

GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
Thursday, May 25, 2023  
St. Bernadette Parish  
Compilation of all responses

Question 1:

**In the last 45 years, what has blocked or seriously impaired St. Bernadette living out what was described at the 1<sup>st</sup> general assembly as being the common desire of the parish?**

Table 1

- COVID caused a lot of problems
- Being without our pastor caused a lot of problems
- Mishandling of funds?
- Sense belonging was devastating
- Loss of families who left our church

Table 2

- Homily needed to be understood (language barrier) can be cultural, educational
- Failure of the Archdiocese officers to manage the parish transfer of priests, administer fiscal stewardship and oversight.
- Unilateral decisions – environmental change
- Suppression of and oppression of women's voices and presence i.e. role model for young girls?
- Continuity of program? Disregard of the culture within the parish as new pastors come in to do things their way.
- Women sidelines, ignored, expected to go on as directed.

Table 3

- Differing relationships between Priest & Parishioners
- Change in cultures
- Change in attitudes, values (material things)
- Change in children, reduced youth participation
- New church issues, realities, external forces
- Lack of commitment
- Forgotten some of our catechism. Need to relearn Doctrine
- Several Missions within the church are no longer active

Table 4

- No closure at the end of pastors tenures, no resolution of issue particular to that tenure
- Not feeling safe to speak up. No tolerance of different ideas.
- There is a need to have someone to talk to about past hurts and begin healing

- Top down control and limited ability to participate.
- Divisions throughout the congregation which were sometimes encouraged.
- Lack of communication up & down laterally
- Lack of respect
- No transparency – overuse of need to know.
- Lack of adult catechism – particularly for those who came to the church as adults or were not well catechized as children. No knowledge of whom to ask or when.
- Ownership of groups & committees – not allowing new people to participate.

Table 5

- Community is not inclusive as a whole
- Seating being changed caused it to be less intimate
- Poor communication in all levels
- No overlap with priests, broke the rhythm (handling of the switch) Have a transition period next time.
- Kneeler sold – causes division in uniformity and confusion – how to genuflect
- Unilateral decision-making
- Holding onto baggage and unresolved issues
- No more adult faith building – lack of organization

Question # 2:

**What needs to be done as concrete actions by/within the parish to overcome these obstacles, to turn the ship around?**

Table 1

- Reg/perhaps monthly – presentation sessions for volunteers, those volunteering need to be contacted.
- Communication why are there envelopes for a bldg. fund?
- Publish in bulleting or phone calls need to be made to organize
- Impacting information
- More communication to parishioners of what is happening
- Put out a sheet for volunteers that are needed and ask parishioners to sign up.

Table 2

- Rotation of responsibilities of ministry work
- Introduce ourselves
- Rotating seating at masses
- Organize a social gathering BBQ, cultural activities, lunches, cribbage, card tournament
- Introducing committee members in person regularly at masses
- Smile, be friendly

- Be respectful e.g. arriving, leaving mass
- A common project – take four of individuals Kids’ Initiative
- Chalice sponsorship by parish ?

Table 3

- No ethnic groups present at our sessions?? Long time members vs new comers
- Train is on the Track – We know what we have to do. We’ve spoken up – not listened to. What will change?
- Bishop Role – Holy Spirit working among all the people. Getting us to talk with one another & learn. What come forth from us. Confidence in the project. Guidance of spirit by listening. Transform into movement to do the Lord’s will
- Don’t have time for long conversations. Need to come out in meetings. Consensus in relationship to make it work (can embrace it)
- Be specific in verbs/actions (not words)
- 3 min. talks – only 1 speaker at a time
- No blaming – silent reflections & prayers
- New liturgical activities – do things we haven’t done before (St. Bernadette, Corpus Christi)
- Involvement in liturgy – everyone – change to accommodate
- Cultural masses/events – prayer of the faithful dialect/written for each culture. Don’t lose church Doctrine, just present it in ways comfortable
- Reaching out to them (Outreach) make contact.
- Welcome Committee (Just friends Group)
- Communicate (Learn how) – talk, listen be transparent, respond in time manner, follow-up start at basics (show happiness, encouragement. More explanation in bulletin from priest.

Table 4

- We all need to communicate with each other & work toward healing
- We need information to know that do/say to each other – what are the hurts. We need to talk to each other.
- We need to listen to each other to hear what matters to them, how they are hurt.
- We will work toward transparency/communication with two-way leadership
- We will ask to know parish leaders
- We will listen and hear the hurts of other parishioners and take it to parish leaders for guidance
- We will try to correct misinformation & turn toxic talk
- We will open conversations with parishioners we don’t know and those who are around us.
- We would like to begin each liturgy with a moment of fellowship & greeting each other.
- We would like to have a new parish directory to come to know each other.

Table 5

- Build coffee area
- Family ministry rotations
- Homily to children circles

- Outside mass activities gathering – adult education, CWL & K of C gatherings free game night, carnival/crafts/bbq/bake sale
- Introductions at mass
- Name tags for all
- Speak to 3 people each mass. Ask 1 question of someone new
- Face to Name PPC – find you PPC mass member game
- Personal invitation to participate with ministries
- Time to learn & mix with others
- Ask what everyone expected from mass
- Maybe a bulleting highlight (family) section

#### Table 6

- Rotate & mix ministry team (mixing ethnic groups to encourage welcoming ..)
- Sit in a new pew each time
- Re-educate – Reverence to Bishop, Priests, Deacons, - proper catechesis.