

SOUTH VICARIATE LISTENING SESSION St. Mary, Harrisburg 6/23/25

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

- Volunteers at the 4C's, which is with all the churches in our community to give food to the needs of the people in our area
- Sunday in the Park for all of Saline County
- OCIA has been successful in the past six years
- We started a choir in our Church
- Summerfest for the three Churches
- Luncheon after Pentecost, we come for food and socialize
- CSMA financial support
- Getting together with other parishes
- Seeing our high school students learn and study the Bible
- Fr. Christian is bringing back parishioners, he does a great job welcoming guests
- Returning of "Funeral Dinners" since Covid
- The cemetery is being supported very well
- Seeing pastoral councils moving towards more spiritual vs. physical/temporal needs of the Church
- St. Mary's Fall Market – people from outside our Church visit for the day
- Decorating committee for the Church
- Birthday events for the priests
- Religious articles in the Church
- To share the love Christ has for me with others in social activities and service projects
- Excited to receive feedback with the diocese on OCIA

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

- Having an 8:00 a.m. Mass for Saline and Gallatin counties. There are two 10:30 a.m. Masses (Harrisburg & Ridgway)
- More children in PSR
- Parents encouraging children to be Mass servers and to participate in Church activities over sports
- For more young men to join the priesthood
- Bring former members back to the Church
- More Catholic marriages
- For the community rivalry to end between Eldorado and Harrisburg
- The PSR kids will continue to attend Mass after the end of the school year
- Better communication and participation between the parishes
- For the Church to be packed on Sundays (standing room only)

- More support groups for the elderly
- To see our Church choir grow
- More groups for widows/disabled/single people
- Guest speakers for the community
- More people from the Church to step up and join to be lectors, ushers, etc.
- Quarterly potlucks
- Placing “Get Well Cards” in the back of Church for everyone to sign
- Baptism gift bags for the newly baptized children
- Return to doing a farm blessing before Spring planting and Fall harvest
- Blessing of the children at the altar in the front of Church
- Getting vicariates together for a youth event yearly or more often
- A priest for every parish in the diocese
- A Catholic high school in the South Vicariate
- An outdoor Catholic wedding venue approved by the Church
- Churches to utilize Apps
- Life-long learning
- Athletic tournaments banned on Sundays
- Family faith formation takes on new life with adults and family members
- Have retreat organizers throughout the diocese

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

- Welcome all who come to Mass, be more hospitable
- Activities that bring non-Catholics to our Church, such as bingo, trivia night, 50/50 drawings, etc.
- To have deacons in our vicariate and our parishes
- Transportation to bring our older parishioners to Mass
- Give Mass time options – not all at 10:30 a.m.
- How do we get people involved?
- Once a month ask the youth to take responsibility to participate in Mass – lector, usher, server, take up the gifts, etc.
- Bring back QUEST and TEC retreats
- Mentorship
- Sharing of ideas across the vicariate/diocese
- Allow people to do the job when they have volunteered to do it
- Become intentional disciples
- Attend a Cursillo retreat
- Change outlook of people from convenience to commitment
- Bishop visiting parishes
- Parishioners need to lose attitudes