

ST. RITA PARISH SURVEY
on
MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY
2016

St. Rita Parish Survey Results: Marriage and the Family – 2016

The purpose of this survey is to inform the St. Rita Pastoral Plan in the ways that may serve to further create and promote a parish environment in which to raise a Catholic family, and to promote formal unions and marriages with the desire to support and strengthen Catholic family values.

This survey was conducted following the Lineamenta Survey disseminated by Pope Francis in 2014 for the purpose of informing the Extraordinary and Ordinary Synods of Bishops (Synod on the Family) meeting in October, 2014.

The St. Rita Survey was conceived upon learning that the Papal Survey would collect data from parishes, but would not be able to return parish-specific data back to individual pastors. The St. Rita Survey was concluded on April 8, 2016, upon the release of the Papal Exhortation, “Amoris Laetitia,” which is the embodiment of the conclusions reached by the aforementioned Synods of Bishops.

The St. Rita Survey was comprised of questions taken directly from the Papal Survey which was disseminated to all diocese globally, with license taken to collapse the extensive diocesan survey by as much as 30%, and also to reword and clarify questions for the purpose of eliciting answers pertinent to the purpose of informing the St. Rita Parish Pastoral Plan.

Two questions were made mandatory, all other questions could be skipped by the participant. The mandatory questions were questions 1 and 12. The multiple choice questions required that participants answering these questions make some opinion known – i.e., answers such as, “I don’t know,” were excluded as an option for the purpose of collecting useful responses from those who answered these questions. In the event that the participant chose not to offer any opinion, the option to skip the question was available, except where the question was mandatory in order to complete the survey.

Of 101 participants, 101 participants (100%) completed the survey. Not all 101 participants answered every question, but by the fact that all mandatory questions were answered by 100% of the participants, it may be inferred that all participants completed the necessary requirements to validate their survey results.

The St. Rita Survey on Marriage and the Family was active from April 1, 2015 to April 8, 2016. Analyses of the results from this survey were compiled and collated in April, 2016, and this document was prepared at that time.

Msgr. Richard Krekelberg, Pastor
Mary Lou Butler, Parish Administrator
Mary Ann MacGillivray, Pastoral Council Vice Chairperson
St. Rita Pastoral Council 2014 – 2016
M. Running Bear Bunch, Survey Coordinator

I. REPRESENTATIVE PARTICIPANTS

1) **[Mandatory]** Of the **101 total participants**, the following numbers indicate the affiliations stated by the participants. (For example: “95 participants identified themselves as being affiliated with the Parishioners at St. Rita’s.”)

95	PARISHIONER AT ST. RITA’S
29	ST. RITA SCHOOL
24	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER
20	OTHER MINISTRY / AFFILIATION
16	LECTOR
12	ST. RITA GUILD
7	ADMINISTRATION OR PARISH STAFF
7	BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY
6	PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY
6	MEN’S CLUB
6	SENIOR MINISTRY
5	SCOUTS – BOY & GIRL SCOUTS
5	PASTORAL COUNCIL
5	RCIA
4	YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY
3	YOUTH MINISTRY
3	CAPITAL CAMPAIGN CABINET
3	RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
2	FINANCE COUNCIL
2	MUSIC MINISTRY / CHOIR
2	DESIGN COMMISSION

II. FAMILY FOCUS AT ST. RITA PARISH

2) Is St. Rita, as a parish, actively reawakening an awareness of God's presence in family life? **70% - YES** **26% - SOMEWHAT** **4% - NO**

3) Does St. Rita parish actively establish, teach, foster, and promote quality interpersonal relationships between individual families and family members?
66% - YES **29% - SOMEWHAT** **5% - NO**

4) Does St. Rita promote and foster sensible economic priorities within the family?
35% - YES **45% - SOMEWHAT** **20% - NO**

5) Does St. Rita offer to families any direction toward alleviating the difficulties, financial or emotional, that may be associated with caring for children, the elderly, and family members who are ill?
32% - YES **44% - SOMEWHAT** **24% - NO**

III. CULTURAL CHALLENGES AND CHANGES FOR ST. RITA FAMILIES

6) Does St. Rita parish, in the context of the faith community and the broader secular society, take enough initiative in answering current social, political, and cultural challenges posed to families?

19 - YES

10 - SOMEWHAT

21 - NO

IV. FAMILIES IN DIFFICULT OR CRISIS SITUATIONS AT ST. RITA PARISH

7) Does St. Rita parish, as a faith community, choose to draw in families in financially or emotionally difficult or crisis situations?

26% - YES **45% - SOMEWHAT** **29% - NO**

8) Where does St. Rita parish actively participate in activities aimed at preventing or addressing these difficult family situations or environments?

100% - I am not aware that the parish participates in any such activities.

V. SECULAR AND SOCIAL CHALLENGES FOR ST. RITA FAMILIES

9) Do you believe that St. Rita parish is swayed by the examples of secular society when considering St. Rita's pastoral care for marriage and the family?

20% - YES 29% - SOMEWHAT 51% - NO

10) Is St. Rita parish experiencing the effects of rejecting the model of a family formed by a man and a woman united in marriage and open to having children?

15% - YES 21% - SOMEWHAT 64% - NO

VI. VOCATIONS AND THE FAMILY

11) At the present time, do you see ordained vocations for a family member (a man entering into the priesthood) as:

67% - A happy and welcome family event.

23% - I wish there were another way to make a priest.

5% - Necessary, but a family's sacrifice.

4% - I don't know much about vocations, I need more information.

12) **[Mandatory]** What qualified roles are urgently needed at St. Rita to foster, develop, and grow the lives of families and/or ordained vocations?

24% - None of the Above

22% - Recruit Trained Volunteer(s)

19% - Expand a Current Parish Ministry

14% - Start a New Ministry

13% - Start a New Parish Group

8% - Add Parish Staff

VII. GROWING THE DESIRE TO FORM A FAMILY

13) In preaching the values associated with “the desire to form a family,” does St. Rita’s approach include those who are in family situations that do not correspond to the Christian vision?

31% - YES 38% - SOMEWHAT 31% - NO

14) In your experience, how prevalent is natural or “traditional” marriage practiced among the non-baptized?

17% - VERY PREVALENT

27% - CONSISTENTLY PRESENT

42% - SOMEWHAT PRESENT

14% - NOT PREVALENT

15) How much is the desire to form a family a factor in growing long-term relationships among young couples?

20% - VERY PREVALENT

33% - CONSISTENTLY PRESENT

37% - SOMEWHAT PRESENT

11% - NOT PRESENT

16) In pastoral activities at St. Rita, is Sacred Scripture utilized when addressing topics involving families?

49% - YES 43% - SOMEWHAT 9% - NO

17) Is St. Rita pastorally active in maturing unmarried couples’ lives together, leading them toward sacramental marriage in the future?

19% - YES 49% - SOMEWHAT 31% - NO

18) How does St. Rita parish promote the understanding that a couple's relationship with God can help in overcoming the inherent weaknesses in relationships, and especially in marriages?

31% - THROUGH OUR PRIEST

28% - NOT IN A FORMAL CAPACITY

17% - THROUGH PERSONAL OUTREACH; AMONG FAMILY MEMBERS

17% - THROUGH MINISTRY

7% - THROUGH PARISH OUTREACH

19) Considering couples in a mature relationship, how important is it to you that your family members be married in front of a priest and in a church?

42% - ABSOLUTELY IN FRONT OF A PRIEST AND IN A CHURCH

28% - ANYWHERE, AS LONG AS IT IS IN FRONT OF A PRIEST

19% - EITHER A PRIEST OR JUSTICE OF THE PEACE; BUT GET MARRIED

11% - MARRIAGE IS RIGHT FOR SOME, BUT NOT ALL COUPLES

20) Pastorally, does St. Rita foster the understanding that Christian marriage corresponds to the original plan of God?

73% - YES

19% - SOMEWHAT

8% - NO

21) Does St. Rita parish foster an environment where marriage is seen to be about fulfillment and not confinement?

59% - YES

30% - SOMEWHAT

12% - NO

VIII. FAMILY SPIRITUALITY AT ST. RITA

22) Is St. Rita, as a parish community, aware of the inherent missionary task of the family unit to engage the wider community and to share their Christian faith?

51% - YES **39% - SOMEWHAT** **11% - NO**

23) Does St. Rita parish engage in ongoing initiatives that lead couples to an understanding of the value of marriage as the path to complete personal fulfillment?

33% - YES **43% - SOMEWHAT** **24% - NO**

IX. ST. RITA'S PASTORAL ACTIVITY FOR FAMILIES

24) Is there an obvious connection between St. Rita's pastoral activity regarding natural marriage and the position taken by the global Church?

48% - YES **38% - SOMEWHAT** **14% - NO**

25) Does St. Rita, as a parish, openly champion the idea that no one is beyond the mercy of God – especially in the context of family?

74% - YES **18% - SOMEWHAT** **8% - NO**

26) Is St. Rita a parish that continually offers trustworthy guidance to persons who do not yet follow Christ wholeheartedly?

54% - YES **30% - SOMEWHAT** **16% - NO**

27) Does St. Rita parish actively welcome persons in various forms of union (couples) who may not subscribe to the model of natural marriage or marriage in the Church?

53% - YES **31% - SOMEWHAT** **16% - NO**

28) Is St. Rita parish the right place to offer a sense of respect to couples living outside of natural marriage?

55% - YES **34% - SOMEWHAT** **11% - NO**

29) Did any part of this questionnaire cause you to consider aspects of St. Rita's pastoral activities more deeply?

63% - YES **20% - SOMEWHAT** **16% - NO**

30) At what level do you think St. Rita's ministries are operating in the parish's mission to evangelize and serve the community?

36% - A good number of ministries, but they don't represent everyone.

20% - Right amount of ministries, but we need more volunteers.

18% - Ministries aside, need small groups of laity focused on service.

12% - We have a lot of ministries, enough to get the job done.

7% - We have a lot of ministries, maybe cut a few.

6% - We are short on ministries, other parishes seem to do more.

X. SURVEY COMMENTARY

31) Do you think that taking a web-based survey for our parish was the right approach to gather your opinion? (96% of all survey participants answered this question – 97 of 101 respondents answered as follows.)

84% - Yes, it's a step forward.

9% - I prefer town hall and council meetings.

7% - Not really, I'm hoping it's a one-off.