Good Shepherd Parish: Gallup Survey Summary

You will recall that the Gallup ME25 survey was conducted at Good Shepherd Parish during May and June 2025. The Parish Pastoral Council was the sponsor of this initiative. The results provide information to help in the development of a five-year strategic pastoral plan for our Parish. There was a total of 205 survey responses, generating a response rate of over 20%.

The following provides some commentary from the survey results. A more detailed summary is available on the Parish website.

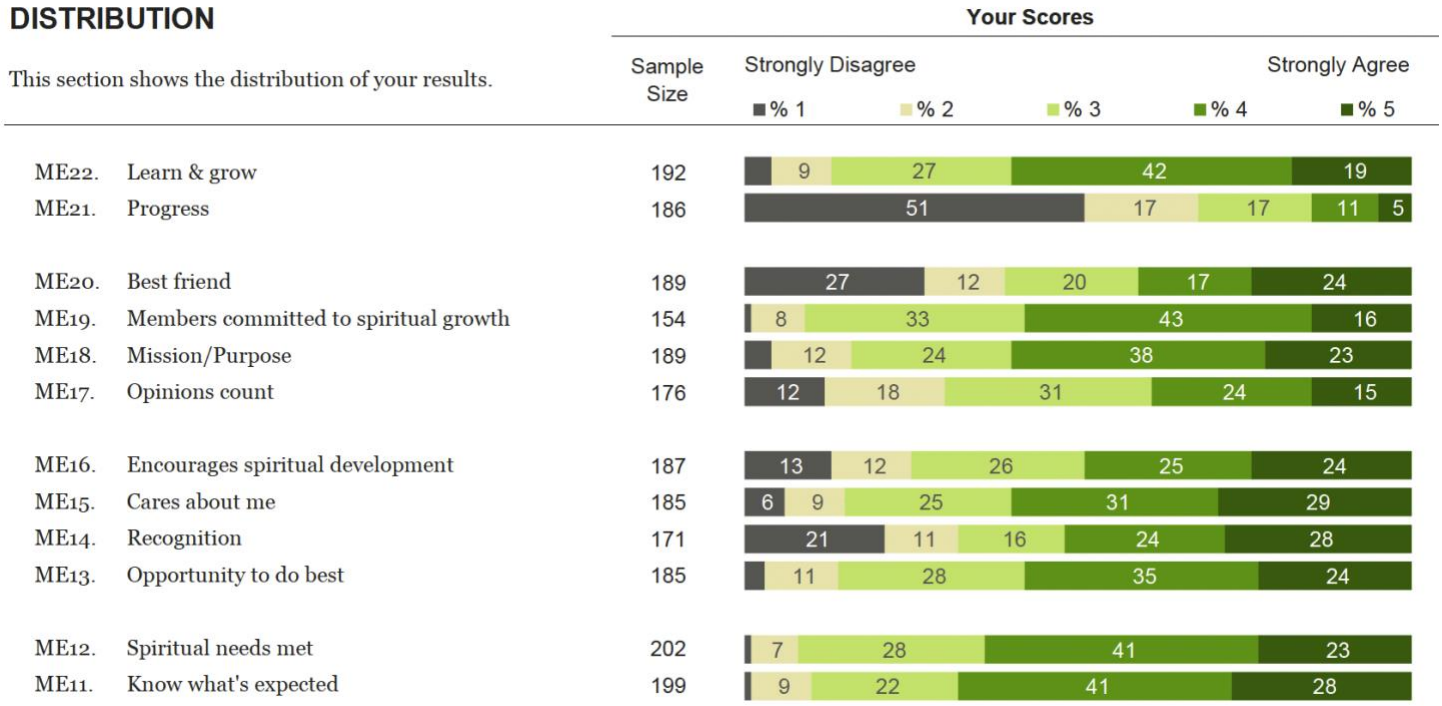
The survey posed questions assessing individual spiritual commitment, member engagement, as well as outcomes related to life satisfaction, inviting, serving, and giving. Demographic data was collected too.

From information collected, it is evident that higher scores are reported on individual spiritual growth in comparison to member engagement. Questions pertaining to **"spending time in prayer"**, "**forgiving people", "having meaning, purpose, and inner peace"**, **"living my faith in every aspect of life"**, and **"being spiritually committed",** have higher score results than questions like, **"my spiritual needs are met in my parish"**, **"I received recognition or praise from someone in my parish"**, **"spiritual leaders in the parish seem to care about me"**, **"I have been asked about progress of spiritual growth", "parish mission makes me feel my participation is important"**, "**my opinions count"**, and **"I have opportunities to learn and grow".**

The overall results indicate that we are spiritually strong but structurally under engaged in the daily life of our parish. We have a rich faith but are cautious in faith expression. Our faith expression is very personal, and we are uncomfortable broadcasting it.

The challenges and opportunities presented from the survey are being examined closely by your Pastoral Council. Additionally, there is another, more fulsome survey, to be conducted in every parish of the archdiocese beginning in the latter part of February. This survey, the "Disciple Maker Index" will present parishioners with further opportunity to contribute perspective and advice for parish planning.

Figure 1 Member Engagement



Question	Parish Council Interpretation
Did you attend Mass last week? • Yes: 83% • No: 17%	Very high weekly Mass attendance, indicating strong core participation
Length of time in the parish: • Less than 1 year: 10% • 1–3 years: 10% • 3–5 years: 9% • 5–10 years: 16% • 10+ years: 55%	Long-term loyalty dominates. This is a stable, rooted parish community.
Age distribution: • 18–24: 4% • 25–34: 8% • 35–44: 15% • 45–54: 21% • 55–64: 20% • 65–74: 18% • 75+: 14%	Older-skewing parish, with a meaningful but smaller mid-life cohort.
Marital Status • Married: 70% • Single: 13% • Divorced: 6% • Widowed: 8% • Separated: 1% • Single, living with partner: 2%	Predominantly married households, with pastoral sensitivity needed for widowed, divorced, and blended family situations.
Household Income Annual household income before tax: • Under $20,000: 12% • $20,000–$40,000: 15% • $40,000–$60,000: 14% • $60,000–$75,000: 10% • $75,000–$100,000: 15% • $100,000+: 34%	Economically diverse parish with a substantial high-income cohort.

Table 1: Demographics suggest that this parish is long-established, highly educated, economically diverse, and strongly committed to weekly Mass attendance. Demographics suggest a stable, faithful core where engagement strategies should focus on deepening participation and confidence. Results show strong spirituality, empathy, and life meaning.

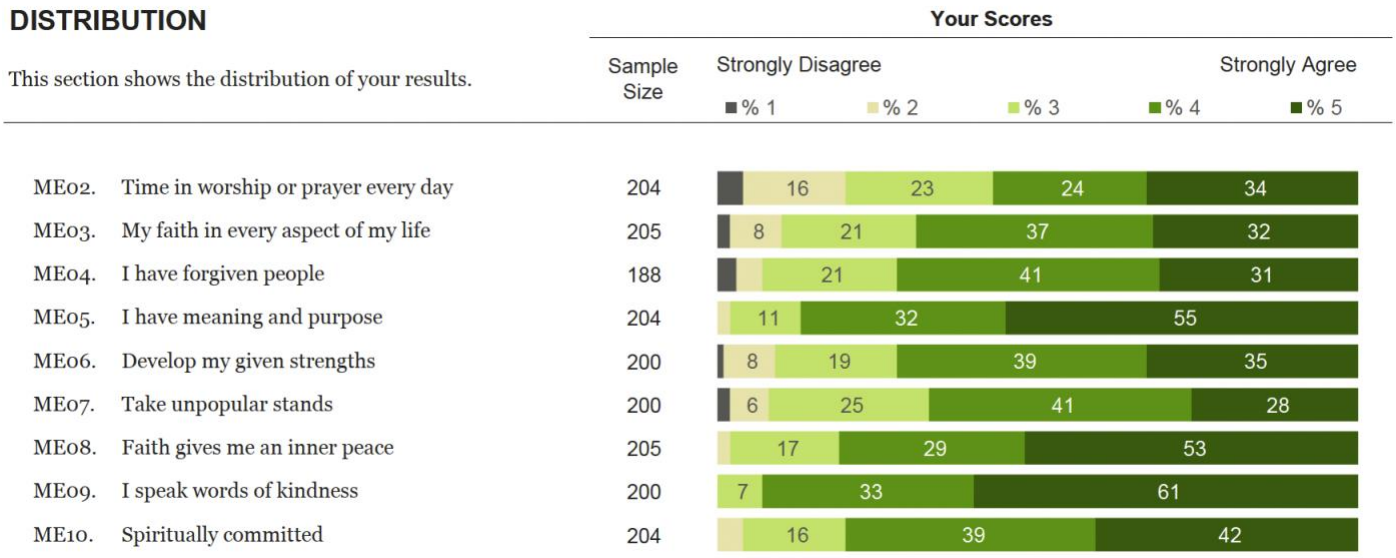


Figure 2 Spiritual Commitment