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# Parish Feedback Summary

## **St. John Bosco Parish**

Maryland Heights, St. Louis County, Planning Area 7

January 2023

## **Section 1. Introduction**

St. John Bosco Parish had a 2022 mass attendance of 328 people. Approximately 103 people attended the two parish listening sessions. The online feedback survey had 35 respondents. Other feedback from Planning Area 7 as a whole, including free form feedback, totaled 28 pages, of which about 2 pages directly regarded the situation of St. John Bosco. Planning Area 7 had four draft models.

In models A and D, St. John Bosco Parish merged with St. Monica and Holy Spirit Parish.

In models B and C, St. John Bosco Parish merged with St. Monica and Incarnate Word Parish in Planning Area 8.

## **Section 2. Listening Session Summary**

Most parishioners were on board, as the overlap of parishes is already taking place. Mentioned at both listening session, families are connected to other parishes through their children's involvement among parishes through CYC sports, attendance to other schools and scout programs. In addition, parents interact among parishes already as well, through ACTS retreats and Knights of Columbus. A few parishioners even thought it would complement better diversity between the younger and older generation, although a couple of people were concerned this merge wouldn't be ethnically diverse. Location could be a factor; for the commute, as I-270 may be an issue on travel, especially for older people at night, how the population would not be evenly distributed and that 45% of St John Bosco's population consists of transient residents. Some parishioners enjoy the smaller worship sites, so they are concerned with what will happen to the unused buildings. Positive comments mentioned in both listening sessions were trust in equal representation and confidence in financial stability after the merge.

- “The number of registered parishioners that have children in activities at nearby parishes should be considered (CYC sports, schools, and scouts) when merging parishes.” - Several listening session participants
- “Driving distances, especially at night for older people should be considered[...] “The 270 highway should be looked at in future models because it presents a barrier for some commuters.” - Several listening session participants
- “With the merger of St. John Bosco, St. Monica, and IW - good geographically and all in the Parkway school district so Financial Stability...good compliment of older and youth members.” -Several listening session participants

## **Section 3. Online Survey Qualitative Summary**

While there was not one predominant concern from parishioners, several challenges were presented. Several (4 respondents) felt that the parish was unique in that it had a transient

population with many apartments in the area. This was not only a concern but a strong opportunity for evangelization. Several others (7 respondents) felt that there was a strong need for young adult and family ministry. Two respondents felt that as the parishes merge, the two Latino Ministries should remain available.

Concerning the various parish models, many (12 respondents) felt that the parish grouping in the draft models were too big and the distances would be a hindrance for the elderly population. Two respondent felt in option B that the cultures of the two Latino parishes are too different and the combination of the two would not work well.

- “Make smaller incremental changes and see how the population reacts by monitoring real mass attendance” – One Survey Respondent
- “PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE remember that we do not live in a time of "perfect Catholic families", which I define as two Catholic parents and multiple Catholic children attending Catholic school. I grew up in one of these families, but now have a (practicing) Methodist husband and no children. The opportunities for me to participate in the parish community have been somewhat limited because it seems the church only considers "perfect Catholic families" in their planning and activities. If we want to grow, we must learn to accept and grow with what we currently have as well as evangelizing outside of the current church.”– One Survey Respondent

#### **Section 4. Free-Form Feedback Summary**

There are many conflicted and seemingly contradictory opinions about this parish. There is an almost even split of individuals—priests, parishioners, KPLs—who assert it would go best with St. Monica, others with Holy Spirit, others with Incarnate Word. It seems a significant numbers of people within the parish already are worshiping in other communities.

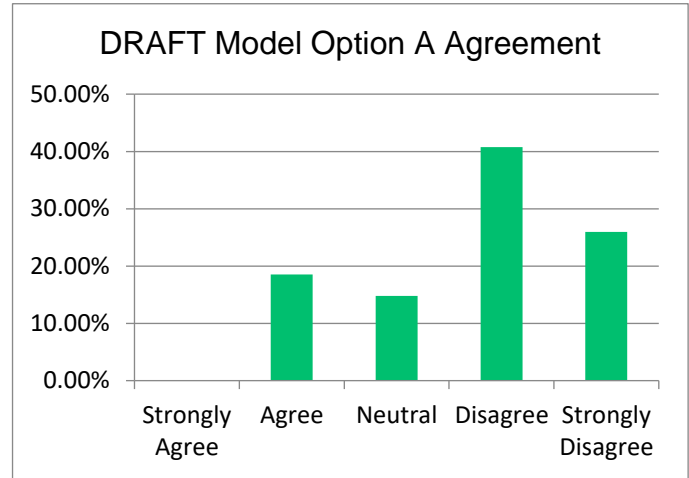
A Priest: “Looking at St. John’s map my question is about the “Other” 100 families that live in St. John’s territory but attend another parish. Do you know their parish affiliation?”

## 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	0.00%	0
Agree	18.52%	5
Neutral	14.81%	4
Disagree	40.75%	11
Strongly Disagree	25.93%	7
<b>Answered</b>		<b>27</b>
<b>Skipped</b>		<b>8</b>



**What is strongest about DRAFT MODEL Option A?**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Shares resources effectively	28.57%	6
Builds upon existing relationships among parishes	38.10%	8
Enables a platform for more robust evangelization or social outreach	19.05%	4
Provides better accessibility to a priest	14.29%	3

**What is most challenging about DRAFT MODEL Option A?**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Brings together communities that are too different	17.86%	5
Requires unrealistic demands on the clergy	0.00%	0
Creates a lot of difficulty for accessing Eucharist and the sacraments	17.86%	5
Neglects the financial needs of the community	3.57%	1
Other (please specify)	60.71%	17

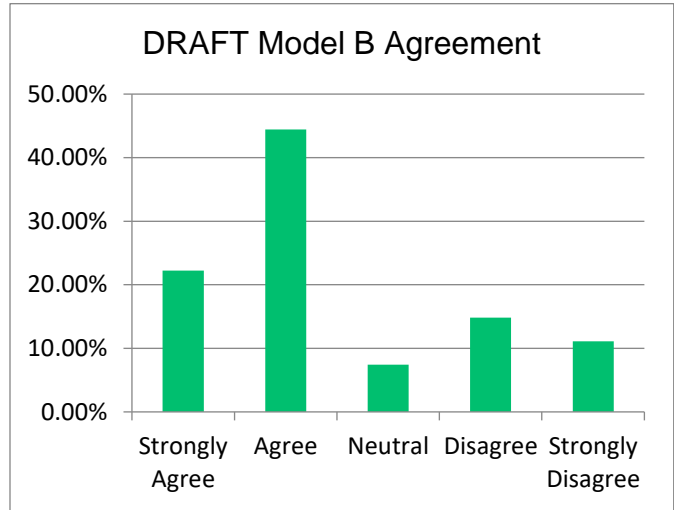
**My DRAFT Model Option A feedback is driven primarily by...**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Differences/Similarities in parish cultures	23.08%	6
Differences/Similarities in socio-economic factors	3.85%	1
Topography between parishes (hills, rivers, bridges)	3.85%	1
Distance between parishes	35.62%	9
Size of the potential parish(es)	35.62%	9
Potential or lack of potential for ministry opportunities	0.00%	0

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	22.22%	6
Agree	44.44%	12
Neutral	7.41%	2
Disagree	14.81%	4
Strongly Disagree	11.11%	3
<b>Answered</b>	<b>36</b>	
<b>Skipped</b>	<b>8</b>	



**What is strongest about DRAFT MODEL Option B?**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Shares resources effectively	20.00%	5
Builds upon existing relationships among parishes	68.00%	17
Enables a platform for more robust evangelization or social outreach	8.00%	2
Provides better accessibility to a priest	4.00%	1

**What is most challenging about DRAFT MODEL Option B?**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Brings together communities that are too different	11.54%	3
Requires unrealistic demands on the clergy	7.69%	2
Creates a lot of difficulty for accessing Eucharist and the sacraments	3.85%	1
Neglects the financial needs of the community	11.54%	3
Other (please specify)	65.38%	17

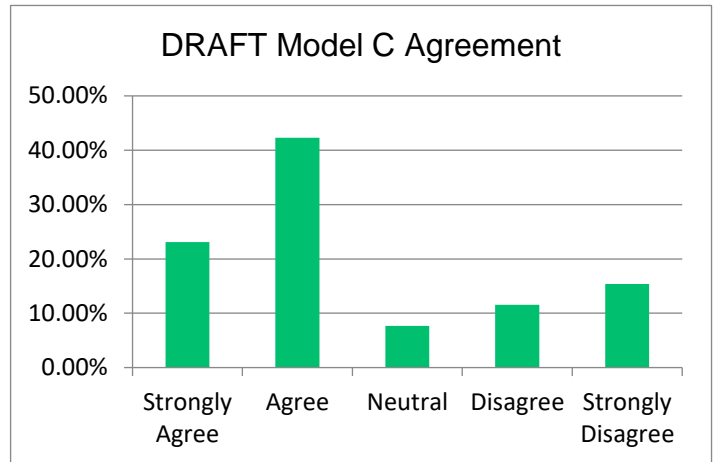
**My DRAFT Model Option B feedback is driven primarily by...**

Answer Choices	Responses	
None of the above	7.41%	2
Differences/Similarities in parish cultures	40.75%	11
Differences/Similarities in socio-economic factors	3.70%	1
Topography between parishes (hills, rivers, bridges)	3.70%	1
Distance between parishes	7.41%	2
Size of the potential parish(es)	29.63%	8
Potential or lack of potential for ministry opportunities	7.41%	2

Section 5.3 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	23.08%	6
Agree	42.31%	11
Neutral	7.69%	2
Disagree	11.54%	3
Strongly Disagree	15.38%	4
<b>Answered</b>	<b>26</b>	
<b>Skipped</b>	<b>9</b>	



**What is strongest about DRAFT MODEL Option C?**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Shares resources effectively	31.82%	7
Builds upon existing relationships among parishes	59.09%	13
Enables a platform for more robust evangelization or social outreach	4.55%	1
Provides better accessibility to a priest	4.55%	1

**What is most challenging about DRAFT MODEL Option C?**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Brings together communities that are too different	8.00%	2
Requires unrealistic demands on the clergy	8.00%	2
Creates a lot of difficulty for accessing Eucharist and the sacraments	12.00%	3
Neglects the financial needs of the community	8.00%	2
Other (please specify)	64.00%	16

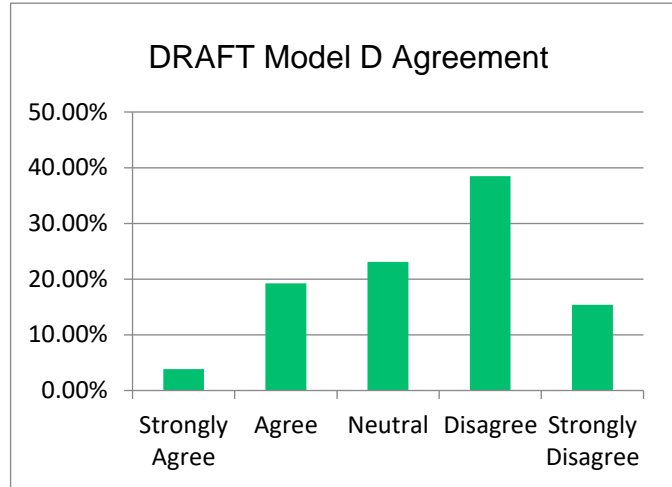
**My DRAFT Model Option C feedback is driven primarily by...**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Differences/Similarities in parish cultures	44.00%	11
Differences/Similarities in socio-economic factors	0.00%	0
Topography between parishes (hills, rivers, bridges)	0.00%	0
Distance between parishes	8.00%	2
Size of the potential parish(es)	44.00%	11
Potential or lack of potential for ministry opportunities	4.00%	1

Section 5.4 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	3.85%	1
Agree	19.23%	5
Neutral	23.08%	6
Disagree	38.46%	10
Strongly Disagree	15.38%	4
<b>Answered</b>	<b>26</b>	
<b>Skipped</b>	<b>9</b>	



**What is strongest about DRAFT MODEL Option D?**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Shares resources effectively	30.00%	6
Builds upon existing relationships among parishes	40.00%	8
Enables a platform for more robust evangelization or social outreach	20.00%	4
Provides better accessibility to a priest	10.00%	2

**What is most challenging about DRAFT MODEL Option D?**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Brings together communities that are too different	15.38%	4
Requires unrealistic demands on the clergy	7.69%	2
Creates a lot of difficulty for accessing Eucharist and the sacraments	23.08%	6
Neglects the financial needs of the community	7.69%	2
Other (please specify)	46.15%	12

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

Answer Choices	Responses	
Differences/Similarities in parish cultures	20.00%	5
Differences/Similarities in socio-economic factors	8.00%	2
Topography between parishes (hills, rivers, bridges)	4.00%	1
Distance between parishes	32.00%	8
Size of the potential parish(es)	28.00%	7
Potential or lack of potential for ministry opportunities	8.00%	2

## **Section 6 Alternative Models**

- Northern part of St. John Bosco goes with Holy Spirit, while the rest goes to Incarnate Word
- St. Monica, St. Richard. St. John Bosco
- Southwest part of St. Richard added to St. Monica, St. John Bosco, Incarnate Word grouping
- Holy Spirit, St. John Bosco, St. Monica, along with the western portions of St. Jude and St. Richard (hybrid of models A and C)
- St. Monica, St. Richard, and the Eastern part of St. John Bosco
- St. John Bosco and Holy Spirit
- St. John Bosco, St. Monica and St. Richard

## **Section 7. Further questions**

Could dividing the territory of St. John Bosco based on proximity to Incarnate Word/Holy Spirit/St. Monica serve as a good solution?

Do the people resident in the territory of St. John's already worship predominately in one of the neighboring parishes?

It was mentioned that St. John Bosco/Incarnate Word/St. Monica merger is too large and St. Rita/ Christ the King/All Saints merger is too small. I assume we are talking about population? No solution mentioned, and since I am unfamiliar with the options, this may actually be self explanatory.

“When consolidation of St. Rita, Christ the King, and All Saints makes more sense in option D when they are also merged with another planning area.”

-They did not say which planning area.

“In this option C, Our Lady of Guadalupe remains a personal parish which is desirable.”

-Is this the actual option C? Or is this a suggested addition to it?

[In] Option A - one opinion was to put St. Richards with St. Monica and St. John Bosco and put Holy Spirit with All Souls.

-They did not mention why. Are they basing this on population? Parish interaction? Community compatibility?