Survey comments
St. John’s Parish
Fall, 2011

Question 1
_St. John’s needs an elevator._
Agree or strongly agree: 43%
Disagree or strongly disagree: 18%
Comments:
-Yes, but it depends on the costs, too

Question 2
_Overall, I can hear and understand the presiders and lectors._
Agree or strongly agree: 64%
Disagree or strongly disagree: 35%
Comments
-... My husband and I got married there last year, and we can barely understand the lectors when we watch the DVD of our ceremony. I can only imagine how hard it was for our guests to hear it too!

-I wonder if we could hear better if all who use the microphones spoke more slowly, articulated and projected their voices into the mics. Several presiders seem to have troubles with the current portable mic - keeping it in place, speaking into it, etc. We are so fortunate to have great preachers. I’m saddened that the fruits of their prayer and reflection are often lost on many in the congregation because they cannot hear clearly. Beyond that, I don’t know if the acoustical equipment is satisfactory or not. This is a crucial component of vibrant liturgy.

- I’m a Jesuit. I can hear generally well. It is often more difficult in our seats behind the presider’s chair and altar. Some celebrants and lectors may need to keep their voice level high
-maybe turn up volume for homilies
-not in the choir area, which is where I sit
-difficult in choir area
-need better acoustics
-how many times has this been attempted?
-...On Sundays, yes, because I sit up front. At the daily Mass, around the altar the acoustics are bad. Many times I cannot understand whoever is speaking.
-only when the church is full

ed note:
Approx. 20 comments said: varies, or depends, or sometimes
8 said: there is an echo that makes it hard to hear
6 said: in the back half, it is hard/garbled/impossible to hear
4 said: can’t hear Fr Pat
Question 3
For our 125th anniversary in 2012, if there were only one major improvement to the building, my preference is:

- Elevator: 23%
- Heating and cooling: 38%
- Improvement in acoustics: 34%
- Other: 5%

Comments in Other:
- take out the gates
- it gets cold, especially on the side
- remove the ‘gates’
- speakers
- new doors
- second or third more accessible restrooms
- being able to see mass better in handicap section with better lighting and obstruction
- leave as is now
- …The space and chairs to the side of the altar have become a literal cry room. Please ask parents to take their children out so others can hear
- make altar handicapped/wheelchair accessible
- improve acoustics (musically)
- no new Roman Missal
- expansion
- basement
- finish the job of heating and cooling!
- maybe more decorations on ceiling and walls
- it is perfect

Appears to be impossible to improve acoustics; 3 new systems, and none work
- clean outside stone of building; repair cement stair case outside SE corner
- new front entrance door
- fix organ and use it occasionally
- take down the iron screen
- get rid of the big iron gate that separates the tabernacle from the congregation

- None—we have a nice building; let’s use the anniversary in a mission orientated way!
- restore organ
- Is there a reason the front of the door is so dark?

Question 4
I would support a monthly second collection for a building fund
Agree or strongly agree: 56%
Disagree or strongly disagree; 12%
Comments
I am in general not in favor of second collections. They have the feel for me of pushing.
I am happy to have our stewardship responsibility brought before us. For that reason I contribute -- of course it cannot be much -- whenever I attend. I appreciate the energy
you are bringing to our worship, and I also appreciate being asked my opinion. Good luck!

-for a purpose; not just a fund
-I would have to know the priorities first
-For what good? Upkeep?

Question 5
I would like St. John’s to have an Electronic Funds Withdrawal option along with plate collection
Agree or strongly agree: 40%
Disagree or strongly disagree: 17%
Comments
-Don’t care
-ritual is in the offering

In General
-please provide more opportunity for Reconciliation
-celebrate Ad Orientum (i.e. the priest faces east) ... At the very least, , celebrate with a crucifix on the altar. The liturgy of the Eucharist is awkward; since the prayer is to God, but the priest is facing only us