

## **METRO-EAST LISTENING SESSION Cathedral of St. Peter, Belleville 5/15/25**

**DISCOVERY** - What excites you and motivates you? What is going well?

- Fellowship of young adults
- Seminarians – their love for the church, excitement for the future, and interaction with all ages
- Music – it is beauty that feeds the soul
- Catholic social teaching
- Our diocesan connection
- Getting people more involved
- An engaging priest who is building our parish
- Young people - Bibles and Brews
- Having a stable school due to our current principal
- Younger parishioners who are very ignited about their faith
- Cathedral parish is doing a stewardship program
- Being an ambassador for Christ
- Joseph House Project/college student ministry
- Mass is accessible
- New Bishop and Pope
- Established organizations
- Children's Liturgy
- Listening Sessions
- Dinners – great reason to get together
- African American spirituality
- Families bringing children to Mass

**DREAM** - What is possible? What big ideas do you have? What opportunities can we build on?

- Packed pews – more young people and families
- Vocation explosion – look at what works in other rural dioceses, Diocese of Wichita, KS
- More collaboration or joint activities in our parish partnership
- Adoration chapels/Church doors being open
- Vicariate level activities
- Understanding what the diocese does for us, what happens at each level
- Parish Life Coordinators
- More baptisms and weddings
- School masses more than once per week
- Church is the HUB of the community – House of Prayer
- Good discipleship training/evangelist training

- Transparency – Diocese – Vicariate – Parish/School
- Parishes working together
- Growth and appreciation of Latin liturgy
- Focus on growing schools - consolidate to one main grade school and high school in Belleville
- More parent engagement
- Using social media/new methods to evangelize/share the faith/share our story
- Getting families back to practicing their faith and finding a way to not compete with sports
- That we do not have to close any more parishes
- Re-energized youth ministry in all parishes and diocesan opportunities for collaboration
- More involvement with clergy in our schools
- Women could become deacons
- Every person that walks into a Catholic church feels welcomed

**GROWTH** – What are we willing to change and grow in?

- Start a young adult bible study
- More evangelization by the parishioners
- Invite people to church
- Do not be afraid to spread the good news
- Greater appreciation for what God is doing in our lives
- Recognition of what we have done, and respect for the work of our predecessors
- United we stand, divided we fall
- Parishes working together
- Open our hearts to volunteer, step out of your comfort zone
- Be bold and ask more questions – talk about our faith more
- Leadership needs to support transparency and collaboration
- Focus on infrastructure – build a solid foundation for the future
- Make time personally to explore and learn outside of Mass - prioritize God and Catholic faith
- Find out/discover talents within the parish, or how you can contribute small or large
- Volunteer – do what needs to be done, do not expect the pastor to do what needs to be done
- Make adoration places more readily communicated
- Be models of what we want to see
- Work with people, not against
- Change parish admin model