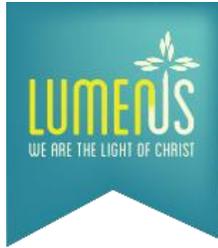


Communication



“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations ... Teach them to carry out everything I have commanded you.” Matthew 28:19-20

“Communication” has two aspects in a faith community. First is recognizing each person’s responsibility to communicate with each other respectfully, to seek to understand what is being said or done, and to assume the good faith of others. Second is recognizing that improved methods of communication promotes active engagement of parishioners, parish and school; helps retain and attract faith community members; enhances outreach within and outside of the faith community; and fosters an informed, inter-connected and participative faith community.

Areas of Discovery

- Communication in a faith community requires accepting responsibility for the acquiring and sharing of information, and being respectful of others in thought and word.
- Establishing and communicating a parish identity is important to present and potential parishioners.
- Key groups, such as the Pastoral Council and Finance Committee, need to be more visible and better communicate their work.
- Parents, school and parish staff could benefit from improved dialogue and understanding as to matters of mutual importance, such as sacramental preparation, building access, and use of church space.
- Parish and school staff should maintain clear lines of communication between them – for the benefit and unity of parish, school and parishioners.
- Parish staff must be able to effectively, and with understanding, communicate with parishioners regarding matters of importance, such as funeral arrangements, liturgy and worship, building use, and similar matters.
- Emerging media should be explored to enhance communication and connectedness.

Conversation Starters:

- How can we improve parish life through accepting the responsibilities that come with honest and open communication?
- Would parishioners benefit from a process that promotes dialogue, participation, and a better understanding of parish issues and other topics?
- Would it be beneficial or detrimental to the respective identities and missions of our parish and school to promote a common identity between them?
- How can the work of the parish council and finance committee, including decisions regarding the financial health of the parish and school, be more widely communicated in a manner that promotes understanding and consensus?
- What can be done with emerging media beyond the weekly bulletin and parish and school websites? What groups in both the parish and school community would benefit? Would expanded use of media strengthen the parish and school community or promote isolation?
- Is it important to establish a parish identity beyond being a neighborhood church located in Highland Park? How does a parish come to have such an identity?