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Developing Adult Faith Formation at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Helotes

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Developing Adult Faith Formation
at
Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Helotes

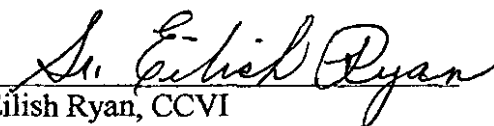
A Practicum

Presented to the Pastoral Institute
The University of the Incarnate Word,
In partial fulfillment of the requirements
For the degree of Master of Arts in Religious Studies

By

Jane M. Abernathy, B.S. Psychology

Approved by:


Sr. Eilish Ryan, CCVI
Faculty Advisor

Date: August 1, 2003

Reflections

Phase One
Fall 2002

LRSS Evaluations

Phase Two
Spring 2003

Survey Report

Theology of Church and Ministry

I “believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.”¹ “I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.”² These professions of belief have had an enormous impact on my life from the days of my childhood until the present. Even though I didn’t regard myself as such at the time, I have been a minister in the Church since I was twelve years old, beginning in the area of music. Over the past four decades I have witnessed and have participated in the Roman Catholic Church’s significant changes, particularly in liturgical worship. It seems that as I have grown and changed, so has the Church, especially since the Second Vatican Council.

Despite its numerous human fallibilities, the Church has been, and continues to be, a means of salvation for millions of souls. Even though there has been great turmoil in the Church since Vatican II, I have repeatedly witnessed the presence and action of the Holy Spirit guiding the Church through this remarkable period of history.

Recently the Catholic Church has been challenged with a great scandal involving the molestation of children by priests, and cover-ups that have spanned decades. This has been an embarrassing and humbling experience for the Church and its leaders. Although this situation has been most regrettable, I also believe that good will result from it. Through incidents such as this, the Holy Spirit seems to be guiding the Church to return to its foundational characteristics of Body of Christ and People of God, rather than merely as an institutional and hierarchical organization. For far too long the Church has been focused on structure and power. I am confident that the Spirit is calling us all once again to an attitude of humble service to the human community. I also believe that the Holy Spirit wants to involve lay persons in every aspect of

¹ From *The Apostles’ Creed*.

² From *The Nicene Creed*.

the Church, including all levels of its hierarchical administration. We are *all* the People of God, and we are *all* called and gifted.

Our Church is not one that seeks professional leadership from the secular world; we gather as a community of faith and the Holy Spirit gifts each of us with the necessary skills to accomplish the mission of the Church. In its document on the Church, the Second Vatican Council affirmed this proclamation by St. Paul:

It is not only through the sacraments and the ministrations of the Church that the Holy Spirit makes holy the People, leads them and enriches them with his virtues. Allotting his gifts according as he wills (cf. Cor. 12:11), he also distributes special graces among the faithful of every rank. By these gifts he makes them fit and ready to undertake various tasks and offices for the renewal and building up of the Church [. . .] (12).

When I was in the sixth grade, my parish pastor recognized my musical talent and made my parents and me an offer: the parish would pay for organ lessons for me if I would play for school and weekend Masses. In retrospect, I recognize now that my pastor perfectly modeled several important elements of church ministry. First, he was aware of a need in the community and sought to satisfy that need. He looked for a solution within the community itself. Despite my youth and inexperience, he creatively suggested a proposal that was beneficial to me as well as the parish. He made a direct invitation to me, no doubt knowing that requesting volunteer ministers in bulletin announcements is not necessarily a good method for seeking ministers. He nurtured my musical development and encouraged me along the way. He was personally appreciative of my gift and sought to utilize it without taking advantage of me. In return for a small monetary investment in my lessons, the parish benefited from my musical contributions for many years and the Church claimed a lifelong minister.

The Church's very existence, its continued growth and development, and its ability to fulfill God's mission requires that its members gather in community with one another. It is there that ministerial gifts are recognized and shared. St. Paul wrote about the importance of communal gathering and ministry in his letter to the Hebrews: "We must consider how to rouse one another to love and good works. We should not stay away from our assembly, as is the custom of some, but encourage one another [...]" (10:24-25). To another Christian community, St. Paul also wrote: "Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of working, but it is the same God who inspires them all in every one" (1 Cor. 12:4-6). Thus, all Christians are called to be disciples of Christ within a community of disciples, and each individual is blessed with different gifts for service to God through the Church.

My past experiences in other areas of ministry model an ideal method for recruiting Church ministers: personally invite people to active discipleship, help them discern their gifts, then guide and support them in developing and utilizing their gifts toward the fulfillment of the mission of the Church. However, my involvements in ministry have also affirmed for me the necessity of formation and training to successfully minister in church leadership roles. I have become more and more aware that ministry formation is a serious and ongoing challenge to the Church today. From scripture, we know that Jesus spent a great deal of time forming and preparing his disciples to carry on his mission after his death and resurrection.

Although the documents of Vatican Two repeatedly stress the importance of training and formation for ministerial roles, the reality is that many parishes are forced to rely on the services of volunteers to fill roles for which they are not qualified. Reasons for this situation include time constraints, financial limitations, lack of access to formational opportunities or an unwillingness to take advantage of opportunities that do exist. The accomplishment of the Church's mission to

proclaim the gospel message to the entire world is severely hampered by this constraint and regrettably the hierarchy has not yet formulated a method or the means to correct it. This problem will inevitably continue well into the twenty-first century.

One of the elements contributing to the lack of formation of Church ministers is a difficulty in actually defining the term "ministry." Ministry in the Roman Catholic Church has changed form and shape over the centuries. Ministerial roles, as in the early Church, grow out of each community's needs, thus there could be any number of titles under the umbrella of Church ministry. One could claim that ministry is any action for good done in the name of Christ with the goal of building the Kingdom of God. Others believe that such a description is too inclusive and is ultimately meaningless (Bernier 6). Bausch proposes that the terms *ministry* and *office* are, for the most part, interchangeable: "Ministry serves the mission of the church and refers to the service of the community that keeps the gospel alive and the tradition intact. Office refers to leadership in the community" (25). I agree with Bausch. From my experience, the term minister is best applied to those who serve in leadership positions or offices within the parish community, whether they are ordained or lay persons, male or female. The positions they hold may be full-time or part-time, with or without compensation. There has been a stunning development and growth of Church ministries over the past forty years. Examples of such ministerial roles include: Eucharistic ministers, Hospitality ministers, Music ministers, Liturgists, Befrienders, Campus ministers, Youth ministers, Social Justice ministers, Catechists, and so on.

These ministers are called by God and the community to serve in leadership positions and they are offered opportunities for growth and formation in order to carry out their roles. Thus, the ministers of the Church are those people who are gifted, called and formed to be leaders within the Church community. Of course, this is the ideal and in practice the reality has been less than ideal.

The documents of Vatican Two called for staggering changes in the practice of Church ministry. History shows that there was insufficient guidance and support for parish staff to implement these changes. Some priests were as confused as the people in the pews. In the areas of liturgical ministry there was too little direction or catechesis. Where previously the Church had been perhaps overly strict and regimented, within a very short time span there seemed to an "anything goes" attitude in some areas. The test of time and re-evaluations of the original intent of the documents have resolved some of the difficulties, yet many problems in ministry remain.

Some pastors are hesitant or even resentful of the increased involvement of the laity in Church leadership roles resulting in friction and power struggles. As previously mentioned, many Church ministers are not properly trained to perform their roles yet often the low wages limit the number and qualifications of applicants. Contemporary society has also challenged the Church in new ways yet the Church leadership is not responding to these issues in a timely manner. For example, there is a serious decline in vocations to the priesthood and a growing shortage of priests. Although each baptized person is entitled to the Eucharist, there are many priestless communities. The hierarchy seems to be avoiding addressing this problem because of its firm adherence to a celibate, male priesthood. This is a serious problem in ministry today yet I believe that the challenges we face as Catholics can teach us about ourselves and who we claim to be as Christians.

I pray for the Church's continued perseverance through a remarkable period of change in world history. I pray that we who are ministers in the Church will continue to respond to our baptismal call to discipleship and serve with charity and humility. May we as individuals and collectively as the Catholic Church always be faithful witnesses of Jesus Christ, Lord of History.

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Description of the Project

My project will be to offer assistance to the staff of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Helotes, Texas, in the area of adult faith formation. This will be a two-part project over the course of a nine-month period.

The first part will be to examine various Scripture Study programs, select one as a "test," offer it in the Fall of 2002, and evaluate it for possible continuation or rejection.

The second element of this project will be to assess the needs, desires and availability of adults regarding other aspects of adult faith formation. Our Lady of Guadalupe is a rapidly growing parish and it has been several years since the parishioners were last surveyed. An assessment of adult faith formation needs will be conducted by a survey in the Spring of 2003.

Documents of the Second Vatican Council and more recently, from the United States Bishops have repeatedly stressed the importance of adult faith formation. In line with these guidelines, Our Lady of Guadalupe plans to hire an Adult Faith Formation Coordinator as soon as possible. It is my desire that my project will be of assistance to this new staff member for the purposes of future planning.

PROJECT FOCUS GROUP

Rev. Gerald Hammel, S.M., Pastor, Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish

Ms. Nancy Drymala, Religious Education Coordinator, Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish

Rev. Mr. Timothy Houlihan, Deacon and newly hired Adult Faith Formation Coordinator, Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish

Mr. Daniel Quaderer, Deacon Candidate, RCIA Co-Coordinator, Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish

Other Consultants

Mr. Mario Macías, Parishioner, Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish

Mr. Joel Garcia, Parishioner, Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish

Mr. John Kleffner, Parishioner, Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish

Little Rock Scripture Study Facilitators for Fall 2002

Mr. and Mrs. Mario & Monica Macías

Mr. Daniel Quaderer

Rev. Mr. Timothy Houlihan

Mr. and Mrs. Pedro & Nelda Palacios

Ms. Jane Abernathy

Project Proposal

1. The setting for my project will be Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Helotes, Texas. This is my parish community and it is particularly appropriate for my pastoral project because I believe that my focus on adult faith formation is needed and I will receive the support I need from the staff and community. No project in or for the Church should ever be a solo endeavor and I plan to draw on the talents of the parishioners who are interested in my project to assist me with the process. The obstacles I anticipate will be time conflicts with other parish activities, soliciting volunteers, meeting deadlines and the possibility of over-investing myself into this project since I have a tendency toward perfectionism. I intend to minimize the time conflicts, deadlines and soliciting volunteers by frequent communication with my Focus Team members, especially through e-mails. I plan to monitor my involvement with the project and ask for help when necessary, saying "no" when necessary, and trying to be aware of my perfectionist attitude.
2. My project idea sprouted in the summer of 2002 when I recognized that there was a void in the area of adult faith formation at Our Lady of Guadalupe, especially with the recent move of a staff member who had offered a scripture study for adults for many years. I proposed to the staff that I conduct my pastoral project in the area of adult faith formation and they wholeheartedly endorsed the idea. My project will be in two parts. The first element will take place in the Fall of 2002 and will be to investigate various Bible Study programs, select one, offer it to the parish, and evaluate it as an ongoing element of adult faith formation. The second part of my project will be to assess the needs and desires of the parish adults by means of a survey conducted in the Spring of 2003.
3. My focus group will consist of the parish Pastor, Deacon, Director of Religious Education, and a member of the parish who is a Deacon-Candidate, a co-coordinator of RCIA, and is

pursuing a Masters degree in education. I believe that each of these persons will be supportive of my project, is interested in adult faith formation, and will be able to offer valuable advice.

4. I did not do a formal needs' assessment to determine the necessity of my project. This was done verbally during individual appointments and staff meetings.

5. My interaction with the focus group during the planning stages was in the following manner: after making my initial proposal to the Director of Religious Education, I made an appointment to describe my proposed project with the pastor, who was enthusiastic about it. He requested that I present my project to the entire staff at their next meeting, during which time it was approved. The Focus Team met to discuss the project; they gave me feedback about the parish demographics, calendar of activities, resources, and suggested other people to contact who may be interested in the Scripture Study aspect. I then met with a group of parishioners who had been attending the scripture studies in previous years. These adults were supportive and volunteered their assistance.

6. The goals of the project are:

By December 2002: to test an organized Scripture Study to determine its suitability for Our Lady of Guadalupe; and by mid-April 2003: to determine the present needs and desires of the parish adults in the area of faith formation.

7. Objectives for the Scripture Study:

August, 2002 – select a course to offer and begin advertising

September, 2002 – continue to advertise, train facilitators, take registrations

October through November, 2002 – offer the Scripture Study and get feedback from participants

December – Focus Team and facilitators evaluate the suitability of continuing the selected course.

Objectives for the adult faith formation needs' assessment:

February, 2003 – Discuss survey with Focus Team and solicit additional volunteers

March, 2003 – Select date for survey, design and produce survey

April, 2003 – Conduct survey and tally results. Make presentation to Focus Team and deliver final report to the parish.

8. The knowledge I will need to accomplish this project will be: an understanding of why adult faith formation is important to the Church, knowledge of how to organize a group activity, and how to collect and analyze data. I have a good deal of this knowledge already from my classes toward the Master's degree and previous employment in the Office of Worship for the Archdiocese of San Antonio. I do not have experience in designing a survey and will seek input from others for this task.

9. In order to successfully accomplish this project, I will need good communication skills which would include the possibility of speaking in front of a large group, depending on the number of participants in the Scripture Study. I will need computer skills such as word processing, e-mail, and utilizing a database for the survey. I will need good organizational ability. I believe I possess most of these skills, especially from my education and previous employment. I do not have a fear of public speaking. The particular skill that I do not have is converting survey data into charts and graphs; I plan to seek assistance from others for that aspect of the project.

10. For the success of my project, I will need to be prayerful, inviting God's direction into this undertaking. I will need to be enthusiastic, especially to encourage adults of the parish to participate in the Scripture Study and the parish survey. I will need to be flexible and trusting in the abilities of others. I am very enthusiastic about this project and am confident that attitude will remain throughout the year. I have a tendency to rely on my own abilities rather than trust

in others or seek God's direction, so I will be conscientious to open all meetings with prayer. I will try to be flexible whenever necessary.

11. It is definitely my hope that the Scripture Study will develop into an ongoing activity. If the staff and team decide to continue the study, someone else will need to coordinate its future, however I will be available as a consultant if necessary. At that time, I will be involved in the second phase of my project (the needs assessment) and after the Spring of 2003, my family is moving out of state. Therefore, it is necessary that others in the parish take the helm of the Scripture Study. The needs assessment is a one-time activity but the information it produces will hopefully be used in future planning for adult faith formation activities.

12. As a result of this project, I have the personal goal to learn more about adult faith formation through reading Church documents and from other resources. I want to learn more about Scripture studies that are available to Catholics. I want to understand how to gather input from parishioners so that a parish can better serve them. My professional goal is to learn more about working in a parish setting, especially in the area of adult faith formation as that is an area of strong personal interest.

13. I hope that my resource person will share his experience working as a staff member of Our Lady of Guadalupe, assisting with the budgetary elements, making connections with other individuals who may be of assistance, and offering advice along the way.

Project Evaluation

1. My focus team was of great assistance in the successful completion of my project. For the Scripture Study element, they proofread announcements, helped to order materials, arranged daycare and made room reservations, helped select the course, encouraged others to participate, assisted with registration and the implementation of the Scripture Study. They helped to write an evaluation for the participants to complete and met afterward to decide on the future of the program. For the needs' assessment survey, the team members helped design the survey, selected the date, coordinated the arrangements and helped recruit people to distribute the surveys at all the Masses one weekend in April. They made connections for me to meet with other individuals who had expertise in data collection and presentation, and for making charts and graphs with the data that was collected.

2. My original goals were: by December 2002: to test an organized Scripture Study to determine its suitability for Our Lady of Guadalupe and by mid-April 2003: to determine the present needs and desires of the parish adults in the area of faith formation.

I believe I did accomplish my goals and met my objectives. After research and discussion, the Little Rock Scripture Study was selected as on a "test" basis, with a short, 5-week course called "The Infancy Narratives," timed to conclude at the beginning of Advent. There were fifty-seven registrants for the Fall Scripture Study and six volunteers were trained as facilitators. It was extremely well received and most everyone was very enthusiastic about the course. It was determined by vote of the participants, the Focus Team and other staff members that the Little Rock Scripture Study should continue. Deacon Tim Houlihan assumed responsibility as coordinator. A course on the Passion and Resurrection Narratives was offered in the Spring of 2003. Sixty-one people registered and as of this writing, there are fourteen trained facilitators, with eight more volunteers to be trained as facilitators in the near future.

Regarding the survey, the Focus Team and staff are well pleased with the results of the survey and the data it produced, which proved to be very interesting. Many people took time to write personal comments on the survey and left their names and phone numbers, requesting to be contacted by the staff. It was not only a means of collecting data, but a tool for communication as well. The data will be used in the reformulation of the parish vision statement and will be a resource in the staff development planning retreat. The information will be especially valuable to Deacon Timothy Houlihan who was recently hired as Coordinator of Adult Faith Formation for the parish. He is committed to addressing those issues that were identified as critical by those who completed the survey. The results of the survey will be published in the parish bulletin, the Faith Formation Handbook, and available on the website. Finally, as a result of the survey, Deacon Candidate Daniel Quaderer has offered to focus his internship in the area identified by adult parents as most needed: how to pass the faith to their children.

3. In my proposal, I stated that I would need an understanding of why adult faith formation is important to the Church. I read several documents of the Church, including *Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us*, the statement by the U.S. bishops regarding adult faith formation. I knew I would need knowledge of how to organize a group activity and my previous experience proved invaluable for that aspect of my project. I did not know how to design the survey and what should be the content. For the content, I interviewed parish coordinators of adult faith formation at several parishes in the Archdiocese of San Antonio, and consulted with team members and other adult parishioners. For the design, I needed to produce a survey that would gather sufficient data to be useful yet one that was short and simple. I did not realize all the factors that needed consideration, such as the various interpretations of words or phrases like "religious education" or "faith formation." It took several revisions and consulting with different people to hone it to the final version which proved to be extremely successful. Five hundred ninety-nine

adults completed the survey so it was enough to be adequately representative of the parish adult body. However, the survey cannot be considered scientifically valid, based on the manner in which it was conducted. If I ever conduct a survey in the future, I would spend more time learning how to compose and conduct surveys as comprehensively and accurately as possible.

4. My communication skills were adequate enough to successfully complete the project. The skill I most needed and lacked was the ability to produce the charts and graphs based on the survey results. For that I relied on the expertise of a volunteer parishioner. I may need that skill in the future and will enlist my husband to teach me how to perform that task on the computer.

5. Attitudes: I expected the need to be prayerful, enthusiastic, flexible and trusting in the abilities of others. I did plan prayer before all meetings; I think I was flexible in some areas and not in others. I frequently trusted the judgment of others, especially in the selection of which scripture study to offer to the community, and for input into the design and implementation of the survey.

6. I minimized or overcame these obstacles:

a) time conflicts with other parish activities - checked the parish calendar long in advance, however, the survey was limited to only two possible weekends. It was a tight fit into a very full schedule;

b) soliciting volunteers – team members helped to recruit volunteers;

c) meeting deadlines – I kept a calendar of tasks and referred to it often;

d) the possibility of over-investing myself into this project since I have a tendency toward perfectionism – I did not overcome this obstacle. I spent more time than necessary on some elements of this project because I did not work efficiently all the time.

7. I believe the work I did contributed to the leadership capacity of others, especially for the people that have volunteered to be trained as facilitators in Scripture Study, now a total of fourteen individuals. One lady I personally asked to consider facilitator training was very hesitant, not believing that she was capable. After thinking and praying about it, she did take the training and is thrilled to be involved as a facilitator in the current Bible study. As a result of helping with the survey, one gentleman has committed himself to seeing that the parish offer the support for faith formation that were clearly indicated as needs and desires.

8. My personal learning goals:

a) I wanted to learn more about adult faith formation. I learned a great deal by reading Church documents and other published resources as well as interviewing other Adult Faith Formation Coordinators in parishes in the Archdiocese of San Antonio. I also learned that faith formation is much more than reading, hearing lectures and participating in structured activities. Faith formation is a continual process that happens as a result of the Holy Spirit present in the community. Faith formation is listening to the homily at Mass and discussing it later with your family; faith formation is chatting about moral issues with your co-workers; faith formation is reading about the Islamic faith as practiced in Iraq and pondering how it is similar or different than Catholicism.

b) I wanted to learn more about Scripture studies that are available to Catholics. I searched catalogs, online sites and asked Coordinators about the Scripture Study resources used in their parishes. I learned that there are many structured Scripture studies of differing formats and concentrations. It is important to consider the source of the study and how it will fit into the particular parish setting.

c) I wanted to understand how to gather input from parishioners so that a parish can better serve them. I learned that a survey has both positive elements and drawbacks. I feel like I did gain a great deal of knowledge about the adult parishioners of Our Lady of Guadalupe, yet there is much more to be known. I believe that it is important to understand what perceived needs are before planning activities and therefore some way of assessing those needs is necessary; I still do not know the "best" way of gathering that information.

d) My professional goal was to learn more about working in a parish setting, especially in the area of adult faith formation as that is an area of strong personal interest. I have learned that this is a challenging area of great importance to the Church of the future and that the staff of Our Lady of Guadalupe recognizes that it must be a priority. There is no universal job description of "Coordinator of Adult Faith Formation." In the Archdiocese of San Antonio, some parishes do not focus on this area and some parishes include it under the umbrella of Religious Education, while others have one or more staff members devoted entirely to adult faith formation. I have also learned that I personally have much more to learn if I ever pursue such a position in the future.

9. How was your project resource person most helpful? Least helpful?

Most helpful was his encouragement and enthusiasm. He repeatedly asked what he could do to help me and unhesitatingly put himself at my service throughout the project. I could not have asked for a more supportive project resource person. He recruited the volunteers who became facilitators for the Scripture Study and also those who were extremely helpful in the process of creating the survey. We had occasional minor communication difficulties that we resolved.

10. This project has affirmed my theology of church and ministry. Throughout my experience I witnessed the presence of the Holy Spirit calling forth people from my parish community to become involved, to participate in a work that would benefit the whole parish. I have been a member of Our Lady of Guadalupe parish for almost five years and through this project, I have a new and deep appreciation for my parish.

Modeling Christ's example of servant leadership, the pastor was conscientious to include the staff in making decisions; the staff in turn was enthusiastic to help, and parishioners I'd never met gave of their time and talent. The People of God, ordained and laity, were witnesses of their faith, sharing it with each other, reaping many rewards.

I am a lay female in the Catholic Church. Not long ago, such an individual had no voice in the operation of the Church. Since the Second Vatican Council, that has changed. This project is the perfect example. As a lay female, I proposed this project, it was approved by a unanimous vote of staff comprised of more lay females than male clergy. The entire project was completed by the work of male and female lay members of the church and one ordained deacon. The survey sought input from the lay members of the parish to direct some aspects of our parish's future activities. This is the church model that St. Paul envisioned, a church where the Holy Spirit distributes gifts amongst everyone, not just the ordained, for the building up of the community.

In order to conduct the adult faith formation needs assessment, many skills were required and no one individual possessed them all. We discovered hidden talents in the many persons from within the parish community who came forward to share their gifts. Through my involvement with these exceptional people, my own faith has grown and matured in new ways. Thus the importance of community was reinforced for me through my pastoral project. I realize even more that Christianity was never meant to be an individualistic religion.

The necessity of adequate training and formation for Church ministry was demonstrated in many ways. For the Scripture Study, it was necessary to train the facilitators of the small-groups. This was done by means of the organized program offered in print and videotape from the producers of the Little Rock Scripture Study. The facilitators appreciated their training and the people in their small groups benefited from their formation.

Church ministers also need continuing formation and training because they have a daunting task: to respond to the needs and desires of the people in the pews who are seeking a relationship with God through the Catholic religion in a rapidly changing society. These people look to the Church leadership for guidance in many areas. The results of the survey conducted at Our Lady of Guadalupe testify to the desire of the average adult Catholic to grow in their faith. Lay Catholics want to learn how to study the Bible and then how to integrate it into their daily lives. They want to know how to pass the Catholic faith to their children and how to make moral and ethical decisions. Lay Catholics want to know different ways to pray. For all these and more, they are looking to the leadership to show them the way.

In my involvement with the Scripture Study I encountered more than one person who held a strict fundamentalist point of view about the Bible. I encountered people who had never participated in a Bible study and had no idea how or where to begin. Several couples registered together and appreciated the opportunity to grow closer in their faith together. Thirty-two people wrote comments on the survey with many different questions about their Catholic faith. One wanted to know how to strengthen his or her marriage; another wanted to know how to respond to those who come knocking on their door trying to persuade them to join a different religion. These people are looking to the leadership of the Church to help them in their daily struggles. We who are ministers in leadership positions must be in touch with what the issues are and find creative new ways to respond to the changing needs of the community.

The practice of ministry as experienced in this project does not differ from my previously held views of ministry. I believe that the hierarchical Church in general still has a long way to go to eliminate the barriers to the work of the Holy Spirit. In the area of adult faith formation, for too long, the post-Vatican Two Church failed to read the signs of the times and respond to the changing needs of the laity, losing many to other religions. Fortunately, the bishops of the United States have responded to this situation in a strongly worded document *Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us*, stressing the absolute priority that must be given to adult faith formation in each and every parish. My project affirms the bishops' statement and also proves that the desire is present on the part of the laity to engage in faith formation. My project also demonstrated that people will make the time available for church activities outside of Mass when they are convinced of the good that can be produced from a cooperative effort by many toward a common goal.

After research and discussion, the Focus Team and other parish members decided to offer the Little Rock Scripture Study in the Fall of 2002 on a "test" basis. Two members of the committee had participated in the Little Rock courses in previous years and highly endorsed the program. The topic selected was "The Infancy Narratives." Upon completion of the course, the participants were given an evaluation to complete and these responses were summarized and are included here. After reviewing the evaluations and discussing the results, the Focus Team, staff and parish members decided that the Little Rock Scripture Study was a success and should be continued indefinitely in the parish. There will be three courses offered in 2003 and four in 2004. In the Spring of 2003, sixty-one adults registered for "The Passion and Resurrection Narratives" and by that time fourteen facilitators were trained with eight more signed up to be trained in the Summer 2003. In addition, a group of six adults began a Little Rock course in a parishioner's home, perhaps the beginning of a small faith community.

Begin a Life-Changing Journey; Let Bible Study Guide Your Way
Comience un Viaje de Cambio de Vida; Déje que el Estudio Bíblico le Enseñe el Camino

Little Rock Scripture Study

A Ministry of the Diocese of Little Rock and The Liturgical Press



The U.S. Catholic bishops recently issued a pastoral plan entitled *Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us*. In it they urge all parishioners to give priority to adult faith formation so that mature Catholics are disciples whose faith is living, explicit and fruitful. In the document the bishops write:

Recientemente, los obispos católicos de los EE.UU. publicaron un plan que se titula Sentíamos Arder Nuestro Corazón. El plan insta a todas las parroquias a dar prioridad a la formación de fe para adultos para que los católicos maduros sean discípulos con una fe viva, explícita, y fructuosa. En el documento los obispos escriben:

To teach as Jesus did means calling and equipping all Christians of every age and stage of life to fulfill their baptismal call to holiness in family, Church, and society—their mission to evangelize and transform the world into a more caring and just society. Ongoing faith formation is essential to accomplish this mission . . .

Enseñar al estilo de Jesús, quiere decir llamar y capacitar a todos los cristianos de todas las edades y etapas de vida para cumplir su llamado bautismal a la santidad en familia, Iglesia y sociedad: su misión de evangelizar y transformar el mundo en una sociedad más humana y más justa. La continua formación en la fe es esencial para llevar a cabo esta misión . . .

Little Rock Scripture Study is happy to provide effective resources for ongoing faith formation. Since 1974, people have used this method and these materials to deepen their personal faith, to grow their faith communities, and to reach into the larger community in acts of service and justice.

El Estudio Bíblico de Little Rock se complace en proveer recursos efectivos para la formación continua en la fe. Desde 1974, la gente ha usado este método y estos materiales para profundizar la fe personal, para aumentar sus comunidades de fe, y para alcanzar en la comunidad más sentido de servicio y justicia.

In your journey of faith, follow the path of God's Word. Little Rock Scripture Study is ready to equip you with the tools you need for the most important journey of all—continuing conversion.

En la jornada de fe siga el camino de la Palabra de Dios. El Estudio Bíblico de Little Rock le proporciona los elementos necesarios para el viaje más importante—la conversión constante.

Learning takes place in the head and in the heart, in homes and in parishes, through study, reflection, and application.

El aprender ocurre en la mente y en el corazón, en casa y en parroquias, a través del estudio, meditación, y aplicación.

Study the Bible and it will change the way you live. Give yourself and your parish the opportunity for the fullness of life Christ promises.

Estudie la Biblia y cambiará la manera que de vivir. Ello le dará a Ud. y su parroquia la oportunidad de la plenitud de vida que Cristo promete.

You will experience:

- deeper, more personal relationship with God
- lively experience of Christian community
- greater desire to reach out to others in need
- stronger sense of family faith and prayer
- richer appreciation for the Church's teachings and worship
- increased understanding of the journey of faith

Copyright reminder

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The Liturgical Press Home



Adult Scripture Study

"The Bible comes to us as both a gift and an opportunity. It is a gift of God who loves us enough to communicate with us. The only way to enjoy the gift is to open and savor it. The Bible is also an opportunity to actually meet God who is present in the stories, teachings, people, and prayers that fill its pages." -Bishop J. Peter Sartain

Would you like to enrich your experience of the Advent season this year?

Give yourself the gift of a Bible study. Our parish will be offering an Adult Scripture Study around the stories of Jesus' birth that are found in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Entitled "The Infancy Narratives of Jesus," this Scripture Study will be offered on Monday evenings from 7:00 - 8:30 PM for five consecutive weeks, beginning October 28, 2002. Daytime sessions will also be offered, days and times to be determined. Watch the bulletin for registration information. Babysitting will be provided. For more information, please call Jane Abernathy at 509-4108.



Adult Scripture Study

"The Bible is more than a record of a certain people's journey of faith-it is also the path for your life-long journey of faith. It is an invitation to meet the Lord of life, to dine at the feast set by God himself, a banquet which serves the best God has to offer" (Bishop J. Peter Sartain).

We invite you to come feast on God's Word in an Adult Bible Study in preparation for the Advent Season this year. We will be focusing on the birth stories of Jesus as found in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Entitled "The Infancy Narratives of Jesus," this Scripture Study will be offered on Monday evenings from 7:00 - 8:30 PM for five consecutive weeks, beginning October 28, 2002. Daytime sessions will also be offered, days and times to be determined. Flyers with more details and registration information are available in the Parish Office during office hours. Babysitting will be provided. For more information, please call Jane Abernathy at 509-4108.

See page 12.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Church

13715 Riggs Road

P.O. Box 639

Helotes, Texas 78023-0639

210-695-8791

www.olghelotes.org

olgemail@olghelotes.org



Faith Formation Handbook

2002-2003

Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish

Helotes, Texas

*wishes to thank the whole community for acknowledging its role
in the faith formation of all its members.*

To the worshipping assembly that models how we pray and celebrate,
To the parents and families who take responsibility as primary catechists,
To the faith communities of all ages who share their stories and journeys.

Thank you for being Good News!



People will come
from east and west,
and the north and south.

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General Information

Parish Mailing Address:

Our Lady of Guadalupe Church
13715 Riggs Road
P.O. Box 639
Helotes, TX 78023-0639

Parish office hours:

Monday-Friday: 9:00 a.m.-4:45 p.m.
Sunday: after each mass

Parish office phone: 210-695-8791

Parish fax: 210-695-9957

Parish E-mail: olgemail@olghelotes.org

Parish Web Address: www.olghelotes.org

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil 5:00 p.m.

6:30 p.m. (Bilingual)

Sunday 7:30, 9:00, 10:30 a.m. & 12 noon and 5 p.m. (beginning Sept. 8, 2002 - June, 2003)

Religious Education registration fees:

Families with one child PK-12	\$55.00
Families with two children PK-12	\$65.00
Families with three or more children PK-12	\$75.00



Adult Education

At the Parish

We believe that, "parents/adults appreciate the need to grow continually in their own faith as they come to understand their importance as role models and witnesses in sharing Catholic Christian values and faith".

(adapted from Partnership in Faith, 1992)

Adult catechesis has been described as allowing the truth to reverberate in our lives. Perhaps another way of saying the same thing is to describe our

maturing in the faith as an on-going process of allowing the Word to take flesh in our lives. Word and Sacrament have always been the two chief dynamics in the Christian community for forming persons in the faith and helping us grow to our unique human fullness as sons and daughters of God. Therefore, these two, Word and Sacrament, are the focus of our adult programs at Our Lady of Guadalupe.



The Sacramental Program focuses on those key moments in our lives when our God draws near, touches our lives and calls us to minister to each other in and through community ritual. At various points in the year, announced in the parish bulletin, we have presentations on the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist and the Sacraments of Healing: Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick. The thrust of these sessions is to deepen our understanding of these key times of encounter with Christ and to integrate and relate these moments to our day-to-day lives. These presentations are required for parents of children who are receiving the sacraments of initiation but they are open to all members of the parish. These sacraments of initiation and healing and the ritual liturgies that convey them are powerful moments of formation in our Christian life. All of us are offered the opportunity at these presentations to open ourselves to enter more deeply into these moments of grace and realize our own giftedness as brothers and sisters in Christ. Moreover, all of us are ministers, in one way or another, of these sacraments. We are asked to affirm our faith and the newly baptized when baptisms occur at Eucharist; we are called upon to be sponsors for some sacraments, we are lectors and ministers of the cup and bread, cantors and ushers at Eucharist, we are called to assist in the anointing of the sick. What better way to enhance our participation in ministering these sacraments than to increase our understanding of the sacramental event!

Adult Scripture Study – Catholics are encouraged to deepen their personal faith through learning and reflecting on God's Word. Study of scripture can be life-transforming and a means to growth in holiness. This fall, we will be offering a four-week scripture study entitled "The Infancy Narratives of Jesus." This program, called the ***Little Rock Scripture Study***, includes two parts. Participants have a daily personal Bible study time at home, which consists of reading and reflecting on a section of scripture with the assistance of a written study guide. Participants will then meet weekly in small-group sessions to pray together and share their reflections. A brief lecture will conclude each session to clarify the themes of the lesson.

An additional ***Adult Scripture Study*** will be offered in the spring of 2003. Watch for more information in future bulletins.

See Adult & Family calendar on page 38 for dates.

Young Adults

Ages 18-35

At the parish (check the bulletin for dates and details)

Inquiry—A place to ask questions and learn more about the Catholic faith.

Education: Bible Study, Catholic Update series, Family Sunday, Understanding the Sacraments

Service: SAMM Overnight Team

Retreats: Parish Family Retreats



At Home

Seasons of Faith (see page 15)

Sharing God's Word Through the Year

- A lectionary-based scripture study resource
- Designed especially for young adults
- Filled with themes, questions, reflections, challenges, prayers
- Addressing life issues and discernment about life choices and decisions

Contact the parish office to order your copy of this resource.

At your convenience

Young Adult Works—A comprehensive resource of Catholic materials for ministry with young adults. Young adults, one of the church's most gifted assets, have also been one of the most neglected populations. The national project, "Ministry With Young Adults A National Catholic Initiative," and the publication of "Sons and Daughters of the Light," the U.S. Catholic Bishops Pastoral Plan for Ministry with Young Adults, brought new attention to young adults. They also created an awareness of the need for Catholic resources for outreach and ministry with Young Adults. *Young Adult Works*, is a dynamic response to this need.

Young Adult Works is a resource full of ideas for connecting young adults with ways to address major life concerns such as:

- Developing meaningful relationships and friendships
- Belonging to a community(s)
- Searching for a personal spirituality
- Finding a good job and establishing a career
- Finding stability in life: financial, personal and relational
- Understanding one's faith
- Participating in leisure activities
- Making a difference; serving those in need
- Balancing time and priorities
- Sexuality in the age of AIDS

Young Adult Works is available in the parish office. You may discover something that appeals to you as an individual or inspires you to connect with others in exploring one or more of these concerns. Call or drop by the parish office or drop us an e-mail at olgemail@olghelotes.org.

Adult Scripture Study – Information and Registration

We invite you to participate in the Little Rock Scripture Study sessions being offered at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish this fall. This is a program that is suitable for those who have never studied the Bible and also those who have done extensive reading and study. Everyone learns together and supports one another in this program.

Little Rock Scripture Study combines personal Bible reading and reflection (approximately twenty minutes every day) and weekly small-group faith sharing with prayer and a brief lecture. The topic we will be studying this fall will be the birth stories of Jesus as found in the Gospel of Matthew and the Gospel of Luke. There is a fee of \$8 for materials; couples can share materials if they would like.

For your convenience, we will be offering evening sessions and daytime sessions. The evening sessions will be in the Parish Community Center hall (PCC) on Mondays from 7:00–8:30 PM, scheduled as follows:

Orientation on Oct. 28th, Bible Study Sessions on Nov. 4, 11, 18 and 25.

The daytime sessions will be on Tuesday mornings in the PCC, 10:00–11:30 AM, as follows:

Orientation on Oct. 29th, Bible Study Sessions on Nov. 5, 12, 19 and 26.

Childcare will be available for both in the daytime and the evening sessions, but space is limited so register early!

To register, please fill out the form below and drop it off with your payment at the OLG Parish Office anytime during office hours. The deadline to register is October 20.

If you have any questions, please contact: Jane Abernathy at 509-4108.

We look forward to sharing this wonderful opportunity to grow in faith with you!

ADULT SCRIPTURE STUDY REGISTRATION

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone : _____ Email: _____

I would like to register for the (circle one) DAYTIME EVENING sessions.

I WILL / WILL NOT need childcare.

If you need childcare, please write the name(s) and age(s) of child(ren):

Payment Due: \$8 per person, payable to Our Lady of Guadalupe

Check #: _____ Amount: _____ Today's Date: _____

Sample Outline: Facilitator Training Session, one of four sessions conducted

Beforehand:

Enthroned Bible open to Matthew 9:35-38, also mark Mark 4:1-20, light candle

Hand out folders, Handouts 1, 2, 3

Need two volunteers to be Bible readers – one for Prayer Service, 2nd for Topic 2

Welcome and Prayer Service (10 Mins)

Pause for quiet, pray together from Handout 1

Topic One – Introduction

View Video- “Intro to LRSS” – (10 mins.)

Note – brief points are found on the handouts

Exercise: Using Handout 2 – complete the small-group exercise (20 mins.)

Break if needed (10 Mins)

Topic Two – Daily Personal Study – Intro (5 mins)

“Our second topic, Daily Personal Study, reminds us that the word we will study is the Word of God. It is a word spoken in the past, but still spoken today. In order to receive the Word of God into our lives, we must do the necessary preparation. We must take away the obstacles and create the conditions in our lives so that the Word of God can become the word for us today.”

Assigned reader reads Mark 4:1-9, 13-20. Pause for reflection.

Video – Daily Personal Study (9 mins.)

Exercise – Handout 3 – (30 mins)

Invite each person to spend 15 mins. Of quiet time studying the passage and answering the four questions for Daily Personal Study.

Regather in group and discuss the 4 questions one at a time.

Assignment for Next week: in order to become familiar with the program and method, we will prepare a partial lesson and discuss it next week like we will when the program starts.

Give out copies of Acts.

Distribute Handout 4 – Basic Assertions about the Bible – this is for their own information and reflection. Please bring their completed assignments, handouts, and Bible

Closing Prayer & Song

October 8, 2002

Friends,

Update: We have 6 registered for the evening sessions and 2 for the daytime so far. I spoke with a friend and she and her husband are also very interested and many people have picked up flyers to register later. I have ordered the materials this morning so they will be in on time, plus extras.

Deacon Tim and Dan: Last night the group decided to solicit registrations after all the masses this coming weekend. If you are free and able to join any of us, you are most welcome. We've covered them in this way:

Jane - 5 PM Sat. & 5 PM Sunday Masses

Pedro and Nelda - 7:30 & 9:00 AM Sunday Masses

Mario and Monica - 10:30 & 12 Sunday Masses.

I brought this up at the staff meeting this morning. There is a LOT going on after Masses this weekend. The Craft sale in the Pavilion, Tickets for the Parish Picnic will be sold out front, CYO registration in the office. They suggested we set up a table out front of church. I have to check about where to get a table.

When you go to take your shift, go to the office and ask for the flyers from the Adult Scripture Study folder. It is yellow and on the counter by Dave's desk. Please return any extra flyers when you are finished. Maybe leave a handful in the folder for Dave in case anyone requests them in the office.

Also, please note: If people register: It's \$8 per person for materials - unless couples want to share, then they would just pay for one set between them. That would work just fine. The parish is picking up the tab for the facilitators' materials but while you are there, go ahead and fill out the registration forms for yourselves if you will. Just don't include a check.

Thank you so much for your time!

God bless you,

Jane

p.s. Keep praying for the success of this program!

Samples of correspondence via e-mail

October 8, 2002

Hi Jane,

Thank you for the update and progress on the signup for Scripture Study. I was wondering if someone will be announcing our presence at the front of the church after each mass. If not, Monica and I wouldn't mind speaking about it (briefly) during the announcement time during our shift. Please advise.

Thank you,

Mario

Jane,

We concur with Mario and Monica. We suggest the Staff add the Adult Scripture Study Signups to the announcements that the Priest makes at the end of the Mass. If they do not plan to include it on the announcements, Nelda and I would also be willing to give a brief announcement for our shifts (if they let us). Please let us know.

Thanks,

Pedro & Nelda

October 13, 2002

Jane,

As planned, Nelda and I were there for the 7:30 and 9:00 Masses. We passed out flyers/registration forms, answered questions, received, and turned in three paid up new registrations. One couple and two separate singles. We also turned in one registration for us as "facilitators". At least twenty persons indicated they were very interested and took the forms with them to with intent to turn it in later "maybe next week". Also, many people did take the forms from the tables at the Foyer.

We did not see Mario and Monica before we left (soon after the start of the 10:30 Mass) but I am sure they showed up before the end of the 10:30 Mass. The person manning the Metro Alliance/ Cops table indicated Mario or Monica had talked to him and indicated they were planning to be there and share the same table.

Thanks, it was easy because you had everything all set up. The priest made the announcements and the flyers were available on the tables and in the office.

God Bless You, see you all Monday night.

Pedro and Nelda

Comment from a participant, Oct. 28, 2002; names deleted:

Jane it was wonderful tonight!!!! D. and I loved it! In fact D. wanted to go to Barnes and Nobles to get a Bible! He asked me how would he go about in being Catholic. I think he's ready to commit to the Lord. I thank God that you had this idea.

Love you always,

E.

The 4 Components of the Little Rock Scripture Study:

- 1) Prayer: Daily personal prayer & Conversational prayer in your small groups
- 2) Daily Personal Study - Approx. 20 mins. a day; reading scripture, reflecting on it and answering the questions in your Study Guide. (See pages 4 & 5 of Study Guide)
It is important to commit to doing this DAILY. This is your daily spiritual food!
Commit yourself to 20 minutes of daily personal study. Schedule a regular time and place for your study, as free from distractions as possible.
- 3) Weekly Small Groups – Once a week, gathering to share your reflections (see SG p.6)
- 4) Wrap Up Lecture – each week we will show a 20 minute video about the lesson that week. It will help clarify the themes of the lesson and answer some questions you may have.

Typical Evening:

7:00 - Opening Prayer

7:05 - Break into Small Groups

8:00 – Reconvene in Hall for videotaped lecture

8:25 – Announcements and Closing Prayer

8:30 – Dismiss

How to understand Bible References:

The name of the Book will come first: ex. Matthew, Mark, Exodus. See the back cover of your Study Guide for an explanation of the abbreviations. If there is more than one book of the same name, the number will come before the name of the book.

For example: 1 Samuel and 2 Samuel, 1 Peter and 2 Peter.

After the name of the book will come the chapter number.

Matt 1-2 means to read The Book of Matthew, chapters 1 and 2.

Luke 2 means to read The Book of Luke, chapter 2.

If there are particular verses to read, they will follow a colon after the chapter number.

For example:

Num 3:13 means to read The Book of Numbers, chapter 3, verse 13.

Here are some more examples:

1 Cor 1:26-27 = First Letter to the Corinthians, Chapter One, verses 26 to 27.

Acts 1:7-8; 9:15 = Acts of the Apostles, Chapter One verses seven and eight AND Chapter nine, verse fifteen.

Little Rock Scripture Study – Infancy Narratives Evaluation Results

Notes:

-We had several absences the last session, thus a lower number of evaluations. Many called with explanations: One was out of town with family; one's father was in the hospital with chest pains, one couple was expecting twins and there were some medical concerns; one had to babysit her grandchildren; one was sick with the flu. Of note: they cared enough to call and were all disappointed that they could not attend the last session.

-We need to follow up with the people that stopped attending to see why.

1) I have a deeper understanding of the Bible as a result of this study.

disagree		agree somewhat		strongly agree
1	2	3	4	5

Responses: Total: four 3's, seven 4's, twenty 5's.

Morning Group: one 4 and eight 5's.

Evening Group: four 3's, six 4's, twelve 5's

2) The amount of reading and work required was

not enough		about right		too much
1	2	3	4	5

Responses: Total: eighteen 3's, eight 4's, five 5's

Morning Group: four 3's, two 4's and three 5's.

(Comment from one person who gave it a 5: The questions were thorough and you needed to go back to many references.)

Evening Group: fourteen 3's, six 4's, two 5's.

3) The quality of conversational prayer in our group was

poor		fairly good		excellent
1	2	3	4	5

Responses: Total: two 2's, seven 3's, eight 4's, fourteen 5's

Morning Group: two 3's, two 4's, five 5's

Evening Group: two 2's, five 3's, six 4's, nine 5's.

4) The quality of our small-group sharing was

poor		fairly good		excellent
1	2	3	4	5

Responses: Total: one 2, eleven 4's, nineteen 5's

Morning Group: two 4's, seven 5's

Evening Group: one 2, nine 4's, twelve 5's

5) Our group shared freely in an enlightening and supportive way

disagree		agree somewhat		strongly agree
1	2	3	4	5

Responses: Total: two 3's, eight 4's, twenty-one 5's

Morning Group: one 4, eight 5's

Evening Group: two 3's, seven 4's, thirteen 5's

6) The quality of our wrap-up lectures was

poor		fairly good		excellent
1	2	3	4	5

Responses: two 3's, fifteen 4's, fourteen 5's

Morning Group: two 4's, seven 5's

Evening Group: two 3's, thirteen 4's, seven 5's

7) What are some strengths and weaknesses of your small group?

Morning Group responses:

- Small enough where everyone had an opportunity to share.
- Strengths: sharing. Weaknesses – a tendency to wander off.
- Strengths: More time for each person to share their thoughts. Weakness: Not enough time altogether.
- Everyone contributed. Leaders encouraged all.
- Direct willingness to share. Not enough time.
- Strengths: just the right amount of people to be able to share our ideas, thoughts, etc.
- Some of the strengths were everyone shared equally and openly. Everyone was very supported in our leading the group. Weaknesses seemed very little.
- Strengths- Everybody felt comfortable sharing without any judgmental comments. All sharing was supported. Weakness – time for sharing was a little short – we could have used an additional 30 minutes.

Evening Group responses:

- Strengths – discussions grew out of one another's comments.
- With a small group everyone has a chance to talk & express themselves.
- One person seemed to take over, on the answers to questions. We had very good facilitators.
- Strengths: variety of opinions Weaknesses: sometimes we all didn't want to share.
- The openness of the group & the leadership qualities of our Facilitator
- Some folks tend to speak more than others.
- Strengths – everyone shared. Facilitator was not prepared for the second session.
- Strong reasoning – deep seated feelings. Weakness – long pauses in conversational prayer
- I think Catholics still have difficulty with conversational prayer. It will get better.
- Good group but need to stay on subject.
- Let each person convey their message. I felt sometimes I had to say something.
- Able to share views.
- Small groups are more attentive to the individual students.
- Strength – most seemed to participate
- We didn't have enough time.
- Small groups provide more opportunity for everyone to participate. I did not feel that there were any weaknesses.
- Everyone came prepared, open minded & willing to share.
- Good leader & sharing.
- Group size was good. I think if it was bigger there would not be as much openness.

8) What aspects of this study did you find most valuable? Least valuable?

Morning Group Responses:

- The discussions and the commentary.
- The video was very helpful.
- I found all aspects valuable—the most valuable was the sharing within the group.
- All new insights shared by the members.
- Study in preparation; excellent resources used./ Least – too short, only 4 weeks.
- I found all aspects of this study to be valuable. The commentary was of great value.
- Having the commentary was very valuable because after reading the selected readings from the Bible, I could confirm my thoughts with an authorized commentary. The lecture (video) was extremely helpful, too.
- The commentary booklet was very helpful and gave us more important insight in things I didn't know about and added more knowledge.
- The commentary was very valuable. The questions were thorough and required [?].

#8 continued: What aspects of this study did you find most valuable? Least valuable?

Evening Group Responses:

- Questions and Answer time most valuable
 - Sharing of interpretations was most valuable. Additional reading suggestions deepened my understanding.
 - I have a more understanding of what Christmas is all about.
 - That all were given time to share.
 - Most valuable: Reading the passages and discussing them.
 - "The Canticles" interested me a lot but I thought it was all valuable. I like the "Commentaries" a lot!
 - The questions did not seem to correspond well with the commentary.
 - Most valuable – commentary in booklet & videotape
 - Valuable – comparison of Gospels – they don't all say the same thing.
 - Most valuable – the explanation of customs & laws of the time & how the Old Testament prophecies were fulfilled by Jesus' birth.
 - Sharing with the group & the wrap up video
 - Most: Small groups (less than 10) and Bible readings. Least: Conversational Prayer
 - Spending time to more fully understand the gospels. Very time consuming!
 - Scriptures relationship with present day habits and how we should relate today.
 - The question and answer period.
 - Very academic – would like to have more: how can this inspire me to grow close to God? More personal, spiritual growth. Enjoyed the small group discussion.
 - Lectures most valuable.
 - I found sharing ideas & insights valuable. I did not find anything least valuable.
 - I liked the study guide.
 - My Bible study time.
-

9) Do you have any suggestions for the program in the future?

Morning Group Responses:

- Fewer references to different passages would make it easier to understand.
- Allow 2 hours instead of 1 ½ hours.
- That it be a continuous program with on brief "time outs."
- Extend total time by 30 minutes. Have worksheet with highlights of video.
- Maybe it needs to last the two hours so we have more time to go over all the questions in the lesson.

Evening Group Responses:

- Do a study on Revelation!
- Maybe add ½ hour to group discussions.
- No. Great Job.
- Reduce the size of the lessons.
- No; Well thought out and executed.
- Keep it the same!
- I would like to study the Baker Oregon Diocese on the Eucharist.
- Passion narratives – compare
- I know it is not part of Little Rock, but I would like more of a lecture.
- Perhaps have the video at the beginning?
- Extend program 1-2 weeks and cut down on the homework.
- Continue it.
- Please contact the nun at St. Francis of Assisi Church about Beth Moore Scripture studies for women.
- Open prayer instead of set prayer.
- Let's do it again

10) If OLG offered another Little Rock Scripture Study after the New Year, would you participate?

Total Responses:

Probably Not: 0 Not Sure: 6 Yes: 1 Definitely Yes: 24

Morning Group Responses: Probably Not: 0 Not Sure: 1 Definitely Yes - 8

If you answered "No" or "Not Sure", an explanation why would be very helpful for us:

-Conflict of Time.

-Another said, Definitely Yes, but would need daycare.

Evening Group Responses: Probably not: 0 Not Sure: 5 Yes: 1 Definitely Yes: 16

-Answered Not sure: I would like to have a program in Lent.

-Answered Not Sure: Depends on amount of time I can devote each week.

-Answered Not Sure: Small child

11) Which of these topics would you be most interested in studying? (circle one)

-1) The Acts of the Apostles (10 weeks) **Morning: 4 Evening: 2**

-2) The Gospel of Mark (10 weeks): **Morning: - Evening: 3**

-3) Exodus (10 weeks) **Morning: - Evening: 2**

-4) The Passion and Resurrection Narratives of Jesus (7 weeks)

Morning: 4 Evening: 11

Comments: Morning: Hard to decide between 3 & 4. Either one.

12) Would you recommend this program to other parishioners?

Morning Yes 9 No 0

Comments:

-I would like to see a Bible Study for my high school daughter. This was an excellent Bible Study. Congratulation[s].

-Thank you so much for all you have done to bring this marvelous Scripture Study to us.

Evening Yes 21 No: 0 Not Sure: 1

Research for Survey Content

In order to understand what the content of a survey of adult faith formation needs should be, I read documents of the Church and interviewed several individuals in the diocese who work with adults in their parishes. The following pages are summaries of my telephone interviews.

Parish Survey – Adult Faith Formation

1. Date of Interview: Thursday, November 21, 2002
2. Person Interviewed: Lois Goetz, St. Matthew Parish, 696-4161.
3. What does the parish offer under Adult Religious Education?

Scripture Study: They offer Catholic Scripture Study (CSS), similar to Little Rock Scripture Study (LRSS). It was developed by a nun in Ft. Worth. She was responding to some ladies she had taken on retreat. They had participated in the BSF Scripture Study-(Protestant based) and wanted something Catholic. It has the same format as BSF: a 6-part lesson every week. Once a week, everyone gathers together and breaks into small groups for discussion of the questions. Then they regroup into one large group for a lecture about the lesson coming up. St. Matthew's has lectures offered by local experts. CSS does not offer videotaped lectures as LRSS does. The facilitators meet every week prior to the group and they go over that particular lesson. They have some kind of facilitator training. They offer these scripture studies on Tuesday mornings and Thursday evenings. She knows of at least one group of parishioners that gather on their own to study with the LRSS.

Other Adult Faith Formation offerings at St. Matthews includes:

- Alpha Course, by Mary Jane & Tom Fox – a basic class on Christianity and developing a relationship with Jesus. Offered every Fall.
- Vatican II Videotapes – 5 part set, shown every Spring for past three years. Always well attended.
- "Celebrate the Feast" – just offered this Fall
- Family Retreats 2x a year
- ACTS retreats
- Other topics of Personal Growth/Interest include:
 - Recovery from Divorce (offered by parish counselor)
 - Sessions for Widows & Widowers (parish counselor)
 - Living Through Loss (Sr. Lucille- funeral coordinator)
 - "Now and At the Hour of Our Death (Sr. Lucille)
 - How to Plan Your Funeral (Sr. Lucille)
 - Sexuality, Holiness and Life (6 week class just finished; well attended)
 - Retirement Options (led by parishioner)
 - Sacraments (offered in the past)
 - Prayer and Discernment (planned for future)
 - Liturgy topics (in planning)
 - Advent and Lent Missions

The majority of these classes are offered in the evenings; a couple in the daytime. She said they feel it is important to offer a great variety to meet the needs of the people; and also to utilize the resources of the community itself. Most are well attended which confirms what they are doing.

Lois also oversees the YC3 group – it is a singles group for 18-35 year olds. (YC3 stands for Young Catholic Christian Community.) She said they are pretty much independent. There is also an older singles group that has a different coordinator.

Lois doesn't really have an official title, but she calls herself the Coordinator of Adult Faith Formation. She works full-time for St. Matthew, and has been in this position for the past 5

years. Prior to that she was the Youth Ministry Coordinator at St. Matthew for 16 years. She has a Certificate in Pastoral Ministry from UIW, a teaching background and many years experience as a volunteer catechist. She loves her job and loves St. Matthews. She would be a valuable resource to a future Adult Faith Formation coordinator at OLG.

Parish Survey – Adult Faith Formation

Date of interview: February 26, 2003

1. Parish: St. Francis of Assisi, 4201 DeZavala Rd, 492-4600
2. Person Interviewed and title: Sr. Frances Briseño, Pastoral Associate
3. What does the parish offer under Adult Religious Ed?
 - RCIA
 - Retreats: ACTS, Beyond CANA (enriches marriages),
and occasional retreats led by Sr. Frances
 - Speakers 2x a year, usually from Oblate School of Theology. Every year, one Saturday prior to Advent the speaker talks about the upcoming Liturgical cycle, scripture. (This is open to the public.) Another speaker is invited sometime in January or February just to speak to the Liturgical Ministers.
 - Bible Studies
 - Spirituality Class
 - In the future will be offering enrichment for other "groups" such as singles.
4. Has the parish conducted a survey or assessed the needs in some way?
 - Yes, did a parish survey that included Adult RE but it was a comprehensive parish survey about everything. Conducted through CARA.
5. Is the parish implementing the document: Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us?
 - Not formally.
6. Do you network/share resources with other parishes?
 - No, but would like to.

Parish Survey – Adult Faith Formation

Date of interview: February 27, 2003

1. Parish: St. Mark the Evangelist, 1602 Thousand Oaks Dr., 494-1606
2. Person Interviewed and title: Linda Baksic, DRE/Adult Education
3. What does the parish offer under Adult Religious Ed?

The parish is phasing out RE classes and adopting intergenerational Religious Ed, using the John Roberto Faith formation model, Generations of Faith. They have recently addressed the topics of the domestic church and incarnational theology.

St. Mark's has a strong sacramental preparation process that requires the involvement of the parents; it is completely family oriented, beginning with an all-day retreat. The children cannot attend without at least one adult.

Regarding scripture study and small faith communities, Linda's past experience was that when she set a scripture study in the parish for a particular time and place very few people responded. The method employed now is much more successful, though Linda would be interested to know what other parishes do. This is the process at St. Mark's:

Every so often, Linda advertises in the bulletin: Is ANYBODY interested in ANY kind of Scripture study or being part of a small faith community? These people will gather and Linda will give an overview of the kinds of scripture studies there are: from lectures to the other end of the spectrum where a group will read a passage and each person shares how they interpret it, and all the kinds in between, including lectionary based studies; focusing on a particular book or theme, etc. She describes the kinds of materials available, including Little Rock, Lectionary based studies (such as Quest, Exploring God's Word, Markings, Seasons of Faith (publisher discontinued) and the new one by Loyola Press (highly recommended by the Chancery, though they have not used it yet). At the end of her presentation, she asks everyone to fill out an interest survey card that asks what kind of study/group they are most interested in and what days and times they are available. Linda then collates that information and establishes the groups.

The groups meet either at the church or in homes. They are independent groups and they set the frequency of the meetings, the length, whether they want to bring refreshments, how they want the room set up, etc. There is one contact person per group who will be the liason between Linda and the group. Linda takes care of registration, orders materials, reserve rooms, answers questions, etc. [Two notes: Linda includes a video-usage fee in the registration to cover the purchase and replacements of videos for the groups. Also, Linda advocates that people go through the Scripture From Scratch series before they participate in other scripture study groups.]

St. Mark's also offers ACTS retreats, MOMS group (Ministry of Mothers Sharing) spirituality days and other activities for the parish throughout the year. They recently offered a speaker's series around the topic of Revelation and the Left Behind series.

4. Has the parish conducted a survey or assessed the needs in some way?

Not parish-wide.

5. Is the parish implementing the document: Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us? How?

Not formally. Linda is already over-tasked and does not have the time to form another committee to implement that document.

6. Do you network/share resources with other parishes?

Yes, St. Mark's partners with St. Anthony de Padua. They print their parish activities in each other's bulletins and encourage parishioners to attend.

7. Other comments from interview:

Linda recommended the FAITHWORKS monthly newsletter. The December 2002 issue had an example of a parish Adult Education needs assessment. The January issue was about Focus Groups. Published by Paulist Press nine times a year. Highly recommended.

Linda would like a copy of my report as she is interested in what others are doing.

Parish Interview – Adult Faith Formation

Date of interview: March 6, 2003

1. Parish: Prince of Peace
2. Person Interviewed and title: Lydia Peña, RCIA Coordinator, MS & HS RE
3. What does the parish offer under Adult Religious Ed?
-RCIA; Little Rock Scripture Study; Annually they offer Scripture From Scratch; ACTS retreats; ALPHA course, formation in Liturgical ministries; TEC (Together Encountering Christ) retreats; Life in the Spirit; Steven Ministries for Young Adults and Golden Club for seniors; more than one Prayer Group; Occasional guest lecturers.
4. Has the parish conducted a survey or assessed the needs in some way?
-Twice a year they send out notices for the volunteer needs and what is happening in the parish. There is room for comments. This is announced at the pulpit to expect them in the mail. They are returned into the collection basket. They have found this to be very helpful.
5. Is the parish implementing the document: Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us? How?
Lydia is familiar with the document but the parish is not formally implementing it.
6. Do you network/share resources with other parishes?
-They network with St. Anthony Claret and other parishes through the Northern Deanery. Non-parishioners are welcome to attend their events.
7. Other comments from interview:
- Lydia has a full-time assistant since she wears many hats!

Parish Interview – Adult Faith Formation

Date of interview: Thursday, March 06, 2003

1. Parish: Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Selma
2. Person Interviewed and title: Jeanette Easley, Pastoral Administrator for past three years
3. What does the parish offer under Adult Faith Formation?

Ongoing:

-Every Sunday Morning, (September – May) at the same time there is RE for children, there is "Adult Faith Development." It is based on the lectionary, using the Foundations in Faith resource. Each week it is facilitated by someone different, so no one ever facilitates more than once a year, though in the beginning, Jeanette facilitated each session until the participants were comfortable leading. Jeanette supports them with resources, etc. The session includes reading/reflecting on Scripture; introduces Doctrine; and How to live the faith. Each week it is very well attended, some regulars every week, some come when they can. The topic is promoted in the bulletin for the following week.

-Each week, there are 5 nights of Bible study groups: Mondays – Women's group; Tuesdays – a series about doctrine "Catholic Answers"; Wednesdays – Men's group; Thursdays – Co-Ed group; Fridays – Charismatic Prayer group. The parish has offered LRSS in the past. Jeanette is looking into offering a three-year intensive course called the Catholic Scripture Study. She said St. Matthew's is doing it now.

-There are several retreats offered each year: 2 Women's ACTS retreats, 2 Men's ACTS retreats, a co-ed Silent Retreat, a couples retreat.

-They offer Life in the Spirit series for adults.

-They have about 20 small-faith communities and Jeanette would be happy to have Deacon Tim call if he'd like to inquire more about this.

-Other things are offered for adults on an occasional basis, such as this lent their pastor is giving talks on 4 Monday evenings about the Mass; there is a morning retreat for parish ministers (but everyone is welcome). They invite guest speakers for lectures occasionally.

4. Has the parish conducted a survey or assessed the needs in some way?

-Yes, when Jeanette was first hired they conducted a Spiritual Needs Assessment of the parish. They mailed it and also one Sunday they asked people to fill the survey in during Mass. They had a 60% response rate. The survey was comprehensive and the staff took a year to develop a 10-year implementation plan which has been very fruitful. Out of this, for example, they offer bereavement support/ministry to the elderly and also formed a Young Adult program.

5. Is the parish implementing the document: Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us? How?

Not formally per se, but they believe they are doing what the document calls for.

6. Do you network/share resources with other parishes?

Only in that they publicize their activities and non-parishioners are welcome.

7. Other comments from interview:

Jeanette is going to send me a copy of their Spiritual Needs Assessment, and perhaps a copy of the results.

The following pages represent the stages of development in the formation of the survey. This took place over a period of one month and involved the Focus Team members and other volunteers. The last survey is the final version, in English and Spanish.

The staff of Our Lady of Guadalupe is renewing our commitment to support our adult parishioners as they grow in faith, deepen their spirituality, and enrich their understanding of Catholicism. In order that we may serve you better, we ask that you please complete this initial, brief survey and... [further instructions?] We greatly appreciate your time!

Instructions:

Catholic Adult Faith Formation can be divided into six areas.

In each area below, **please circle any item that is of interest to you.**

You may circle as many in each area as you wish. There is space to write in other suggestions.

1) KNOWLEDGE OF THE CATHOLIC FAITH

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Introduction to the Bible | Scripture Studies-various topics | |
| Little Rock Scripture Study | Occasional Lectures about Scripture | |
| Lectures about Catholicism | Church History | |
| The Church before and after Vatican II | The Documents of Vatican II | |
| The Catechism of the Catholic Church | What Do Catholics Believe? | |
| Vocations, Ordained and Non-Ordained | Hierarchy of the Church-How it works | |
| The Saints | Church Law | Church Dogma: What is it? |
| How does a person become Catholic? | | |
| Catholic Publications/Websites/Resources for learning more about the faith | | |

Other: _____

2) LITURGICAL LIFE

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Why do we do that at Mass? | Church Ministries |
| Learning more about Sacraments | Sacred Music, Art, Architecture |
| The Liturgical Year/Seasons/Colors | |

Other: _____

3) MORAL FORMATION

- Church Teachings in the Area of Morality and Social Justice
- How can I get involved in Social Justice?
- Discussions about current issues such Stem Cell Research, cloning, etc.
- | | | |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| How to integrate Catholicism and Life | Parenting Teens | Being Catholic in the Workplace |
| Current Issues about the Catholic Church | Developing the Conscience | |

Other: _____

Please Turn Over



4) PRAYER

Retreats for: Singles, Men, Women, Couples, Families, Elderly
Prayer and Devotions - What's Best for Me? Prayer Groups
Spiritual Development Spiritual Reading Discussion Group

Other: _____

5) COMMUNAL LIFE

Singles/Young Adult Issues Single Older Adult Issues
Parenting: Young Children / Teens Divorce/Remarriage Issues
Aging Issues—Old age and Faith Obligations to Aging Parents
Health Issues—Faith and Suffering Pastoral Care of Sick, Elderly
Practical Issues: Money, Time, Setting Priorities
Small-Faith Communities-What Are They, How to become a member
Catholic Schooling—Elementary through Graduate Level

Other: _____

6) MISSIONARY SPIRIT

Catholic Teaching about Evangelization The Mission of the Church
Who are Missionaries/What do they do? How can I evangelize others?

Other: _____

Please tell us which day(s) / time(s) are best for you to attend Church-related activities:

Monday -	Mornings	Afternoons	Evenings
Tuesday -	Mornings	Afternoons	Evenings
Wednesday -	Mornings	Afternoons	Evenings
Thursday -	Mornings	Afternoons	Evenings
Friday -	Mornings	Afternoons	Evenings
Saturday -	Mornings	Afternoons	Evenings
Sunday -	Mornings	Afternoons	Evenings

I prefer learning by (circle as many as apply):

Weekly classes Attending occasional lectures Discussion groups
Day-long workshops Online Computer Personal Reading

Optional Demographic Information: please circle which applies to you:

Single, never married Married, no children
Married with children at home Married, children are grown
Separated/Divorced/Widowed, children at home
Separated/Divorced/Widowed, children are grown

Thank you very much for your participation!!!

Optional: If you have any questions or comments, clearly print your name and telephone number below and a staff member will be in touch with you:

UNDERSTANDING OUR PARISH ADULT FAITH FORMATION NEEDS AND INTERESTS

The staff of Our Lady of Guadalupe is renewing our commitment to support our adult parishioners as they grow in faith, deepen their spirituality, and enrich their understanding of Catholicism.

In order that we may better understand your needs and interests, we are asking that ADULTS - 18 years and older - please complete this brief survey and drop it in a survey collection box. We greatly appreciate your time!

INSTRUCTIONS: Catholic Adult Faith Formation can be divided into six areas.

**In each area, place an X on the space that applies to you.
There is space to write in other suggestions.**

1) KNOWLEDGE OF THE CATHOLIC FAITH

Introduction to the Bible:	___ Very Interested	___ Somewhat Interested	___ Not Interested
Scripture Studies-various topics:	___ Very Interested	___ Somewhat Interested	___ Not Interested
Lectures about Catholicism:	___ Very Interested	___ Somewhat Interested	___ Not Interested
Church History:	___ Very Interested	___ Somewhat Interested	___ Not Interested
The Church before & after Vatican II:	___ Very Interested	___ Somewhat Interested	___ Not Interested
The Documents of Vatican II:	___ Very Interested	___ Somewhat Interested	___ Not Interested
The Catechism of the Catholic Church:	___ Very Interested	___ Somewhat Interested	___ Not Interested
What Do Catholics Believe?:	___ Very Interested	___ Somewhat Interested	___ Not Interested
Vocations, Ordained and Non-Ordained:	___ Very Interested	___ Somewhat Interested	___ Not Interested
Hierarchy of the Church-How it works:	___ Very Interested	___ Somewhat Interested	___ Not Interested
The Saints:	___ Very Interested	___ Somewhat Interested	___ Not Interested
Church Law:	___ Very Interested	___ Somewhat Interested	___ Not Interested
Church Dogma: What is it?:	___ Very Interested	___ Somewhat Interested	___ Not Interested
How does a person become Catholic?:	___ Very Interested	___ Somewhat Interested	___ Not Interested
Catholic Publications/Periodicals:	___ Very Interested	___ Somewhat Interested	___ Not Interested
Catholic Websites:	___ Very Interested	___ Somewhat Interested	___ Not Interested
Other: _____:	___ Very Interested	___ Somewhat Interested	___ Not Interested

2) LITURGICAL LIFE

Why do we do that at Mass?:	___ Very Interested	___ Somewhat Interested	___ Not Interested
Church Ministries:	___ Very Interested	___ Somewhat Interested	___ Not Interested
Learning more about Sacraments:	___ Very Interested	___ Somewhat Interested	___ Not Interested
Sacred Music, Art, Architecture:	___ Very Interested	___ Somewhat Interested	___ Not Interested
The Liturgical Year/Seasons/Colors:	___ Very Interested	___ Somewhat Interested	___ Not Interested
Other: _____:	___ Very Interested	___ Somewhat Interested	___ Not Interested

3) MORAL FORMATION

Church Teaching: Morality & Social Justice: ___ Very Interested ___ Somewhat Interested ___ Not Interested
How can I get involved in Social Justice?: ___ Very Interested ___ Somewhat Interested ___ Not Interested
 Developing the Conscience: ___ Very Interested ___ Somewhat Interested ___ Not Interested
 Current ethical issues: ___ Very Interested ___ Somewhat Interested ___ Not Interested
How to integrate Catholicism and Life: ___ Very Interested ___ Somewhat Interested ___ Not Interested
Current Issues in the Catholic Church: ___ Very Interested ___ Somewhat Interested ___ Not Interested
 Name issues (optional) _____
Being Catholic in the Workplace: ___ Very Interested ___ Somewhat Interested ___ Not Interested
Other: _____: ___ Very Interested ___ Somewhat Interested ___ Not Interested

4) PRAYER

 Retreats: ___ Very Interested ___ Somewhat Interested ___ Not Interested
 Prayer and Devotions: ___ Very Interested ___ Somewhat Interested ___ Not Interested
 Prayer Groups: ___ Very Interested ___ Somewhat Interested ___ Not Interested
 Spiritual Development: ___ Very Interested ___ Somewhat Interested ___ Not Interested
Spiritual Reading Discussion Group: ___ Very Interested ___ Somewhat Interested ___ Not Interested
Other: _____: ___ Very Interested ___ Somewhat Interested ___ Not Interested

5) COMMUNAL LIFE

 Singles/Young Adult Issues: ___ Very Interested ___ Somewhat Interested ___ Not Interested
 Single Older Adult Issues: ___ Very Interested ___ Somewhat Interested ___ Not Interested
Parenting: Young Children / Teens: ___ Very Interested ___ Somewhat Interested ___ Not Interested
 Divorce/Remarriage Issues: ___ Very Interested ___ Somewhat Interested ___ Not Interested
 Aging Issues—Old age and Faith: ___ Very Interested ___ Somewhat Interested ___ Not Interested
 Obligations to Aging Parents: ___ Very Interested ___ Somewhat Interested ___ Not Interested
Health Issues—Faith and Suffering: ___ Very Interested ___ Somewhat Interested ___ Not Interested
 Pastoral Care of Sick, Elderly: ___ Very Interested ___ Somewhat Interested ___ Not Interested
 Money, Time, Setting Priorities: ___ Very Interested ___ Somewhat Interested ___ Not Interested
 Small-Faith Communities: ___ Very Interested ___ Somewhat Interested ___ Not Interested
 Catholic Schooling, Elementary: ___ Very Interested ___ Somewhat Interested ___ Not Interested
 Catholic Schooling, HS/College: ___ Very Interested ___ Somewhat Interested ___ Not Interested
Other: _____: ___ Very Interested ___ Somewhat Interested ___ Not Interested

6) MISSIONARY SPIRIT

Catholic Teaching about Evangelization: ___ Very Interested ___ Somewhat Interested ___ Not Interested
 The Mission of the Church: ___ Very Interested ___ Somewhat Interested ___ Not Interested
Who are Missionaries/What do they do?: ___ Very Interested ___ Somewhat Interested ___ Not Interested
 How can I evangelize others? ___ Very Interested ___ Somewhat Interested ___ Not Interested
Other: _____: ___ Very Interested ___ Somewhat Interested ___ Not Interested

The following information would be very helpful for the staff for planning future events/activities.

***Please circle the day(s) / time(s) that are best for you to attend Church-related activities:**

Weekdays -	Mornings	Afternoons	Evenings
Saturday -	Mornings	Afternoons	Evenings
Sunday -	Mornings	Afternoons	Evenings

***I prefer learning by (circle as many as apply):**

Weekly classes	Attending occasional lectures	Discussion groups
Day-long workshops	Online Computer	Personal Reading

***Do you know that the parish has a lending library? Yes ___ No ___**
Have you visited the parish lending library? Yes ___ No ___

***Optional - Please circle which applies to you:**

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 1) Single Adult | Married Adult |
| 2) Have children in home | No children in home |

***Optional:**

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Thank You Very Much For Your Time

OUR NEEDS AND INTERESTS
 Survey for Adults – 18 years and older

The Staff of Our Lady of Guadalupe is renewing its commitment to support our adult parishioners as they grow in faith, deepen their spirituality, and enrich their understanding of Catholicism.

In order that we may better understand your needs and interests, we are asking that ADULTS – 18 YEARS AND OLDER – please complete this survey and drop it in a survey collection box. We greatly appreciate your time!

First, please tell us a little about yourself. Please circle which applies to you:

1. I am (years of age): 18-22 23-30 30-36 37-55 56+
2. I am (marital status): Single Married
3. I have: No Children at home Children at home, ages _____

INSTRUCTIONS

If you would like to know more about a topic under each area, place an X in the box under "YES". If the topic does not interest you, place an X under the "NO." There is space to write other topics in.

SCRIPTURE

<i>Place an X under YES if the topic interests you:</i>	YES	NO
How to read and use the Bible		
How to bring the Bible readings into my daily life		
What is true and what is myth in the Bible		
What are the differences between Bibles		
Women in the Bible		
Scripture Studies: The Old Testament		
Prophets in the Bible		
Praying with the Psalms		
Scripture Studies: The New Testament		
How did Jesus fulfill Old Testament prophecy?		
Interpreting Revelation: Are we in the End Times?		
A topic I would like to know more about is:		

Please turn page over

KNOWLEDGE OF THE CATHOLICISM / CHURCH HISTORY

<i>Place an X under YES if the topic interests you:</i>	YES	NO
How was the Church born—earliest beginning of the Church		
Church History—General Overview—from beginning to today		
What caused the Protestant Reformation?		
Who were Luther, Calvin and Wesley?		
On what do Catholics and Protestants agree / disagree?		
Why was Vatican Council II important?		
Why all the changes in the Church since Vatican II?		
What is a parish, a diocese?		
What are Religious Orders? Who are monks, nuns, brothers?		
How is the Church organized from the people to the Pope?		
Overview of the latest Catechism of the Catholic Church		
How does a person become Catholic?		
The Sacraments: what are they and their true meaning		
A topic I would like to know more about is:		

Church Teaching - What the Catholic church teaches about:

<i>Place an X under YES if the topic interests you</i>					
	YES	NO		YES	NO
Sin / Forgiveness			War / Peace		
Abortion/Adoption			Capital Punishment		
Divorce/Annulments			Baptism		
Marriage			Holy Orders		
Birth Control			Eucharist		
Sex and Intimacy			The Mass		
Suicide/Mercy Killing			Mary		
Organ Donation			The Saints		
Cremation			Prayer / Devotions		
Tithing / Donations			Heaven, Purgatory, Hell		
A topic I would like to know more about is:					

LITURGY

<i>Place an X under YES if the topic interests you:</i>	YES	NO
Who does what and why at Mass		
What is "liturgy"		
Why are sermons now called homilies		
Why do we sit, stand, kneel		
The Church Year: seasons, color changes,		
Is it a sin to skip Mass on Sunday?		
Do I have to have a Mass to be married in the Church?		
Church ministries – what are they / what can I do		
Why singing is important		
A shortage of priests - What will we do?		
Other forms of liturgy or worship		
A topic I would like to know more about is:		

PRAYER/ SPIRITUAL GROWTH

<i>Place an X under YES if the topic interests you:</i>	YES	NO
Learning to pray/ improving my prayer life		
How to pray the rosary / other devotions		
Family Prayer: How to start		
What is meditation / contemplation		
Liturgy of the Hours		
Lectio Divina (a method of prayer using scripture verses)		
Retreat opportunities		
Prayer Groups		
Books, videos, websites about prayer		
Spiritual Reading discussion group		
Spiritual direction: what is it / is it for me?		
A topic I would like to know more about is:		

Please turn page over

MORAL FORMATION / SOCIAL JUSTICE ISSUES

<i>Place an X under YES if the topic interests you:</i>	YES	NO
How Catholic faith/beliefs can form my conscience		
What is Catholic Social Teaching? How does it apply to me? (Covering issues such as poverty, homelessness, just wages, literacy, discrimination, access to health care, property rights, etc.)		
Current ethical issues in society, especially: You may write in topic(s):		
Current issues in the Catholic Church, such as: You may write in topic(s):		
A topic I would like to know more about is:		

FAMILY / NEIGHBORHOOD LIFE

<i>Place an X under YES if the topic interests you:</i>	YES	NO
How to teach my children about faith / Catholicism		
Parenting issues: You may write in topic(s):		
Children who leave the Church: how to respond, what to do		
Caring for elderly or sick relatives		
How to meet other parishioners in my neighborhood		
Catholic schooling		
Single / Young Adult issues: You may write in topic(s):		
How to integrate Catholicism & my daily life		
A topic I would like to know more about is:		

MISSIONARY SPIRIT

<i>Place an X under YES if the topic interests you:</i>	YES	NO
What evangelism means as a Catholic		
How to support a mission activity / missionaries		
What "charitable" agencies are "safe"		
A topic I would like to know more about is:		

If you want us to contact you, print your name and phone number below. Thank you for your time!

OUR NEEDS AND INTERESTS – SURVEY FOR OLG ADULTS (18 & older)

We would greatly appreciate your input by completing this survey.

Instructions: Please respond to each item by checking the box under the column that describes your interest.

		Extremely Interested	Very Interested	Some Interest	No Interest
A	How to interpret the Bible				
B	Different ways of studying Scripture				
C	How to bring Bible readings into my life				
D	How to talk to anyone about the Bible				
E	How to form a Catholic conscience				
F	How to answer moral and ethical questions as a Catholic				
F	Why should faith be a priority after I'm 18?				
G	How to pass the faith to my children				
H	Resources for answering my children's questions about our faith				
I	How a person can return to active participation in the Catholic Church				
J	How does a person become Catholic?				
K	How to be Catholic outside the church walls				
L	How to involve my Catholic neighbors in my daily life				
M	Why all the changes in the Church since Vatican II?				
N	Catholic Social Teaching: issues such as poverty, homelessness, discrimination, access to health care				
O	Different forms of prayer				
P	What is "active participation" at Mass				
Q	Why am I bored at Mass?				
R	(write in topic)				

Please tell us a little about yourself: (circle which applies to you)

- I am (years of age): 18-22 23-30 31-36 37-55 56+
- I have: No children at home Children at home, ages _____
- I can fit a faith formation activity into my schedule (other than Sunday Mass):

Yes No

Thanks for your time! If you want us to contact you, print your name and phone number:

OUR NEEDS AND INTERESTS – SURVEY FOR OLG ADULTS (18 & older)

Please complete this survey and drop it in a survey collection box.

We greatly appreciate your time!

Instructions: Mark the topics that will help you in your life today.

How to...

- interpret the Bible
- bring the Bible readings into my daily life
- talk to my friends about the Bible
- pass the faith to my children
- answer moral and ethical questions as a Catholic
- form a Catholic conscience
- be Catholic outside the church walls
- invite people into our faith community
- involve my Catholic neighbors in my daily life

Different ways of studying Scripture

How does a person return to active participation in the Church?

Why should my faith be a priority in my life after I'm 18?

Resources for answering questions about our faith

How does a person become Catholic?

Why all the changes in the Church since Vatican II?

Catholic Social Teaching / How does it apply to me?

(issues such as poverty, homelessness, just wages, literacy, discrimination, access to health care, etc.)

What are different forms of prayer?

What is "active participation" at Mass?

If Mass is a celebration, why am I bored?

Please tell us a little about yourself: (circle which applies to you)

1. I am (years of age): 18-22 23-30 30-36 37-55 56+

2. I have: No children at home Children at home, ages _____

3. I can fit a Church activity into my schedule (other than Sunday Mass). Yes No

If you want us to contact you, print your name and phone number below.

Thank you for your time!

OUR NEEDS AND INTERESTS – SURVEY FOR OLG ADULTS (18 & older)

Please complete this survey and drop it in a survey collection box.

Instructions: Mark the adult faith formation topics that will help in your life.

How to...

- interpret the Bible.
- bring the Bible readings into my daily life.
- talk to anyone about the Bible.
- pass the faith to my children.
- answer moral and ethical questions as a Catholic.
- form a Catholic conscience.
- be Catholic outside the church walls.
- involve my Catholic neighbors in my daily life.
- Different ways of studying Scripture.
- How does a person return to active participation in the Catholic Church?
- Why should my faith be a priority in my life after I'm 18?
- Resources for answering my children's questions about our faith.
- How does a person become Catholic?
- Why all the changes in the Church since Vatican II?
- Catholic Social Teaching / How does it apply to me?
(issues such as poverty, homelessness, just wages, literacy, discrimination, access to health care, etc.)
- What are different forms of prayer?
- What is "active participation" at Mass?
- If Mass is a celebration, why am I bored?
- optional – write in
topic: _____

Please tell us a little about yourself: (circle which applies to you)

1. I am (years of age): 18-22 23-30 30-36 37-55 56+
2. I have: No children at home Children at home, ages _____
3. I can fit a Church activity into my schedule (other than Sunday Mass). Yes No

Thanks for your time! If you want us to contact you, print your name & phone number:

OUR NEEDS AND INTERESTS – SURVEY FOR OLG ADULTS (18 & older)

We would greatly appreciate your input by completing this survey.

Instructions: Please choose **5 (five)** of the following areas of adult religious education that would be helpful to you. Please **do not** check more than **5 (five)**.

- 1. Why should my faith be a priority in my life after I'm 18?
- 2. How to interpret the Bible.
- 3. How to bring the Bible readings into my daily life.
- 4. How to talk to anyone about the Bible.
- 5. Different ways of studying Scripture.
- 6. How to form a Catholic conscience.
- 7. How to answer moral and ethical questions as a Catholic.
- 8. How to pass the faith to my children.
- 9. Resources for answering my children's questions about our faith.
- 10. How to be Catholic outside the church walls.
- 11. How to involve my Catholic neighbors in my daily life.
- 12. How does a person return to active participation in the Catholic Church?
- 13. How does a person become Catholic?
- 14. Why all the changes in the Church since Vatican II?
- 15. Catholic Social Teaching / How does it apply to me?
(issues such as poverty, homelessness, just wages, literacy, discrimination, access to health care, etc.)
- 16. What are different forms of prayer?
- 17. What is "active participation" at Mass?
- 18. If Mass is a celebration, why am I bored?
- optional – write in topic: _____

Please tell us a little about yourself: (circle which applies to you)

1. I am (years of age): 18-22 23-30 31-36 37-55 56+
2. I have: No children at home Children at home, ages _____
3. I can fit a Church activity into my schedule (other than Sunday Mass). Yes No

Thanks for your time! If you want us to contact you, print your name & phone number:

NUESTRAS NECESIDADES Y los INTERESES - la INSPECCION

PARA ADULTOS de OLG (para mayores de 18)

Apreciaríamos mucho su entrada completando esta inspección.

Las instrucciones: Escoge por favor **5 (cinco)** de las áreas siguientes de la educación religiosa adulta que sería útil a usted. Por favor **no verifique más de 5 (cinco)**.

- 1. ¿Por qué debe ser mi fe una prioridad en mi vida después que yo soy 18?
- 2. Cómo interpretar la Biblia.
- 3. Cómo traer las lecturas de Biblia en mi vida diaria.
- 4. Cómo hablar a cualquiera acerca de la Biblia.
- 5. Las maneras diferentes de estudiar Escritura.
- 6. Cómo formar una conciencia Católica.
- 7. Cómo contestar la moraleja y las preguntas éticas como un Católico.
- 8. Cómo pasar la fe a mis niños.
- 9. Los recursos para contestar a mis niños's pregunta acerca de nuestra fe.
- 10. Cómo ser Católico fuera de las paredes de la iglesia.
- 11. Cómo implicar a mis vecinos Católicos en mi vida diaria.
- 12. ¿Cómo vuelve una persona a la participación activa en la Iglesia Católica?
- 13. ¿Cómo llega a ser una persona Católico?
- 14. ¿Por qué todos los cambios en la Iglesia desde que Vaticano II?
- 15. ¿La Enseñanza Social católica/Cómo aplica a mí?
(Tema tal como pobreza, sin casas, sueldos justos, la capacidad de leer y escribir, la discriminación, el acceso a la asistencia médica, etc.)
- 16. ¿Qué es formas diferentes de la oración?
- 17. ¿Qué es la "participación activa" en Misa?
- 18. ¿Si Misa es una celebración, por qué estoy aburrido yo?

opcional - escribe en el tema: _____

Díganos por favor un poco acerca de usted mismo: (el círculo que aplica a usted)

1. Soy (años de la edad): 18-22 23-30 31-36 37-55 56+

2. Tengo: ningunos niños en casa Los niños en casa, las edades _____

3. Sí puedo incluir una actividad de la Iglesia en mi horario (aparte de Misa de domingo). Sí No

¡Agradesco su tiempo! Si usted quiere que nosotros avisemos usted, imprima su nombre y el número de teléfono:

The following section is the content of the report I submitted to Our Lady of Guadalupe which summarizes the results of the survey. A copy of this material was given to the Pastor, Director of Religious Education, Coordinator of Adult Faith Formation and a Deacon Candidate who will utilize this data for his diaconate internship. A report will be published for the parish in the bulletin, the Faith Formation Handbook, and will be available on the parish website.

OUR NEEDS AND INTERESTS – SURVEY FOR OLG ADULTS (18 & older)

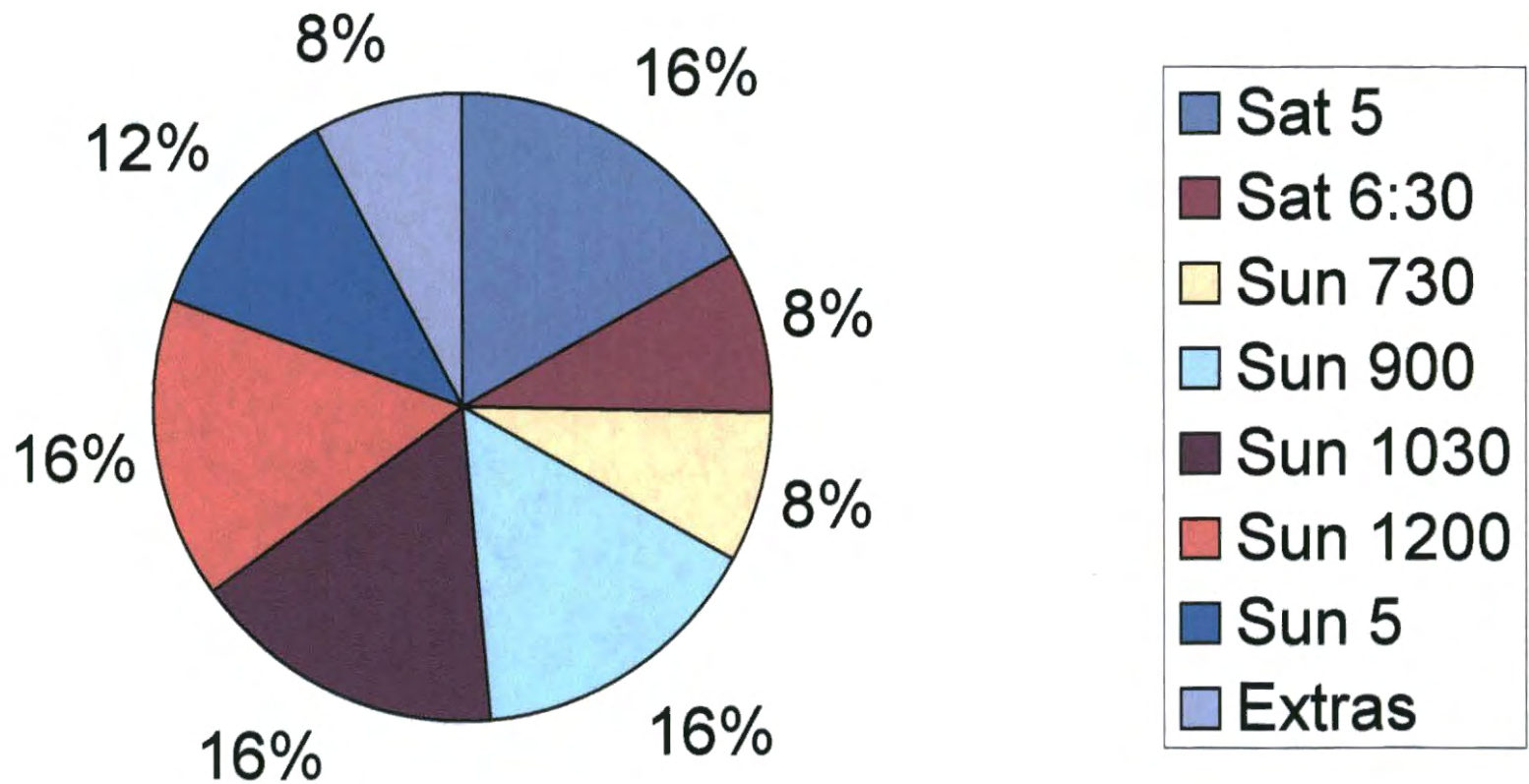
Based on all the results (599 surveys) this is the order of perceived need:

2. How to interpret the Bible. (313)
8. How to pass the faith to my children. (297)
5. Different ways of studying Scripture. (267)
3. How to bring the Bible readings into my daily life. (270)
7. How to answer moral and ethical questions as a Catholic. (254)
10. How to be Catholic outside the church walls. (200)
4. How to talk to anyone about the Bible. (150)
16. What are different forms of prayer? (148)
9. Resources for answering my children's questions about our faith (134)
14. Why all the changes in the Church since Vatican II? (121)
15. Catholic Social Teaching / How does it apply to me? (113)
(issues such as poverty, homelessness, just wages, literacy, discrimination, access to health care, etc.)
6. How to form a Catholic conscience. (95)
17. What is "active participation" at Mass? (79)
12. How does a person return to active participation in the Catholic Church? (78)
1. Why should my faith be a priority in my life after I'm 18? (77)
11. How to involve my Catholic neighbors in my daily life. (65)
18. If Mass is a celebration, why am I bored? (60)
13. How does a person become Catholic? (32)
19. optional – write in topic: (32)

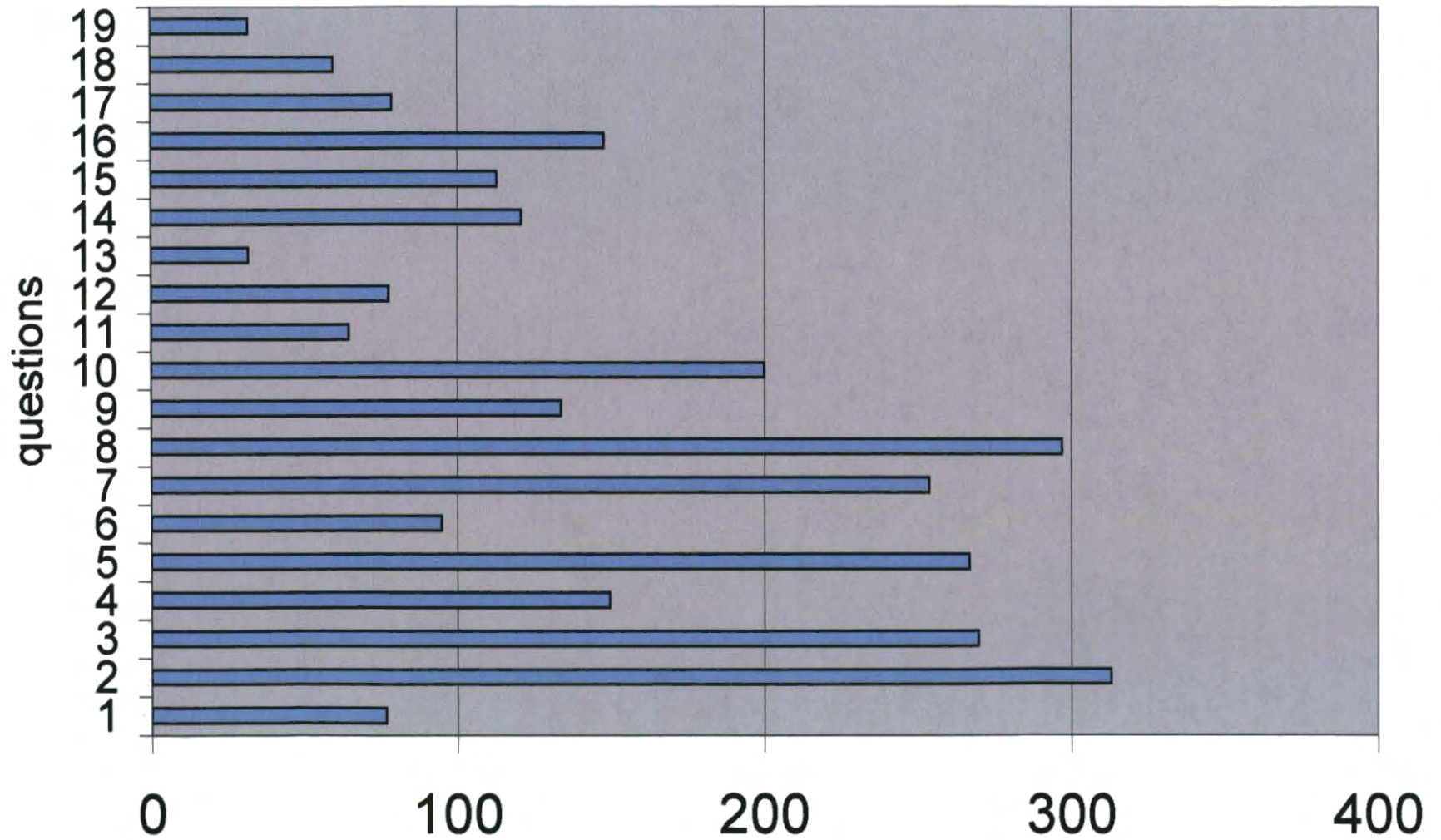
Mass Time	# of Surveys
Sat 5	102
Sat 6:30	49
Sun 730	47
Sun 900	93
Sun 1030	98
Sun 1200	93
Sun 5	71
Extras	46
	599

Question Number	Total Responses
1	77
2	313
3	270
4	150
5	267
6	95
7	254
8	297
9	134
10	200
11	65
12	78
13	32
14	121
15	113
16	148
17	79
18	60
19	32

Responses by Mass Time

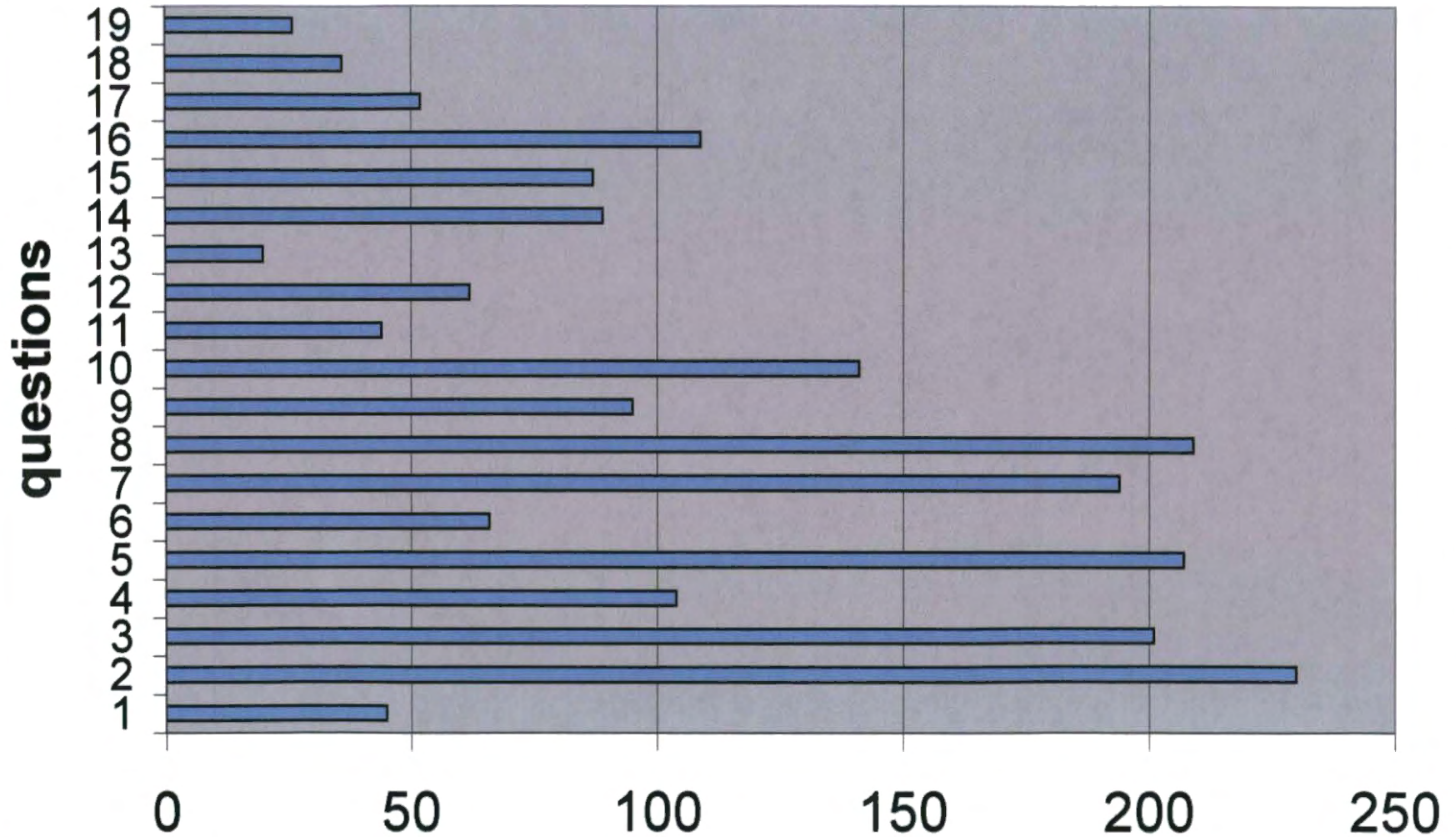


Question Totals



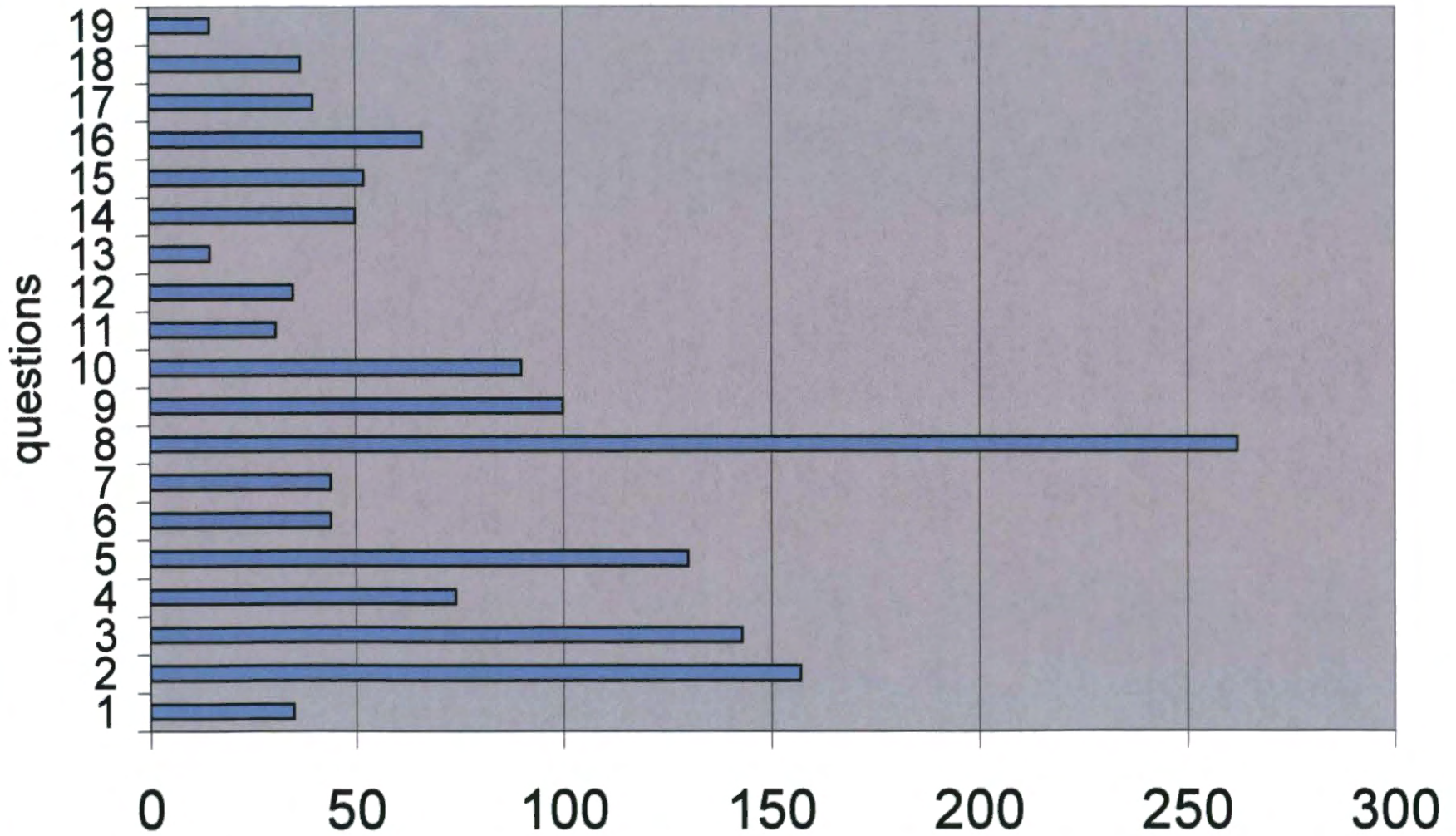
Have Time for Church Activity - 428 Surveys	
Question	Responses
1	45
2	230
3	201
4	104
5	207
6	66
7	194
8	209
9	95
10	141
11	44
12	62
13	20
14	89
15	87
16	109
17	52
18	36
19	26

Have Time Responses



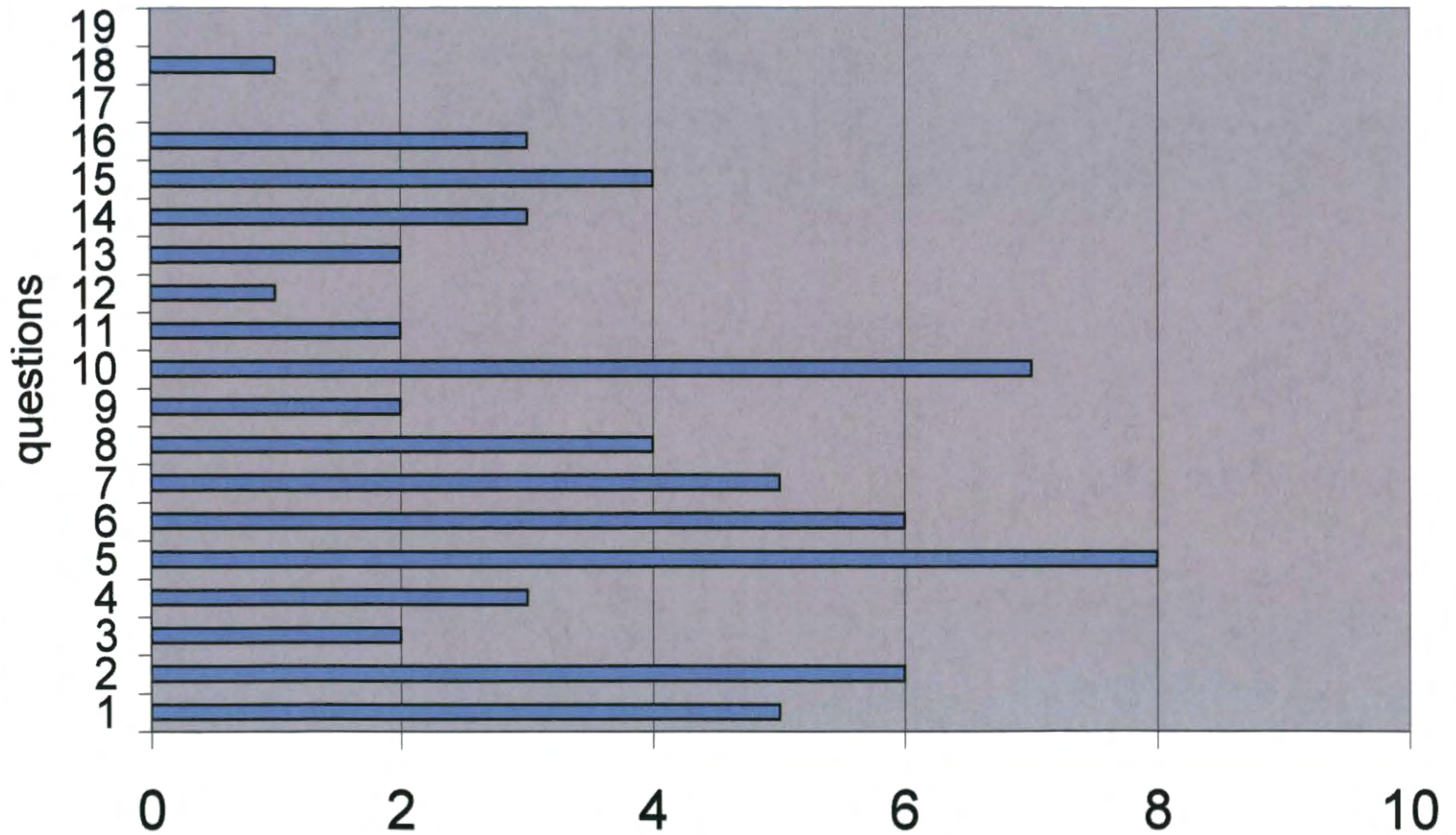
Have Children at Home - 307 Surveys				
Question	Time -Yes	Time - No	Time - Didn't Say	Total Responses
1	18	14	3	35
2	118	27	12	157
3	108	23	12	143
4	52	15	7	74
5	100	16	14	130
6	32	9	3	44
7	11	26	7	44
8	204	41	17	262
9	69	22	9	100
10	63	23	4	90
11	20	10	1	31
12	28	6	1	35
13	12	2	1	15
14	40	7	3	50
15	39	9	4	52
16	48	12	6	66
17	24	16	0	40
18	22	9	6	37
19	11	2	2	15

Have Children at Home



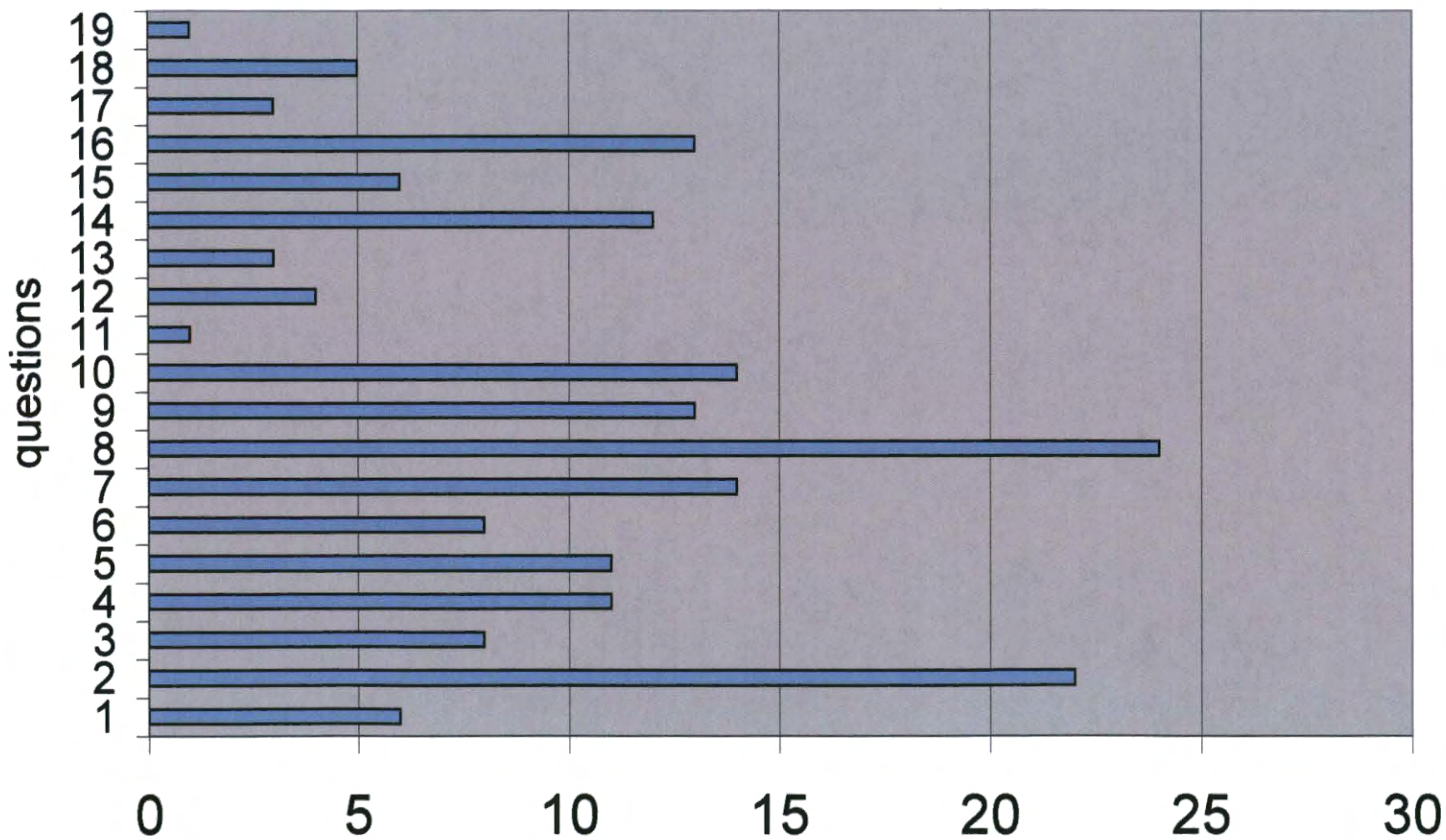
Age Group: 18-22	Children at Home: YES	No Children at Home	Total Responses
1	0	5	5
2	0	6	6
3	0	2	2
4	0	3	3
5	0	8	8
6	0	6	6
7	0	5	5
8	0	4	4
9	0	2	2
10	0	7	7
11	0	2	2
12	0	1	1
13	0	2	2
14	0	3	3
15	0	4	4
16	0	3	3
17	0	0	0
18	0	1	1
19	0	0	0
Time YES	0	10	10
Time NO	0	3	3
Total Surveys	0	13	13

Age 18-22 Responses



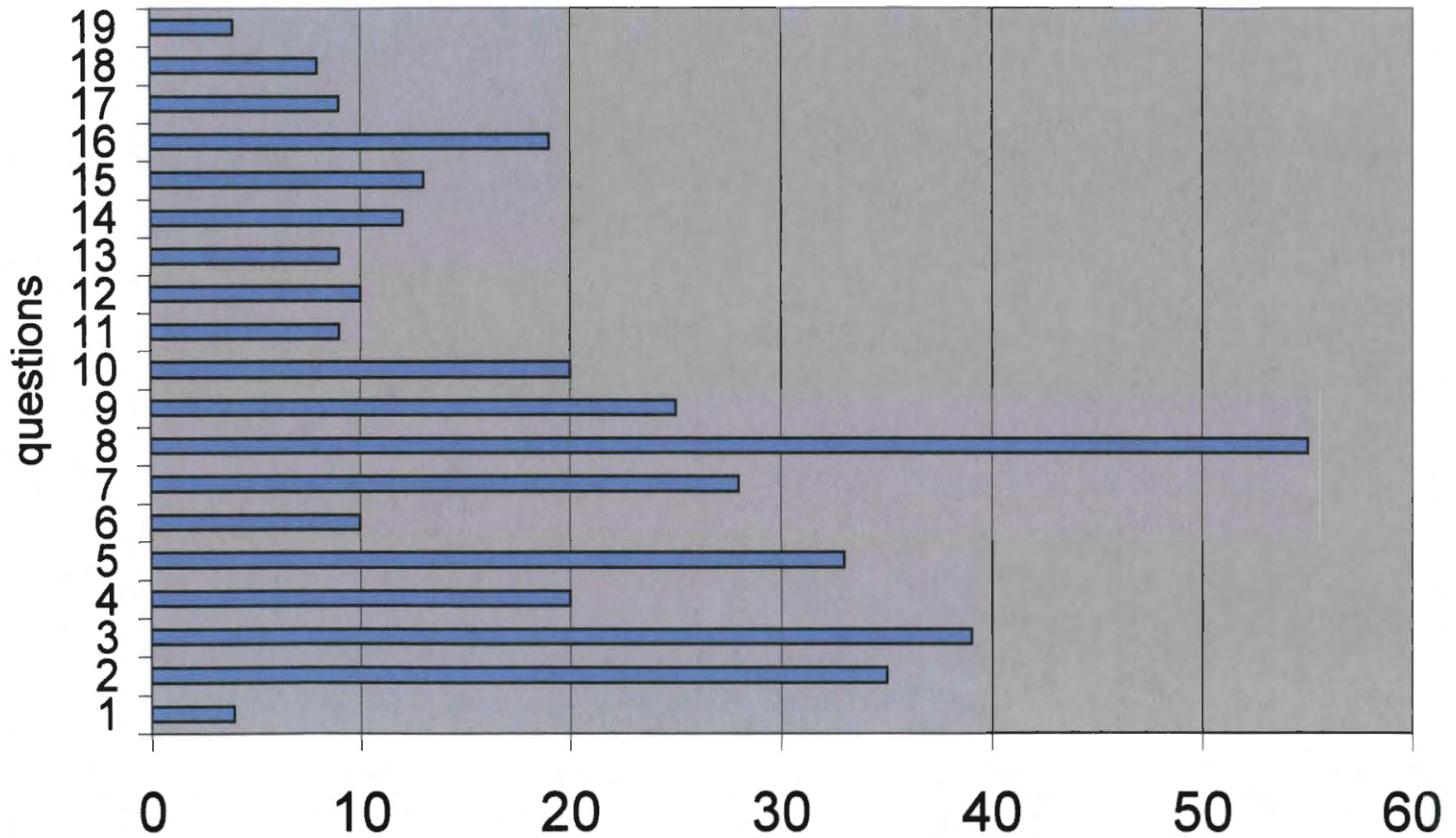
Age Group: 23-30	Children at Home: YES	No Children at Home	Children: Didn't Say	Total Responses
1	2	4	0	6
2	8	14	0	22
3	1	7	0	8
4	3	7	1	11
5	2	9	0	11
6	1	7	0	8
7	6	8	0	14
8	11	12	1	24
9	7	5	1	13
10	5	8	1	14
11	0	1	0	1
12	1	3	0	4
13	1	1	1	3
14	2	10	0	12
15	0	6	0	6
16	4	9	0	13
17	1	2	0	3
18	3	2	0	5
19	0	1	0	1
Time YES	8	17	1	26
Time NO	4	6	0	10
Total Surveys	12	23	1	36

Age 23-30 Responses



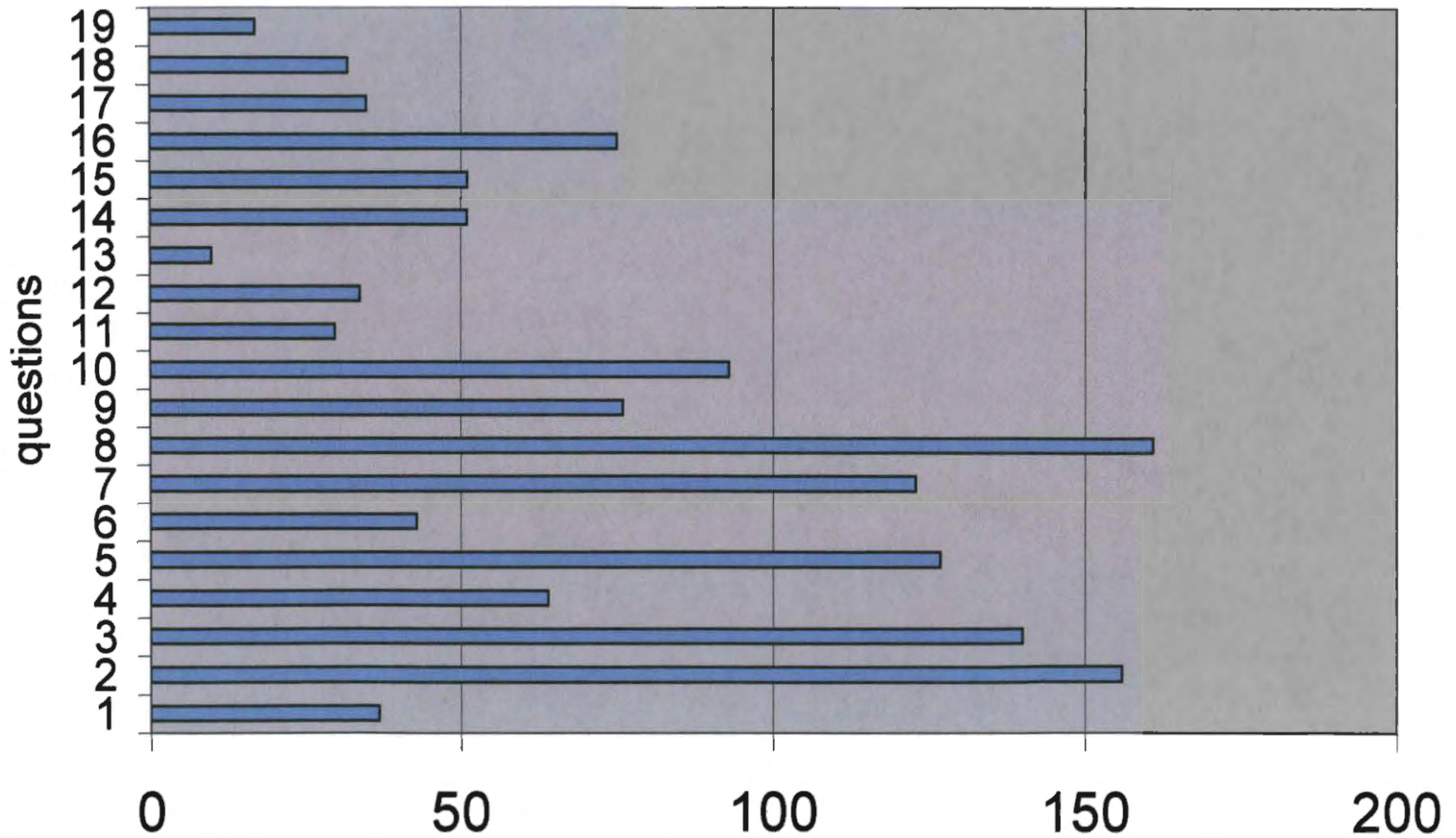
Age Group: 31-36	Children at Home:	No Children at Home	Children: Didn't Say	Total Responses
1	2	2	0	4
2	26	8	1	35
3	31	6	2	39
4	16	4	0	20
5	24	9	0	33
6	7	2	1	10
7	21	7	0	28
8	48	5	2	55
9	23	1	1	25
10	14	5	1	20
11	8	1	0	9
12	6	3	1	10
13	7	1	1	9
14	8	4	0	12
15	8	4	1	13
16	12	7	0	19
17	6	3	0	9
18	8	0	0	8
19	4	0	0	4
Time YES	46	12	0	58
Time NO	11	3	1	15
Time Didn't Say	3	0	2	5
Total Surveys	60	15	3	78

Age 31-36 Responses



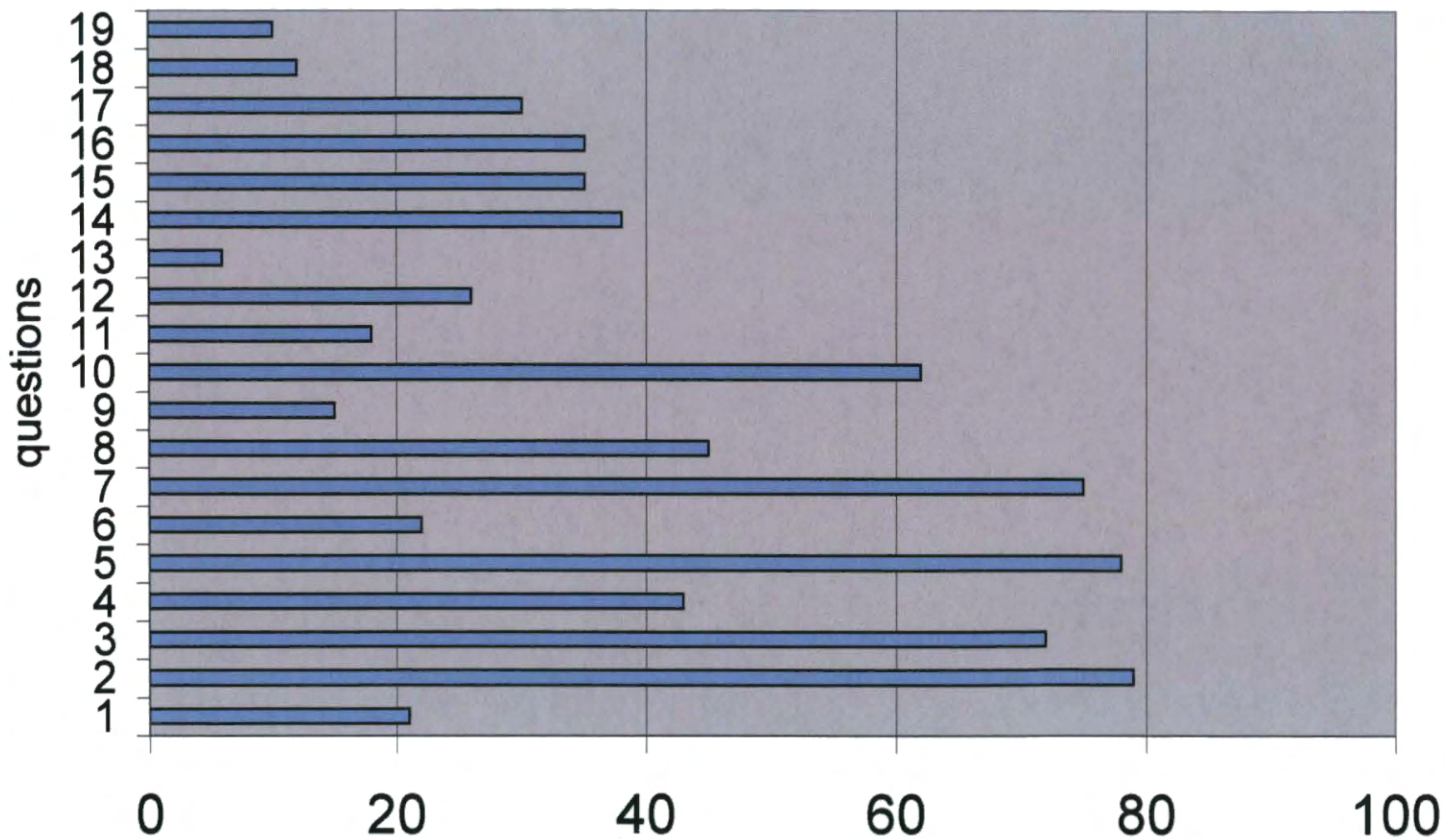
Age Group: 37-55	Children at home: YES	No Children at Home	Children: Didn't Say	Total Responses
1	29	8	0	37
2	117	37	2	156
3	98	39	3	140
4	49	14	1	64
5	91	35	1	127
6	31	11	1	43
7	92	29	2	123
8	133	25	3	161
9	65	10	1	76
10	63	29	1	93
11	20	10	0	30
12	26	7	1	34
13	7	3	0	10
14	36	14	1	51
15	36	15	0	51
16	46	27	2	75
17	29	6	0	35
18	26	6	0	32
19	11	6	0	17
Time YES	154	61	3	218
Time NO	38	5	1	44
Time Didn't Say	20	5	1	26
Total Surveys	212	71	5	288

Age 37-55 Responses



Age Group:56+	Children at home:YES	No Children at home	Children: Didn't Say	Total Responses
1	2	18	1	21
2	5	67	7	79
3	12	55	5	72
4	6	33	4	43
5	12	61	5	78
6	4	17	1	22
7	10	58	7	75
8	10	32	3	45
9	4	9	2	15
10	8	50	4	62
11	3	14	1	18
12	2	21	3	26
13	0	6	0	6
14	4	30	4	38
15	7	28	0	35
16	4	27	4	35
17	3	26	1	30
18	0	11	1	12
19	0	9	1	10
Time YES	10	94	7	111
Time NO	9	18	0	27
Time Didn't Say	2	14	7	23
Total Surveys	21	126	14	161

56+ Responses



Age Unknown	Children at home: YES	No Children at home	Children: Didn't Say	Total Responses
1	0	1	3	4
2	1	2	12	15
3	1	2	5	8
4	0	0	7	7
5	1	1	7	9
6	1	2	3	6
7	0	2	5	7
8	1	0	6	7
9	0	1	1	2
10	0	0	4	4
11	0	1	3	4
12	0	1	1	2
13	0	0	2	2
14	0	0	3	3
15	0	0	2	2
16	0	0	2	2
17	0	0	1	1
18	0	0	2	2
19	0	0	0	0
Time YES	1	0	2	3
Time NO	0	1	0	1
Time Didn't Say	0	2	13	15
Total Surveys	1	3	15	19

Comments written by Survey Participants (Survey # and age group in parenthesis)

- How is Christian life different than Catholic life? (#1; 37-55)
- Dissent in the Church and how to recognize and [?] / What is the Mass? What does it celebrate? / Why don't we hear more from visiting priests: i.e. Priests for Life or Brian [Claws?] Human Life International / Why not talk about Teaching of the Church? / and referring to survey #14: Why all the changes in the Church since Vatican II? (which aren't changes actually but misinterpretations by liberal clergy). (#72; 56+)
- Church[']s view on homosexuality (#80; 37-55)
- Como ayudar alas personas que pierden la fe (#158; 31)
- Learning and understanding Church Doctrine (#211; 37-55)
- We need to discuss the rapture and end times in more detail. We are not "ready" as a Church it seems to me. (#244; 37-55)
- How to strengthen marriages (#260; 31-36)
- [Responding to #8. How to pass the faith to my children]: Comment: " Family – all ages – all tied together" [drew arrows to #12: How does a person return to active participation in the Catholic Church? and #14: Why all the changes in the Church since Vatican II? (#262; 37-55)
- [Responding to question if they can fit a Church activity into their schedule (other than Sunday Mass)]: "Need to make an effort; I work far and get home late."
- Catholic Church & parish participants in a better interaction of Mass and Bible studies (#295; 56+)
- Relating Mass to daily life (#296; 37-55)
- Why do Catholics believe certain things? (#323; 37-55)
- [Responding to #16. What are different forms of prayer?]: List of different prayers for different subject prayers (1960-1980). / Differences of and common factors>other religions / Helpful things to do/procedure supporting and follow-through 1st Communion and confirmation / Handbook for kids: A) Prayer, B) What means each part [of] Mass, C) Expected Behavior, D) Participation, E) coloring & activity / Handbook [for] Teenagers / Handbook [for] adults – about Be Catholic, The do's, procedures. [Left name and phone #]. (#344; 37-55)
- What does it mean to be a Catholic as opposed to other Christian religions (#355; 37-55)
- Differences between Catholicism and other religions (#356; 23-30)
- How to talk with people who [are] not Catholic about Catholic traditions & beliefs (#358; 37-55)
- The meaning of the 10 Commandments (#367; 56+)

- Politics & tithing in the Catholic Church vs. Living the Word! (#368; 37-55)
- Talk the message of the Pope vs. war (#404; age unknown)
- Increasing Lay participation in Church policy (#405; 56+)
- Stress importance of the consecration at a Mass & class (#430; 31-36)
- Catholic apologetics (#457; 37-55)
- How to help your spouse to believe in God (#475; 37-55)
- If Mass is a celebration, why are my children bored? (#477; 37-55)
- How Catholics need to form a more personal relationship with Jesus Christ (#483; 37-55)
- Peace & Justice / [Responding to #18: If Mass is a celebration, why am I bored?]: OLG not Boring (#484; 37-55)
- Contemplative Prayer (#490; 56+)
- Why no Sunday School outside Mass? / Catechism for Communion and the Sacraments (#505; 37-55)
- Why do we omit the Gloria? (outside of Lent) / Why do two of our priests "roam about" during the Homily? Distracting – please don't. / What is being done to preclude the Church from being a haven for sick men? (in the priesthood) Thanks! (#528; 56+)
- More relevant youth issues (#530; 37-55)
- How to pray the rosary (#543; 37-55)
- Religious education for children (#547; 31-36)
- Why is the church so liberal (#550; 56+)
- What about religious ed. for children?! (#561; 31-36)
- [Responding to #4: How to talk to anyone about the Bible]: Answers to those who "come calling" at the door (without being rude). / In-depth Bible Studies / Apologetics (#567; 56+)
- [Responding to #4: How to talk to anyone about the Bible]: ,especially my sister who left the Catholic Church and became a Jehovah's witness. / How to discuss the bible with former Catholics (in the hopes of bringing back at least to Christianity if not Catholicism) (#572; 37-55)
- Mary in Scripture-study (#573; 37-55)
- Activities for semi-older singles (#577; 37-55)
- How to debate Protestant views that are in conflict with Catholic (#588; 56+)
- [Responding to #16: What are different forms of prayer?]: other than structured prayer (#589; 56+)

-[Responding to #11: How to involve my Catholic neighbors in my daily life]: or persons of other faiths (#594; 56+)

-[Responding to #5: Different ways of studying Scripture]: what does it mean to me. / Adult RCIA or Confirmation type classes (#597; 56+)

-[Responding to #7: How to answer moral and ethical questions as a Catholic]: In light of the current apparent lack of ethical action of the [?]; / accountability of Religious who commit crimes against humanity who protect the organization above the people they have [?] to serve / What happened to Listen Program of Sept.; it's April 2003. (#600; 56+) (left name).