Hicks, you need to show up for your people.
- What is the Catholic Church doing to reduce the declines?
- Why is Christ the Servant in jeopardy?
- Why is the Catholic Church not taking a strong stance on key Catholic values, i.e. abortion?
- What is the Catholic Church doing to increase enrollment in Catholic marriage, baptism, confirmation, etc.? Closing a church seems counter intuitive to help with this problem.
- Where is the Bishop? Why doesn't he face us?
- Why is the Diocese willing to rob Peter to pay Paul?
- Why are we being punished for being active, welcoming, and financially good stewards of our Church?
- Is there confirmation that the sacramental data is directly related to the members of the parish specifically marriage and funeral?
- The presentation does not allow for enough time for questions.
- St. Scholastica has outstanding debt.
- You want to combine us with declining churches!
- Women Priests! Allowing priest to marry.
- It seems that closing our parish is not the solution. The Catholic Church needs to look at the core of the issues. Closing our parish is a quick fix for a much larger problem.

- This presentation made us feel like the decisions have already been made about the church.
- Decline in younger people attending church is directly related to the decline of children in Catholic schools. Families can't afford Catholic education; can we focus on making that affordable?
- Not a reality, it's only for the Diocese the "reality".
- The presenter was just giving facts the Diocese provided as 'facts'.
- We were given Diocese facts list, but no answers to why these decisions are being considered.
- Look at the Parish snapshot more carefully.
- Disorganized meeting, too many people together in small groups. This should be available online so people can provide feedback.
- Throw away Covid years of data and numbers.
- Like to hear from the diocese representative and not a 3<sup>rd</sup> party who can't answer our questions, nor present our opinions.
- This meeting should have been held before the list was finalized.
- Why is Divine Savior not indicated? Decision has been made – this is just to make us feel we have input.
- How does Our Lady of Peace have \$2 million in savings? Why not share that with the parishes who need financial help.
- Trying to understand why other churches were not considered with the data, instead only 19 churches were identified.
- Consultants data seems big picture and not local to the Diocese of Joliet parishes.
- The current reality needs to be communicated to all parishes, NOT the handful of targets. \
- Christ the Servant is low maintenance, and high functioning.

- Mass attendance, Christ the Servant has the lowest percent of reduction in attendance, resulting we retain parishioners.
- Fewer priests is not a valid reason to close a church. You are too focused on priest numbers. Did you look at birth rates in our area, they are declining? Did you look at population of individual parish, what is the ratio of parishioners to funds?
- Growing the church and evangelization our parish has positive numbers. You will be pushing people away by closing churches.
- We feel strongly that you are taking a functioning, strong parish with positive funds and giving it to other parishes to fix their financial problems.
- Our church as many missions which have been in service to the entire community of Woodridge.
- We have all the key church positions filled.
- Questions have not been asked about why Christ the Servant was chosen. I've never seen a more beloved priest than Father Bob.
- What would it take to keep the church open?
- How is Mass attendance determined?
- Christ the Servant has paid the mortgage off and now can offer opportunities to expend services
- The families are staying in the area and children are growing up. Therefore, there are younger families coming to church.
- The lack of priest is not a justification for closing a church, per Diocese of Joliet policy.
- "Support" and "Primary" are confusing terms.
- The Diocese sent the wrong person to give us the information that is necessary. Most of the responses to the questions asked was, "I don't know". I felt bad for her.
- You are pitting us against larger churches. A grape against a watermelon!
- Explanation given was minimal, how will the consultant interpret the information provided?

- How is the data going to be evaluated, i.e. parish size, financials, lay support, schools, etc.?
- If Christ the Servant is ordered to close, will the next parish have enough room for the influx of parishioners?
- We are debt free. We have a great Pastor, religious education program, a wonderful choir, and great staff.
- Christ the Servant are very adaptable for people who don't feel they fit at the larger church. We move to make them included and welcome. In accordance with our spiritual beliefs we help people who struggle both physically and emotionally in traditional church settings.
- What would Jesus do?!
- Don't slap Jesus in the face and close the doors of his home on him and us.
- We weren't given answers, seems like the decision has been made.
- Why weren't our responses requested before this meeting?
- We have been able to function with one priest since our church formed. We have the best RE director in the Diocese. We have a strong volunteer base.
- We have been informed No Decisions have been made, but our parish has been as identified as "primary", how does this affect this process?
- Why no analysis relative to Lemont parishes. Some attendees have kids attend Lemont schools.
- Your representative was pretty useless. Reviewing numbers and slide presentations could have been distributed after Mass. She got us riled up, and we feel we've already been chopped.
- We may be small, but some sheep need a small flock to thrive.
- Where was the bishop or any decision makers attending this meeting?
- Consultant didn't bring enough forms and pens to pass out for this small group feedback session. We are expecting our first baby and can't wait to have Fr. Bob baptize him at Christ the Servant!