



Catholic Community of Meadville

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Dear Members of the Catholic Community of Meadville:

I would like to pass on to you the results of the feedback from parishioners regarding the Preliminary Pastoral Plan. This is the culmination of a process through which we have sought to hear your voice beginning with the Parish Life Survey, then the Listening Session, followed by soliciting your comments on the goals collated from the listening session, and finally the feedback discussed in the present letter. The entire process can be found by clicking "Pastoral Planning" on the website of the Catholic Community of Meadville.

As you may remember the proposed preliminary plan was as follows.

- (1) All three personal parishes, St. Agatha, St. Brigid, and St. Mary of Grace, will be suppressed and in their place one new territorial parish will be created with a new name to be selected by the bishop. Ownership of all assets and liabilities of the three current parishes, including all buildings, will be transferred in full to the new parish.**
- (2) The parish church for this new parish will be St. Agatha church.**
- (3) The other two churches will be secondary churches without mission status. This means that while weddings, funerals, occasional services, and even some weekday Masses may be celebrated in these churches, all Sunday and Holy Day Masses will be in the one parish church.**
- (4) The new parish will eventually need to assess the use or repurposing of various parish facilities (e.g., social halls, rectories, etc.). Until that time, these facilities will continue to function as they have been.**

In tabulating the feedback on the plan each return was allotted up to 4 spaces for comments and suggestions in a spreadsheet including whether one agrees or disagrees. The categories below were based on a review of all the written feedback contained in the responses. The raw data (i.e., the written comments) and its tabulation have been reviewed by the Pastoral Planning Task Force. They found the tabulation to be an accurate representation of the data. On the next page is a table showing the results.

Comment/suggestion	Number	%
A = <u>A</u> gree	54	71.1%
AR = <u>A</u> gree <u>R</u> esignedly	8	10.5%
ACs = <u>A</u> gree, with <u>C</u> onditions/ <u>s</u> uggestions	7	9.2%
C = <u>C</u> hurch choice, questioned	5	6.6%
D = <u>D</u> isagree	7	9.2%
DL = <u>D</u> iocesan <u>L</u> evel issues, especially how the decision is made	2	2.6%
I = Unaware of <u>I</u> nput opportunities for parishioners	3	3.9%
M = preserve <u>M</u> emorabilia and traditions from other churches	4	5.3%
MA = <u>M</u> Aintenance suggestions for St. Agatha church building	5	6.6%
MM = <u>M</u> usic <u>M</u> inistry, suggestions & comments inc. styles and positioning	2	2.6%
MT = <u>M</u> ass <u>T</u> imes & places suggested	4	5.3%
N = new <u>N</u> ame issues raised	19	25.0%
O = Questions/suggestions regarding <u>O</u> rganizations' & activities' future	3	3.9%
OP = Ideas regarding the use of, or plans for <u>O</u> ther <u>P</u> roperties	27	35.5%
PA = <u>P</u> arking - will it be adequate?	1	1.3%
S = Suggested <u>S</u> ound/acoustics improvements for St. Agatha	6	7.9%
U = <u>U</u> nclassifiable	5	6.6%

Returns	76
A, AR, ACs	69
% Favorable	90.8%

A few observations may be in order.

First, as you can see, 90.8% agreed with the plan either enthusiastically, resignedly, or with serious suggestions.

Secondly, the majority of the suggestions about the properties and buildings concerned the future beyond what is expressly outlined in the four points of the plan. These matters will need to be decided somewhere down the road, but we are not at that point yet. Comments in this category centered on the use or disposition of the facilities other than St. Agatha's, maintenance issues, music ministry ideas, and improving sound and acoustics. This is very useful information which will factor into future planning.

Next, the third largest category of comments focuses on the name of the new parish. The Task Force understands and respects that the decision regarding the new name ultimately lies with the Bishop. However, they thought that the Bishop should be aware of the percentage of responses that indicate a desire on the part of parishioners to have some role in the selection process.

Last, the parishioners' responses show a great sense of ownership and care for their spiritual home and the future of the Catholic Church in Meadville. We are grateful for those who took the time to offer their heart-felt ideas and suggestions.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Fr. Jeffrey Lucas
Pastor