

SAID ED May 25, 2008

Today we celebrate the Feast of Corpus Christi - the Body and Blood of Christ. This feast day is about several dimensions of the Lord, His church and our community. I took the occasion to review the question: Who are we (The Church of the Assumption)? The mission statement on the front page of the bulletin each week says: We are an inclusive welcoming, compassionate community united by a faith that is alive and growing. As sisters and brothers baptized in Christ, our mission is to be Christ for one another, our community, and the world by teaching as Jesus did, loving as Jesus loved, serving as Jesus served, and by seeing in every face the face of our Lord Jesus Christ.

So who is this Church of the Assumption? We are indeed people of faith and of various age groups. I thought it might be of interest to you to repeat the updated facts and figures about our parish families. I have shared these figures with you before, but a little refresher might be interesting...here we go. First of all as of the 5th of May, we are 2304 households. These households reflect 6984 individuals; that's a lot of people! Although we are situated in the heart of the village of Fairport, our parish community expands way beyond the village and even the Town of Perinton. We send mail to 33 zip codes! Most of these are 14450, but we have folks in Rochester, Penfield, Macedon, Walworth, Victor, Pittsford and Webster. Plus smaller numbers in many other zips. The number of people who move away from our parish is smaller than the number who join and so our parish continues to see an increase of growth.

The demographics of our parish are interesting as well. For example 30% (2097) of our parish is under 18 years of age. Between 19 and 23, the college years, in which home based dependency gives way to the independence of young adulthood, we have 6% or 410 people. Between the ages of 24 and 45 we have 1847 people or approximately 27% of our parish. If we add the 1361 people who are between the ages of 46 and 60 we have quite a large cohort of people in the most productive years of their lives (47%). We also have a fair number of people 61 and up (1174). This amounts to about 17% of our parish census.

On Average we will see about 2000 people one of our five Sunday Masses. The 4:00pm on Saturday has an identity of its own. In fact, each Mass is made up of different communities and has a distinct flavor which I'm sure you have recognized. The Sunday 7:30am "early bird special" is the smallest gathering. These are the folks who like morning time and enjoy communing with the dawn. The 9:30am and 11:30am Masses are well attended and again, each has its own style and community. The 6:00pm consistently draws young people and their families, but not exclusively. I'm proud to say that since Life Teen began, almost five years ago, our Sunday attendance has risen by over 200.

We gather together to celebrate the Lord's presence in our lives, to give

God praise and thanks for the many blessings in our lives and to acknowledge our dependence upon God as the source of all life.

As I mentioned in last week's bulletin column, presently an average of 300 viewers join us in prayer on the internet through our website. Impressive! May God be glorified through our efforts!

Have a great week!
