

## St. Patrick Church of Merna Feasibility Study Results

This document is an abbreviated version of the Feasibility Study Report that was shared with Parish Leadership on June 29<sup>th</sup>.

St. Patrick in Merna retained Our Sunday Visitor to conduct a Feasibility Study for a major fund-raising campaign. Our Sunday Visitor conducted the Feasibility Study over a three-week period between April 7<sup>th</sup> and April 24<sup>th</sup>. The findings of the Feasibility Study form the basis of this report and the recommendations are based on the experience of Our Sunday Visitor in the field of non-profit, Catholic Parish fundraising and development.

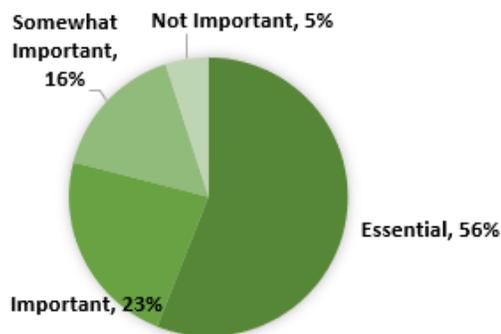
Thirty-nine (39) personal interviews were conducted with parishioners from St. Patrick Catholic Church of Merna. This is a fine response with those interviewed providing helpful and candid answers to the questions asked, as well as providing additional insights to the parish and the community of Merna IL.

Additionally, an In-Pew Survey was conducted at all Masses the weekend of April 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022, to be completed by those families in attendance. There were four hundred and forty-eight (448) surveys completed and returned.

### Results from the Interviews and surveys:

#### Please indicate your feelings regarding the projects at your parish.

(**E**-Essential, **IBNE**-Important But Not Essential, **SI**-Somewhat Important, **NI**-Not Important)



Cover the parish's share of the roof project at Corpus Christi, our parish school.

Overall breakdown of total responses.

Interviews **E** 61%, **IBNE** 26%, **SI** 13%, **NI** 0%

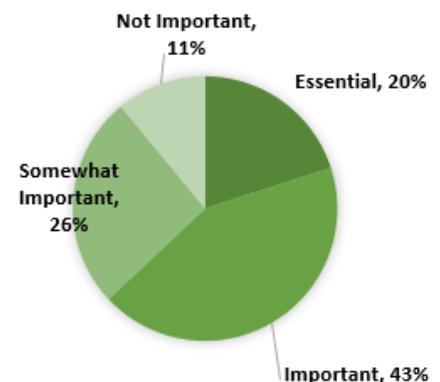
Surveys **E** 56%, **IBNE** 23%, **SI** 16%, **NI** 6%

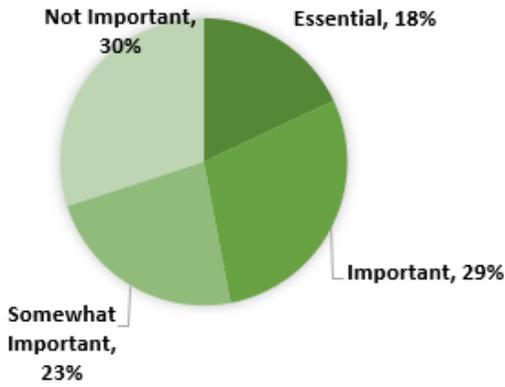
Expand our parish endowment fund which serves to cover the expense of ministries offered to all parishioners, essentially helping to reduce and eventually eliminate the cost of participating in the many programs our parish offers.

Overall breakdown of total responses.

Interviews **E** 24%, **IBNE** 41%, **SI** 29%, **NI** 5%

Surveys **E** 20%, **IBNE** 43%, **SI** 26%, **NI** 12%





Tear down what we now call the Parish and Shamrock Halls and construct a new facility which will include 6 more classrooms for our RE program and other ministries; multi-purpose space that can be used for social and ministry related events with a stage and recreational area; youth lounge with hang out area and kitchenette; catering kitchen with warmers, sinks and dishwashers; meeting room with audio visual equipment that would accommodate approximately 50 people.

Overall breakdown of total responses.

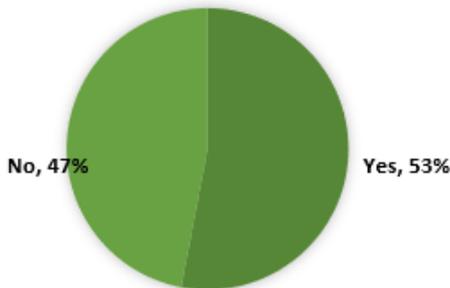
Interviews **E** 43%, **IBNI** 27%, **SI** 24%, **NI** 5%

Surveys **E** 15%, **IBNI** 29%, **SI** 23%, **NI** 32%

To complete the projects, we will need to raise \$5 to \$8 million. Are you in favor of a Capital Campaign to help meet this financial commitment?

Interviews: Yes 84%; No 16%; No Response 0%

Surveys: Yes 50%; No 50%; No Response 0%



The interviewees did indicate a relatively high level of support for the proposed projects. During the survey process only half of the respondents supported the projects. In order to conduct a successful campaign a detailed explanation of all of the projects will need to take place. Specifically, regarding new construction instead of renovating existing facilities. Many people in both the interviews and surveys questioned the need to replace a 40-year-old building. They felt that the building should have many good years left in its service to the parish. Some took the comments one step further and stated that there are not enough activities and competition for space to warrant additional space. Our Sunday Visitor suggests St. Patrick Merna hold a series of Town Hall Meetings to

discuss the projects further and answer questions prior to the launch of a Capital Campaign. Should you have any questions please contact Father Schultz or Jeff Lopez in the parish office.

Thank you.