

# CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF MEADVILLE LISTENING SESSION

## December 4, 2019

### MAIN POINTS PLACED ON SUMMARY

- Start something new
- New Members
- Be more active, Evangelize
- Promote Catholic Social groups
- Embrace each other & Change
- Ditto to those items already mentioned
- Youth Director
  
- Social Media & Social Outreach Presence
- Focus on Young Adults
- Priest greets/Priest Access
- Good Leadership
- Parishioner Input Channel
  
- Road trip to other dioceses& Churches
- Share Slides
- Attract More Deacons
- "One Church, One Rectory"
- More and varied programs
- Push good things
  
- Options for different ages and groups
- Be United
- Financial Support for youth
- Strong School
- Have High Energy Mass
- Generous with time and finances
- On Fire with the Holy Spirit
  
- One Church
- Focus on Family – evolve
- Mission Church
- Bring Youth
- Be Open to Change
- Consider various Mass Times

# **CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF MEADVILLE LISTENING SESSION December 4, 2019**

## **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION TABLE REPORTS- typed as shown on sheets**

### **Table 1**

- We need to act now
- We have warm and welcoming priests and parishioners; we want this shown even more
- We want more parent and youth involvement
- We need good leadership

### **Table 5**

- We desire more outreach to others
- We need to combine to one church
- Ask people to participate
- We need programs that encourage and support families

### **Table 6**

- One church and one mission church
- Focus on bringing youth a to the church and sacraments
- Involve the home and peer support
- Evangelization in a welcoming and calm manner  
Show by example—actions speak louder than words
- Create socialization and a feeling of being welcomed

### **Table 7**

- Under one roof !!  
Mission churches for events  
This will give full masses and greater participation
- Appeal to the Youth through evangelization with fundamental Catholic values
- Be open to change
- More accessible mass times for working people
- Consolidate activities and services

### **Table 8**

- One Parish and One united parish community
- Be united – set an example as a diverse group of people coming together
- Financial support for Catholic education (both Seton and Sunday School)
- Attracting our youth

**Table 9**

- Come together as Body of Christ
- Vibrant pastor
- Consider an entirely new entity; not consolidation/ contraction of 1 or 2 parishes
- School must stay open
- Largest building may not be necessary given projected demographics

**Table 10**

- New, younger members
- Active, thriving, community
- Possibly united under 1 or 2 churches
- All masses filled, like 9:30 am mass is today
- Get the young people involved
- Use podcasts
- Use more social media
- Focus on love and acceptance
- Include parts, relics, sacramental from closing parishes into new parish
- Increase our time, talents and offerings

**Table 11**

- Have a thriving school and parish
- Have a meaningful experience for all
- Consolidation of strengths
- Widen channels of communication

**Table 12**

- Parish with one church vision for 5 years
- Evangelize, new people – younger
- Inspire to want and live their faith
- More positive attitude within all parishes, social functions, funerals and liturgy

**Table 13**

- One UNITED community; perhaps a new name??  
Not as a “house-divided”
- Priests greeting more/more welcoming
- Priests to mingle more before and after Mass

**Table 14**

- Closer, United, One Church, fewer worship spaces
- Be more vibrant, family-oriented, welcoming
- Have strong filled Catholic school
- Faith community the same but likely smaller
- Focus on outreach
- Motivation with Mass -- more energy, homily focus on Gospels; relate to life

- Evangelize, unite 3 parishes
- Increase Catholic school enrollment

**Table 15**

- One Church, One Parish, New Name
- More visible and active Youth
- Active Team Members
- Engaged Leaders and relatable --- pastors ---- youth leaders
- Optional Mass style--traditional service, youth mass, modern/rock mass---- that all keep core of faith
- Include generations opinions
- One building sooner than later
- Evaluate budget expenses

**Table 19**

- Unite into one Church
- One Priest with fewer masses
- Reduce number of parishes
- Married Deacons able to become priests
- More vibrant youth involvement
- More youth activities working as one parish
- Consider all possibilities
- Make good decisions
- Get good professional advice
- To be more generous with our time and financial support
- Be friendly and accept all members
- Understand and promote the importance of catholic education (Seton)

**Table 20**

- Fewer buildings
- Increasing number of families
- On fire with the Holy Spirit
- Progress toward a unified Catholic Community
- More various community activities; community celebrations;
- Encouraged by leadership
- Develop one Catholic identity with a new name
- Other considerations: staffing, facilities

**Table 21**

- Two parishes; one campus; closer community
- Unified faith formation
- Young Adult programming
- All working together
- More Missions/More Outreach

- Meeting community needs- Recognition of what is being done
- New Name/New Identity
- Keep combining parish services
- More programming
- Look at Youth minister
- Solid message based on readings

**Table 22**

- Need to attract young
- Programs relevant to young; Vibrant leaders; socialize with them
- See what other vibrant churches are doing
- More PR on events we do have and good things going on
- Need more volunteers—same people-- need new blood
- Ted’s plan -- Unsure of how to interpret the drawing
  - perhaps Ted or the table monitor could explain to Task Force

**Table 23**

- One Consolidated Parish; One name; unified
- Physical church/ building surplus eliminated
- Be stronger with Youth
- More Families
- Continued support for youth& RCIA – more new people
- Draw younger generation
- Pastor; Leadership
- Reach out to people – inclusion of disenfranchised; find out why
- Music; guitar
- Look at other parishes and see what they do
- Road trip”
- Share slides with website of tonight’s presentation
- Share Homilies on the website; podcasts, etc.

**OTHER TABLES – No numbers on sheets**

**A.**

- How do we bring more young adults & families into CCM?
- What do other churches with large congregations do differently than CCM?
- Look to the future without boundaries of what was
- More social outreach programs for different ages
- Consolidate our religious events as one group
- How do we become a more welcoming community?
- Free food encourages larger gathering (with donation jar present)

**B.**

- One combined interactive parish – services & programs in total
  - “All encompassed” of parish life
- “Welcome” all with open arms

- Encourage open arms & all perspectives, participation
- More creative ideas for all programs; 'dunk tank'
- Embrace change

**C.**

- Growing Unity, growing in number, growing in strength
- Become more of a presence in the community  
e.g. use social media and other media
- Have a channel to gather parishioner input
- More clergy visibility & accessibility  
e.g. hospital visits, more personal attention

**D.**

- A cohesive community of parishioners
- Employment of youth director and parent involvement
- Get more youth involved

**E.**

- Nurturing children
- Increase percentage of young adults
- Vision of one parish instead of 3
- Continue to attract warm, friendly priests
- One parish that is friendly and cooperative
- Encourage and promote Catholic community to support and volunteer in existing service groups e.g. homeless shelter and soup kitchen and identify ourselves as the Catholic community
- Prayer!
- More meetings like these
- Reach out to other faith communities- Catholic and Protestant to get ideas for growth
- Ask CCD what they would like to see

**F.**

- One church, one rectory, one community
- Expand Seton school
- Support Catholic Community
- Active community events/Catholic Youth Center
- Leadership, passion, understanding

**G.**

- Older community and smaller community 5 years from now
- Have one united community of faith
- Encourage our youth to attend
- Attract Young people
- Meet the Youth's spiritual needs
- Appeal to Youth and Young Families
- Attract more Deacons; start the Deacon program again
- Continuous education for all ages
- Celebrate all ages including older population