

REPORT ON THE DISCIPLE MAKER INDEX (DMI) SURVEY

March 29, 2021

Dear Parish Family,

During the Spring of 2020, St. Benedict the Moor participated in the Savannah Diocese Disciple Maker Index Survey (DMI). Thank you to the 163 parishioners who took time and effort to respond to the survey. As a parish, we were very favorably compared to the majority of the parishes! Your efforts will help our parish community reinforce what is going well and respond to opportunities to grow by identifying a maximum of three goals or challenges.

Vital questions were asked about each parishioner's discipleship journey, beliefs and how the parish supported them along the way. These results are very positive as we look in on ourselves. The goals/opportunities for growth require us to become comfortable and proactively work for the betterment of our Parish. A parish DMI Leadership Team was formed and includes representatives of the Parish Council, the Survey team and members selected at-large by Father Romanus. There were basically two parts to the survey: one asked for answers from strongly agree through strongly disagree. The other asked for frequency of participation. The group looked at both the questions and the answers in analyzing the data. For example, "once a year" for participation in a retreat (good) is much different that "once a year" for participation in Sunday Mass (not so good). Below is a high-level overview of the results:

A breakdown, by percentage, of the most significant findings from this survey follows:

1. **Catholic Journey:** Sixty-one percent of the parishioners stated they have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ
2. **Recommend Parish:** Seventy-one percent of the parishioners strongly agree St. Benedict is a welcoming parish
3. **Spiritual Growth:** Sixty percent of the parishioners strongly agree St. Benedict helps in their spiritual growth.
4. **Shared Personal Story:** Fifty-two percent stated they share their personal story monthly or more.

Based on a detailed review of the overall results of the survey, the Parish DMI Leadership Team identified the following goals/opportunities for growth:

GOAL #1: Share a Personal Witness Story

Become more comfortable sharing faith, witness stories, inviting people to Mass and other events.

GOAL #2: Pace of Spiritual Growth

Continued growth in being formed as disciples; grow more in the Catholic faith.

GOAL #3: Personal Prayer and Spiritual Life

Discuss ways to improve the connection between the scripture and the daily challenges through attendance to mass, eucharistic adoration, catholic devotions, retreats.

It is our plan, working with various groups within the Parish, to implement these goals by researching and discussing ways to reach our goals. We shall measure our growth over the next several years while identifying new opportunities to improve our effectiveness as a Parish.

Yours in Christ,

Parish DMI Leadership Team Members:

Earl Berksteiner

Brandi Bos

Alicia Carter

Greg Maloff

Edna Mason

Dean Maxwell

Dianne Williams

Sandra Best, Chair

Father Romanus, MSP, Pastor