

Immaculate Heart of Mary
Parishioner Survey 2019



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Mission:

To Facilitate Effective Public Policy Decision-Making.
The staff of the Docking Institute of Public Affairs and its
University Center for Survey Research are dedicated to
serving the people of Kansas and surrounding states.

Immaculate Heart of Mary Parishioner Survey 2019

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Introduction and Methods

Introduction

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays, Kansas, asked the Docking Institute of Public Affairs to conduct a survey of their parishioners regarding church building completions and improvements.

A survey questionnaire was developed by church representatives in cooperation with Institute researchers. The representatives provided the Institute with a list addresses for parishioner families. The Institute mailed the questionnaire and a pre-addressed postage-paid envelope to each family via the US Postal Service. English language and Spanish language questionnaires were developed. Spanish language questionnaires were mailed to families identified by the church as Spanish speakers/readers. English language questionnaires were mailed to all other families.

Appendix A provides the survey instrument. Appendix B provides the cover letter.

At the end of the data collection period, results were downloaded into SPSS for analysis. Figures were developed in Excel.

Methods

The list included 150 parishioners identified as Spanish speakers/readers and 1,207 other parishioners, for a total of 1,357. Questionnaires were mailed on September 17th, 2019. Data entry began as soon as surveys began to arrive at the Institute. Data collection ceased on October 17, 2019.

The Institute received 330 completed surveys of 1,357 mailed, a response rate of 24.32%.

Only grouped data were analyzed and shown in this report. No attempt was made to link individual responses to individual respondents.

Summary

This report is for the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church. A survey of parishioners was conducted in September and October of 2019. A summary of findings follows:

- The majority (64.7%) of respondents “strongly support” completing updates to the church’s basement. An additional 18.4% “moderately support” completing updates to the basement. Only 4.9% “do not support” completing updates to the basement.
- Replacing the current sound system in the church also has strong support, but not quite as much as the basement renovations. Half of respondents (49.4%) “strongly support” replacing the church’s sound system, and almost 40% of respondents “moderately” or “somewhat support” the replacement of sound system. Only 8.6 “do not support” replacing the sound system.
- Providing decorative stenciling and artwork or stained-glass inserts had mixed support from respondents. Almost a quarter of respondents (23.5%) “strongly support” providing decorative stenciling and artwork, while 22.2% “strongly support” stained-glass inserts. About a quarter of respondents “do not support” decorative stenciling (23.8%) nor stained-glass inserts (25.3%).
- Most respondents either “strongly agree” (45.7%) or “moderately agree” (28.5%) that the church should commit to completing the basements updates and other church projects.
- More than a third (35.1%) of respondents are willing to provide \$10-\$25 a month to help cover costs for the church’s projects. Another 18.2% are willing to provide \$25-\$50 a month to cover costs and other 13% are willing to provide \$50-\$100 a month to covers costs.
- Respondents were asked to provide additional comments in a text box. About 17% of the written comments suggest the basement is a priority, while about 11% suggest that acoustics/sound system is a priority.

Findings

The following pages show responses to each item in the questionnaire.

Figure 1 shows responses to the first item. The item asked about completing the church basement. Almost two-thirds (64.7%) of respondents “strongly support” completing the church basement. Another 18.4% “moderately support” and 10.7% “somewhat support” completing the basement. Only 4.9% “do not support” completing the basement.

Figure 1: Church Basement

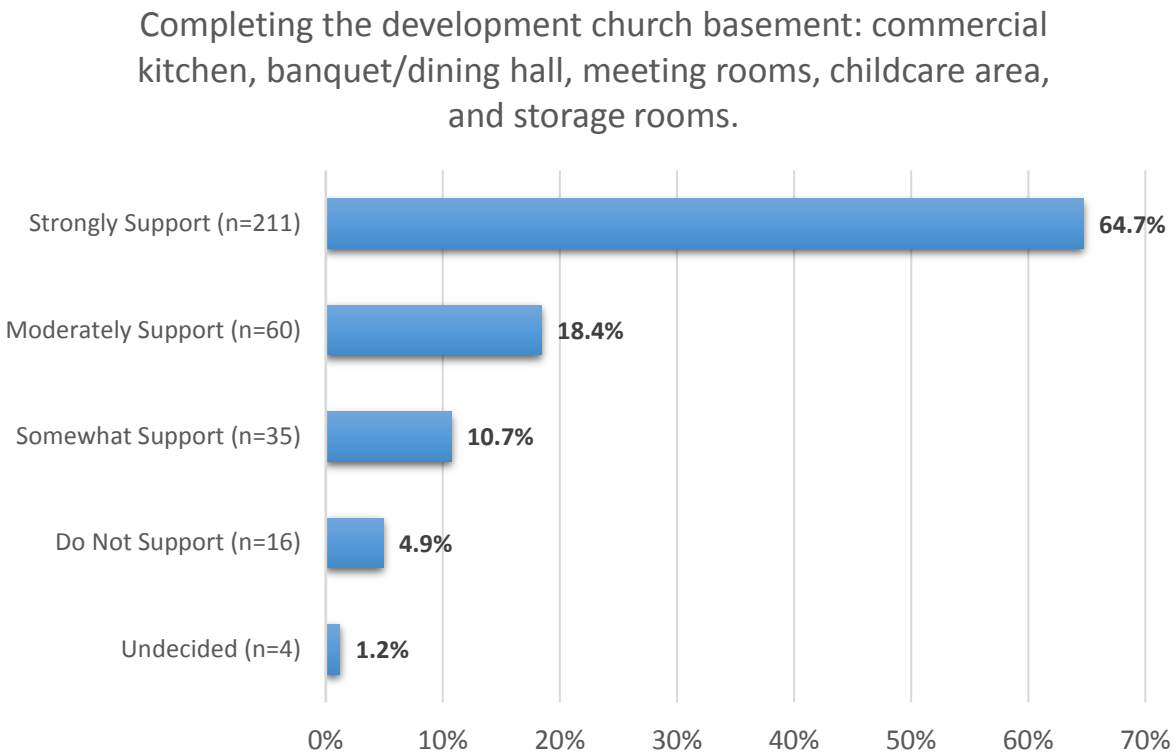


Figure 2 shows responses regarding the sound system. Almost half (49.4%) of respondents “strongly support” replacing the current sound system with more advanced technology and adding acoustic wall treatments. Another 20.9% “moderately support” and 19% “somewhat support” these improvements. Almost 9% “do not support” these improvements.

Figure 2: Replacing Sound System

Replacing sound system in church with more advanced technology (the old system will be repurposed); providing acoustical wall treatments to improve sound quality.

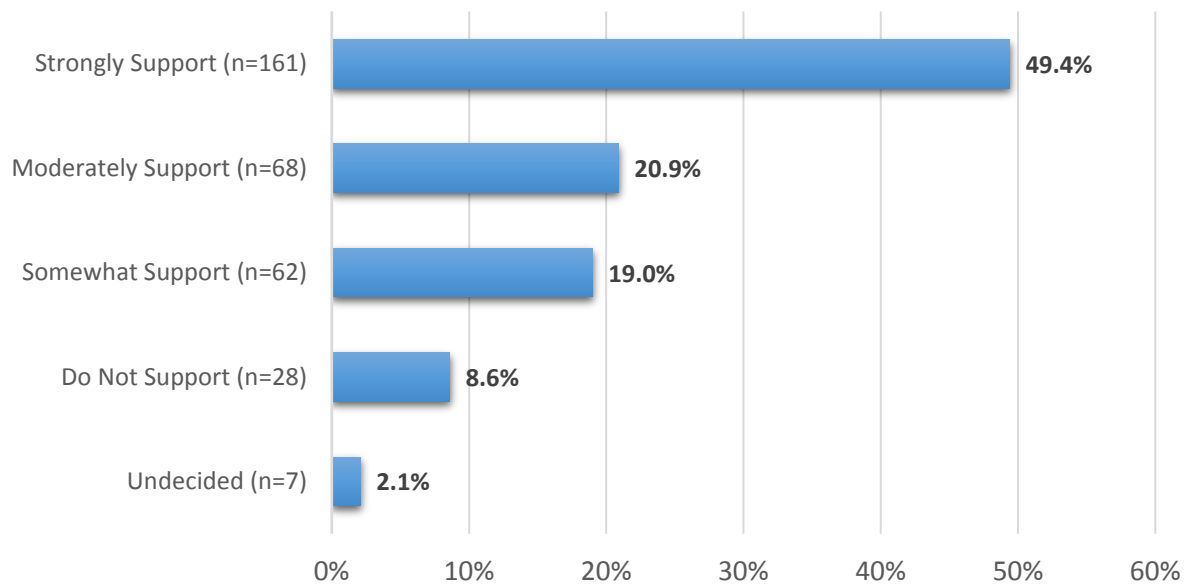


Figure 3 shows that the level of support for providing decorative stenciling and artwork in the church varies a bit more among respondents than improving the basement and the sound system. For example, 23.8% of respondents “do not support” providing decorative stenciling and artwork, while only 4.9% and 8.6% “do not support” improving the basement and sound system, respectively (see previous pages).

A majority of respondents *at least* “somewhat support” stenciling and artwork (23.5% “strongly support,” 20.1% “moderately support,” 25% “somewhat support” for a total of 68.6%).

Figure 3: Providing Decorative Stenciling and Artwork

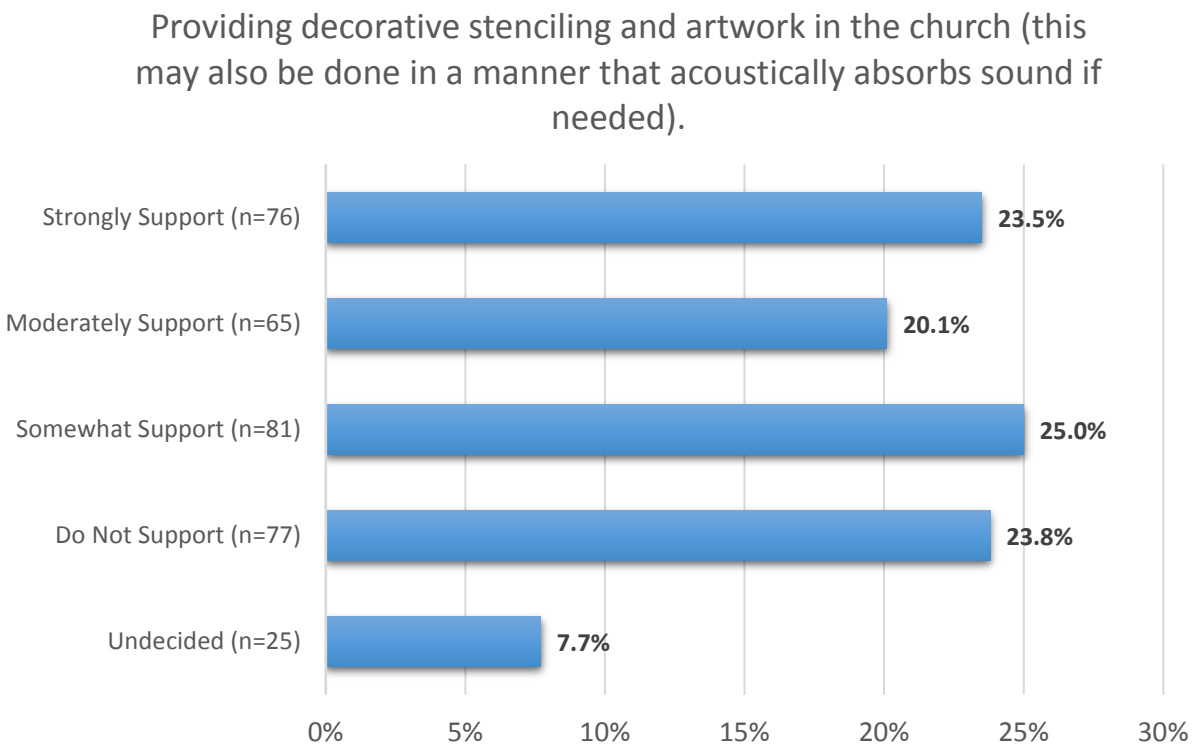


Figure 4 shows also shows varying levels of support for providing stained-glass inserts in the upper story windows of the church. For example, 25.3% of respondents “do not support” providing stained-glass inserts, while 22.2% “strongly support,” 21% “moderately support”, and 24.7% “somewhat support” this item.

Figure 4: Providing Stained-Glass Inserts

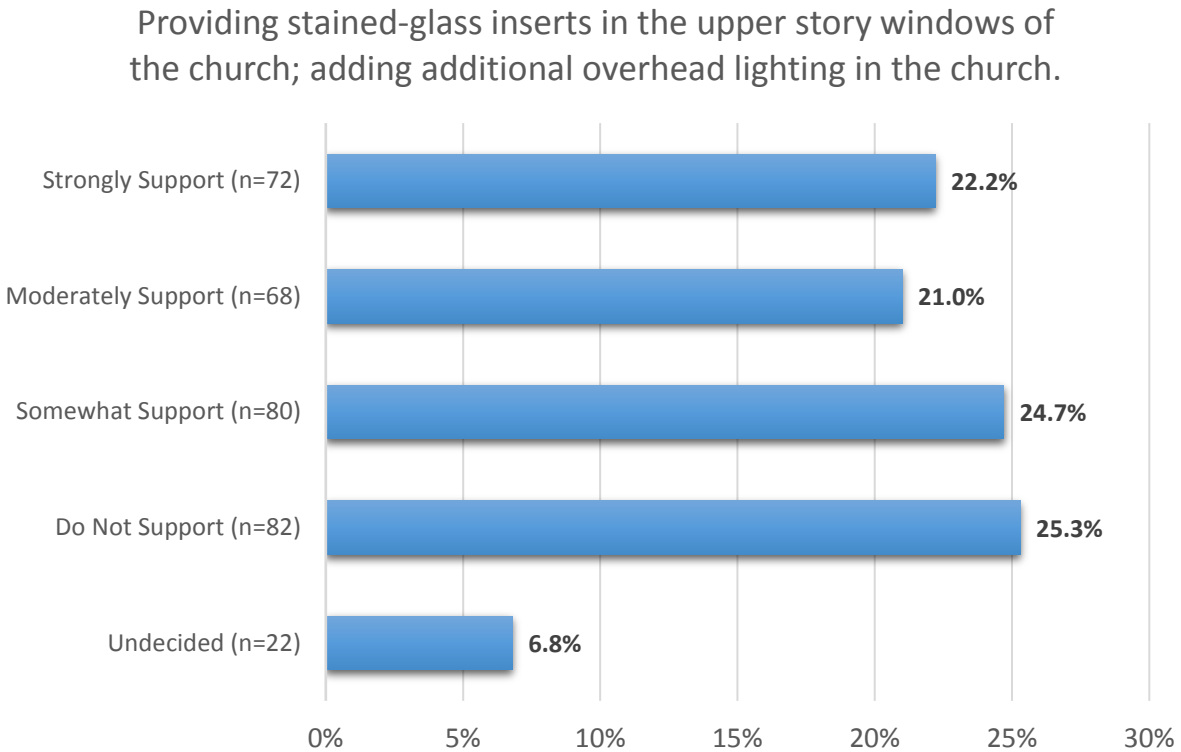


Figure 5 shows that almost three-fourths (74.2%) of respondents “strongly agree” or “moderately agree” that the church should commit to completing projects upon reflection of estimated costs. Only 4.3% of respondents “do not agree.”

Figure 5: Commit to Completing Projects

Reflecting upon the basement and church projects you support and the estimated costs, do you Strongly Agree, Moderately Agree, Somewhat Agree, Not Agree at All, or are Undecided that the church should commit to completing these projects?

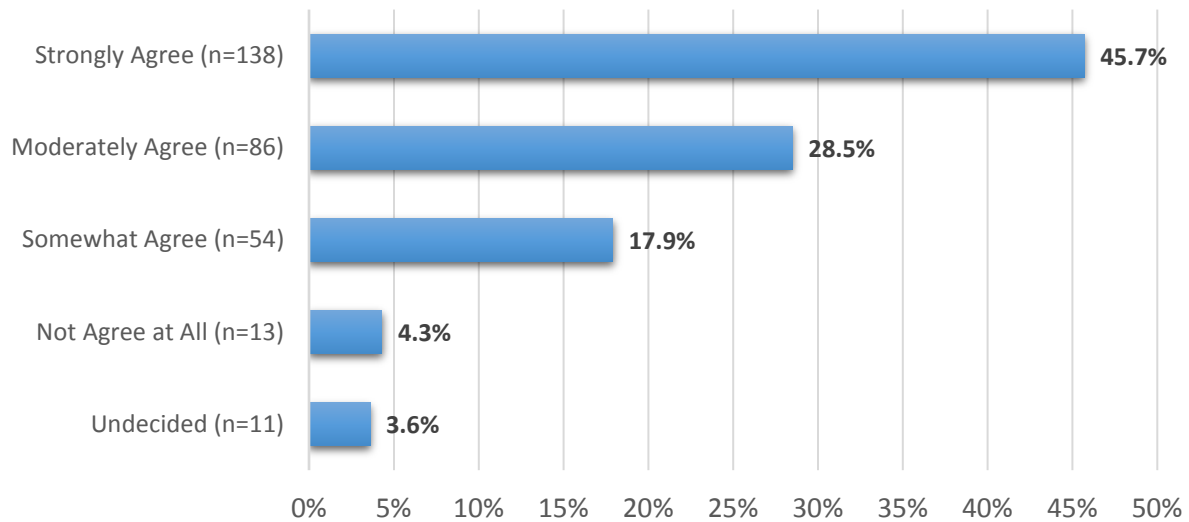
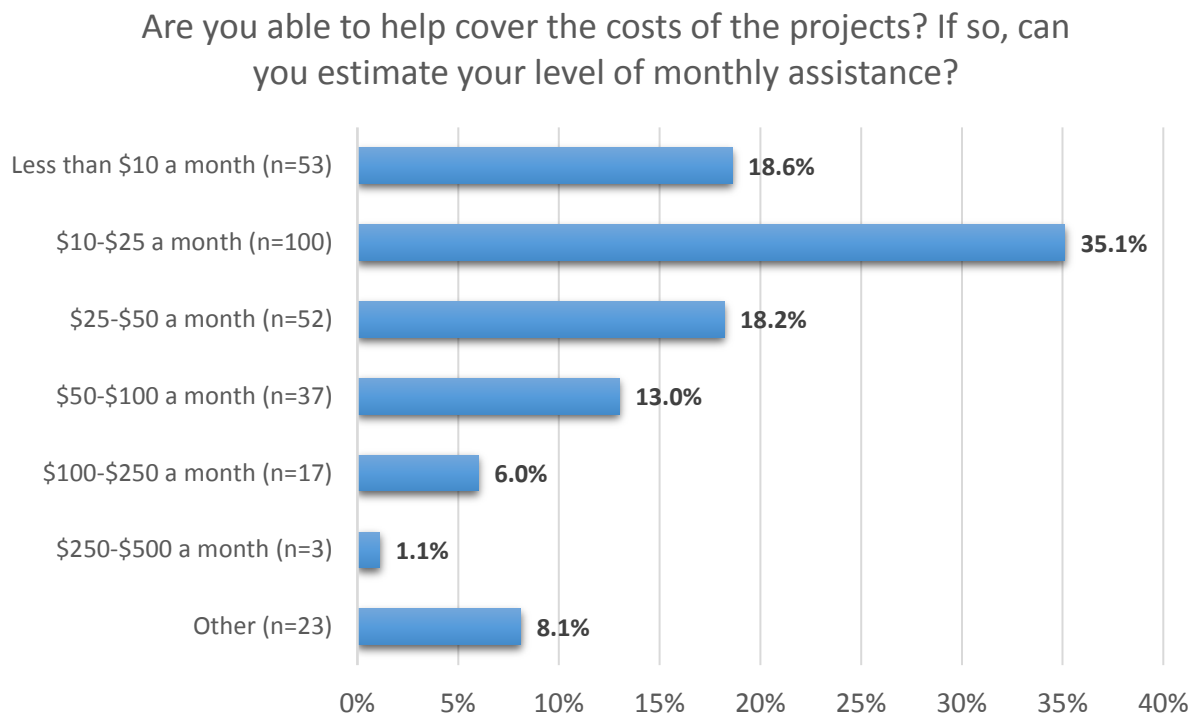


Figure 6 shows that 35.1% of respondents can provide \$10-\$25 a month to help cover the costs of the projects in the church. An additional 18.2% can provide \$25-\$50 a month and 13% can provide \$50-\$100 a month to support the projects.

Of the twenty-three respondents who selected “Other,” fourteen left responses. One respondent offered a \$1,000 one-time donation and another offered a \$400 yearly sum. Twelve “Other” responses stated they needed more information before pledging or would give as much as they could.

Figure 6: Monthly Assistance



The following table shows the dollar ranges for those respondents providing “strongly support/agree” and moderately support/agree” for the items shown in Figures 1 through 5. (“Other amounts” are not included.)

The table shows that \$10-\$25 have the largest percentage of combined “strongly support/agree” and “moderately support/agree” responses for all items, compared to other amount ranges.

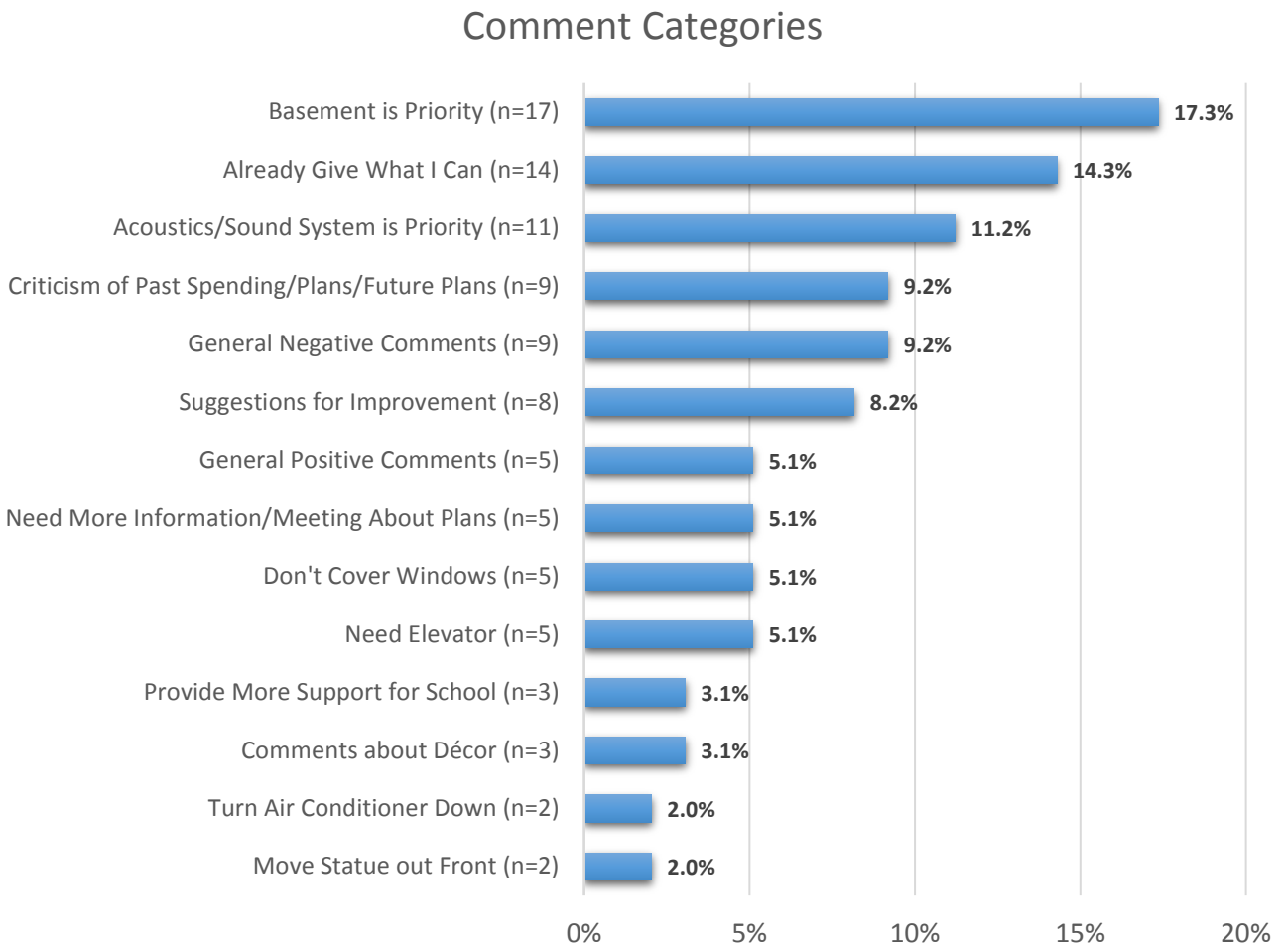
Table 1: Strongly/Moderately Support/Agree by Amount

"Strongly and Moderately Support or Agree"	< \$10	\$10-\$25	\$25-\$50	\$50-\$100	\$100-\$250	\$250-\$500
Church Basement (n=218)	13%	41%	22%	17%	6%	1%
Sound System (n=188)	15%	39%	20%	16%	8%	1%
Stenciling and Artwork (n=123)	8%	37%	26%	21%	7%	1%
Stained-Glass Inserts (n=122)	13%	34%	26%	20%	6%	1%
Commit to Complete (n=192)	10%	39%	23%	18%	8%	2%

Respondents were asked to provide any additional comments in a text box. Ninety-eight respondents left comments.

Figure 7 shows all responses grouped into categories. The figure shows that about 17% of the written comments prioritize the basement, while about 11% prioritize the acoustics/sound system. About 14% of the respondents providing written comments suggest that they already tithe and/or they will give what they can for upgrades and updates.

Figure 7: Additional Comments Categories



Appendix A: Survey Instrument

Immaculate Heart of Mary Parishioner Survey

Parish leadership is interested in your opinions about the completion of the Parish Hall in the Church basement and improvements to the interior of the Church and sanctuary. We have asked the Docking Institute of Public Affairs at Fort Hays State University to conduct a survey of parishioners. All responses are confidential and the Docking Institute will provide a report of grouped findings only.

Please read the descriptions of the following items. Then rate each by placing a ✓ in the appropriate box using the following scale: Strongly Support, Moderately Support, Somewhat Support, Do Not Support at All, or Undecided.

	Strongly Support	Moderately Support	Somewhat Support	Do Not Support	Undecided
Completing the development church basement: commercial kitchen, banquet/dining hall, meeting rooms, childcare area, and storage rooms.					
Replacing sound system in church with more advanced technology (the old system will be repurposed); providing acoustical wall treatments to improve sound quality.					
Providing decorative stenciling and artwork in the church (this may also be done in a manner that acoustically absorbs sound if needed).					
Providing stained-glass inserts in the upper story windows of the church; adding additional overhead lighting in the church.					

The estimated costs for the above repairs/improvement range from \$2 million to \$2.5 million.

Funding would come from a capital campaign in the parish as well as from funds that have been saved by various parish organizations for this purpose.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO BACK PAGE

Reflecting upon the basement and church projects you support and the estimated costs, do you Strongly Agree, Moderately Agree, Somewhat Agree, Not Agree at All, or are Undecided that the church should commit to completing these projects?

- Strongly Agree
- Moderately Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Not Agree at All
- Undecided

Are you able to help cover the costs of the projects? If so, can you estimate your level of monthly assistance?

- Less than \$10 a month
- \$10-\$25 a month
- \$25-\$50 a month
- \$50-\$100 a month
- \$100-\$250 a month
- \$250-\$500 a month
- Other: _____

Do you have any additional comments? If so, please provide them here:

Additional Comments:

Thank you.

Please use the enclosed postage-paid and pre-addressed return envelope.

If you have any questions, please contact

Mike Walker at mwalker@fhsu.edu or 785-628-5563.

Appendix B: Cover Letter



Immaculate Heart of Mary Church

1805 Vine Street — Hays, KS 67601 — Office: 785-625-7339 — Website: ihm-church.com

Dear Immaculate Heart of Mary Parishioners:

In December of 2007, construction began on a new church building for Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish. This church was completed in 2010. A church is a unique place of communion and worship, uniting people with one another and most especially uniting the people with God. The new church at IHM parish is truly magnificent; as a place of communion and worship, it has served the people well.

Although the building was completed in 2010, a number of projects yet remain that can aid in the life of the parish. One of these projects is completing the church basement to add a banquet/dining hall, kitchen, various meeting rooms, and storage. For the church itself, it is good to know that we do not have any official plans or designs in place. However, a new and updated sound system (while repurposing the old system in another location), as well as potentially adding acoustical wall treatments if needed, could greatly improve the quality of our celebrations as a whole. It would also increase the grandeur of the space to provide decorative stenciling and artwork in various places in the sanctuary as well as other places throughout the church. To add to the beauty of the space, it would be quite beneficial to provide stained-glass inserts in the upper story windows, as well as additional lighting throughout.

Of course, before pursuing these projects, it is important to inquire as to the opinions of the good people of the parish. This is where you all come in. Enclosed, please find a survey regarding these projects to our church. Your participation is very valuable. If you would be willing to fill out the survey and return it in the pre-addressed postage paid envelope provided, it would be greatly appreciated. If you know someone who did not receive a survey, or for some reason you need another copy, extra copies will be available in the gathering area of the church or in the parish office.

In the meantime, I want to thank all of you for your various contributions to our great parish, whether that be financially, through your own gifts and talents, and especially with your prayers. May we always continue to do what we are able to grow in communion with one another as a parish family, and may we always grow in greater worship and union with our Lord, Jesus Christ!

In Christ,
Fr. Nick Parker