

Office of Evangelization and Catechesis

Summary of Evaluation Survey Results: May 2009

The Sample

Approximately 450 people received the e-mail inviting them to complete the survey which was posted on the web site, SurveyMonkey. These included catechetical leaders, pastoral associates, youth ministers, RCIA coordinators, adult faith formation coordinators, and elementary school principals. The exact number of invitees is unknown as many of those who were invited are on more than one mailing list. One hundred forty three people completed the survey. Using the estimate of 450, this represents a 31.7% response rate. Of these, 57% identified themselves as catechetical leaders and 33% as adult faith formation coordinators. Many of these roles overlap no doubt. Only 11 elementary school principals completed the survey.

The sample describes a remarkably experienced group of leaders. A high number (39%) of the respondents stated that they have worked in parish ministry in various positions in the archdiocese for 16 or more years, while 32% have worked specifically in catechetical ministry for 16 or more years.

Almost 50% of the respondents came from the Cincinnati region. Thirty percent were from Dayton and just under 20% were from the northern region of the archdiocese. This number is consistent with a proportionate representation from each region.

Services of the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis

When asked about the frequency with which you utilize the services of the OEC, 80% of you said that you use our services either “frequently” or “sometimes.” Moreover, 85% of you stated that the office is very effective or fairly effective in providing support to you in your ministry.

A major section of the survey asked respondents to indicate the degree of “helpfulness” of many of the services provided by the Office. Respondents could rate each service on a scale ranging from “very helpful” to “not at all helpful.” Respondents were also given the option of indicating that they were not aware of the service in question or that it was “not relevant to my ministry.”

The services below were rated as the most helpful by the total sample of respondents. They are listed in order of “helpfulness”(combining “helpful” and “somewhat helpful”).

1. Web site-86%
2. Support for and presence at professional ministerial gatherings-83%
3. Professional development opportunities-83%
4. Consultation on a variety of catechetical issues-79%
5. Support in administering the catechist certification process-73%
6. Help in obtaining catechetical leadership certification-73%
7. Print and A-V resources from the Media Centers-78% & 81%
8. Assistance with sacramental catechesis-66%

9. On the Road Newsletter-64%
10. Preferred Textbook List-63%
11. Parish or Parish Cluster Visits-63%
12. Curriculum Guidelines-59%

What Services Do You Find Least Helpful? (combining “not very helpful” and “not helpful at all”)

1. Outreach to inactive Catholics-13% (However, 47% of you said that you were not aware of this service.)
2. There were a number of comments about the employment-related services mostly regarding what respondents considered to be unrealistic salary guidelines.

***It seems that in several cases a fairly high percentage of people are not aware of the services or they find the services irrelevant to their ministry. This suggests that we need to increase our publicity efforts for some events and services, and perhaps to reevaluate some services**

What Services Would You Like Us to Provide?

The only service you expressed a strong and immediate need for is in the area of assistance with helping families to cultivate the faith at home. The majority of you indicated that you do not need help with education in human sexuality, sacramental preparation or with their Education Commissions. The rest of the items were categorized most strongly as “might need in the future.” It is not clear if this means that you are happy with the status quo or that these items are not priorities for you. If the “need” and “might need in the future” responses are added together, 60% indicated an interest in adolescent catechesis, 74% an interest in developing skills for evangelization, 70% an interest in whole parish catechesis, and 86% an interest in using technology effectively.

Action Implications

After careful consideration of what you told us, we believe that we need to do the following things so that our services continue to assist you in your ministry. We need to:

1. Continue to do the things that leaders find most helpful: provide support and presence, training, and responsive, individual consultation.
2. Find a way to help leaders improve their technology skills
3. Maintain and improve our website.
4. Take care of some of the issues related to catechist, catechetical leader and principal certification that are reflected in the comments.
5. Continue to offer high quality professional development opportunities for catechetical and other leaders.
6. Provide more advanced courses for those serving as catechists of adults.

7. Develop strategies aimed at helping leaders to help families to share and celebrate their faith at home.