



St. Monica Catholic School Meeting & Information Sheet Summary Data- May 2006

May 2nd Meeting Attendance: Approximately 80 people representing roughly 65 families including seniors, married couples without children, and parents of very young, elementary, junior high and/or high school age children.

Information Sheets: 45 sheets were turned in the night of May 2nd and 32 additional were turned in over the next 2 weeks for a total of 77 responses with the following results:

1. Do you believe that a school at St. Monica Catholic Church is a good idea? Yes No

Yes = 72

No = 2

No Answer = 3

- Many comments that our children and grandchildren need a strong religious education
- Many felt a school would promote deeper involvement by families in our parish community
- We are in a growing demographic area of OK and must plan accordingly since SEAS is nearly at maximum
- Some comments regarding prayer, values/virtues, manners needing to be taught in a parish school

2. What impact do you think a school would have on our parish? Positive Negative

Positive = 71

Negative = 2

No Answer = 3

Circled Both = 1

- Many felt families would become more involved and commitment to the parish
- Some commented that we are losing families w/out a school so church would continue to grow if we have one
- Some felt that the sense of belonging to the parish would be greatly improved
- Some felt a school would ease overcrowding at public schools and at SEAS
- A few felt that parishioners w/o children may not want added expense of a school and that by having a school there was potential to divide our parish community

3. Should a new school be founded on the same stewardship principles as our parish? Yes No

Yes = 59

No = 3

No Answer = 12

Circled Both = 3

- This question was changed for post-meeting respondents because they missed the presentations
- Several wanted more information to better answer questions about Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
- Others thought Catechesis of the Good Shepherd was a wonderful way to introduce children to the faith
- Some said to charge tuition until church debt is paid, others said stewardship was always the plan for the school and we should stick with it because it is a good plan
- A few said they didn't think stewardship alone would produce enough revenue to hire quality teachers
- Some were not clear on the concept and benefits of the stewardship model
- Many felt the cost of sending a child should be based on what families can afford so that all parishioners could attend the school

4. Are you willing to help with this project by donating your time, talent, treasure? Yes No

Yes = 73

No = 2

No Answer = 2

- Very talented group of meeting attendees and post-meeting respondents including 13 educators total.
- Other talented volunteers include engineers, construction managers, computer professionals, financial analysts, foreign language experts, nursing professionals, and experience from other parishes on school boards and parish councils.

Grade levels of respondent's children in the Fall of 2007:

PreK = 10

K = 13

1st = 10

2nd = 10

3rd = 6

4th = 12

5th = 14

6th = 8

7th = 7

8th = 11

TOTAL = 101 children

Summary:

- Meeting attendance was surprisingly high with great enthusiasm and interest level for a parish school
- Information sheets turned in on the weekend were very similar to those turned in at the meeting – very positive
- Many of the respondents who volunteered for this project are not overly involved in other parish ministries
- Some respondents appeared confused about the parish foundation of stewardship and want more details
- Several respondents incorrectly thought stewardship meant that the teachers would not be paid a salary
- Many felt a school would help children live their faith on a daily basis and provide good future Christian leaders
- Many also felt a school would help build our parish into a stronger and closer community of faith
- Several commented that many families leave our parish because St. Monica does not have a school
- Some asked questions about facilities / curriculum for special needs children
- Some respondents were concerned about school debt creating a negative financial impact on the parish
- Many felt the facility could accommodate the growing space needs of the parish and the school
- Some respondents seemed confused about Catechesis of the Good Shepherd as an enrichment to religious ed

Recommendation:

- Ask for parish council support of this project and approval to take the next steps needed to open a school

Next Steps:

- Conduct a thorough feasibility study in June 2006 via detailed questionnaires mailed to all parishioners
- Establish a school web page on the St. Monica Catholic Church website
- Increase the size and diversity of the school steering committee
- Meet with Archdiocesan Catholic School Superintendent