



This document summarizes analysis of the Southborough Catholic Parishes survey offered to all families of St. Anne and St. Matthew by the Boston College Office of Institutional Research, Planning and Assessment from May to August 2008. The purpose of the survey was to better understand the needs of parish families and to explore their thoughts concerning a possible eventual merger of the two Southborough Catholic parishes.

The following is a brief summary of the results, followed by selected data tables and graphs.

Summary of Results

- A total of 364 families attending St. Anne and St. Matthew parishes in Southborough responded to the survey; respondents are a self-selected portion of the population.
- For the most part, respondents from St. Anne and St. Matthew showed more similarities than differences in the demographic responses to the survey, and in their wishes and concerns for the future of their parishes.
- Approximately 60% of the survey respondents currently attend St. Matthew church; approximately 40% of respondents attend St. Anne church.
- When asked which categories of attributes parishioners would most want to preserve from their current parishes, the respondents chose: sense of community, “smallness” of parish, and strong connections with pastors/staff, liturgies, and programs.
- The most often cited advantages for a combined parish were: a sense of unity among Catholics in Southborough, expanded programs, improved facilities, and more efficiency in resource use. Approximately 10% of respondents noted that they were not in favor of and/or could see no benefits to a possible merger.
- Many respondents expressed questions and concerns about a possible merger.

Data Tables and Graphs

The data tables and graphs below are listed by survey question.

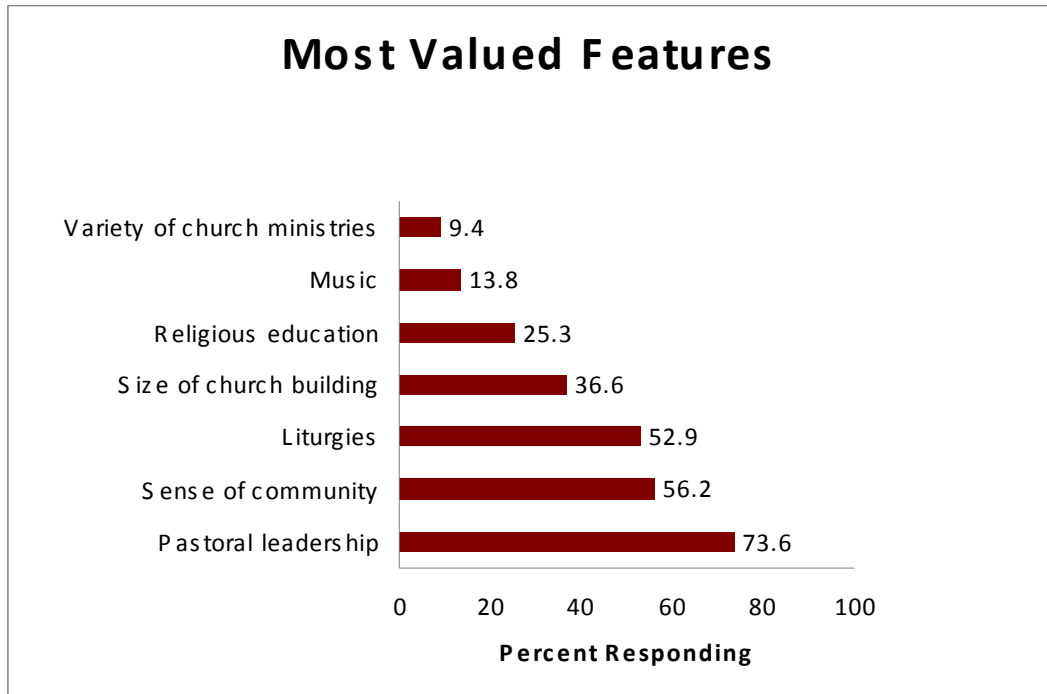
Question 1: At which parish do you currently worship?

	Number of Families	Percent of Survey Respondents
St. Anne	139	38.2
St. Matthew	209	57.4
I attend either church according to my schedule.	15	4.1
Did not respond	1	0.3
Total	364	100.0

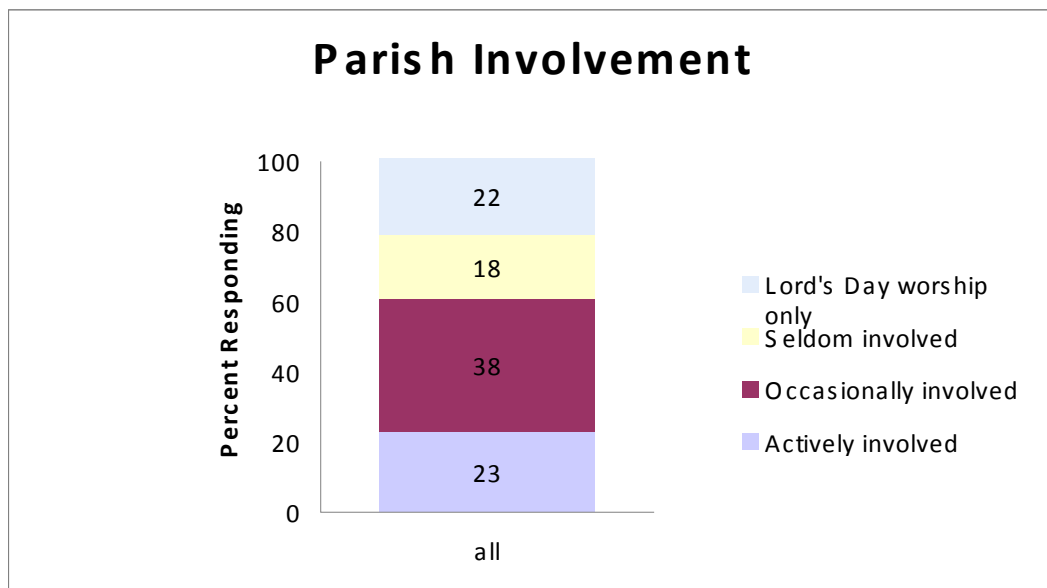
Question 2: At which parish(es) are you registered?

	Number of Registered Families	Percent of Survey Respondents
Registered at St. Anne	148	40.7
Registered at St. Matthew	207	56.9
Registered at Neither	9	2.5
Not sure	2	0.5

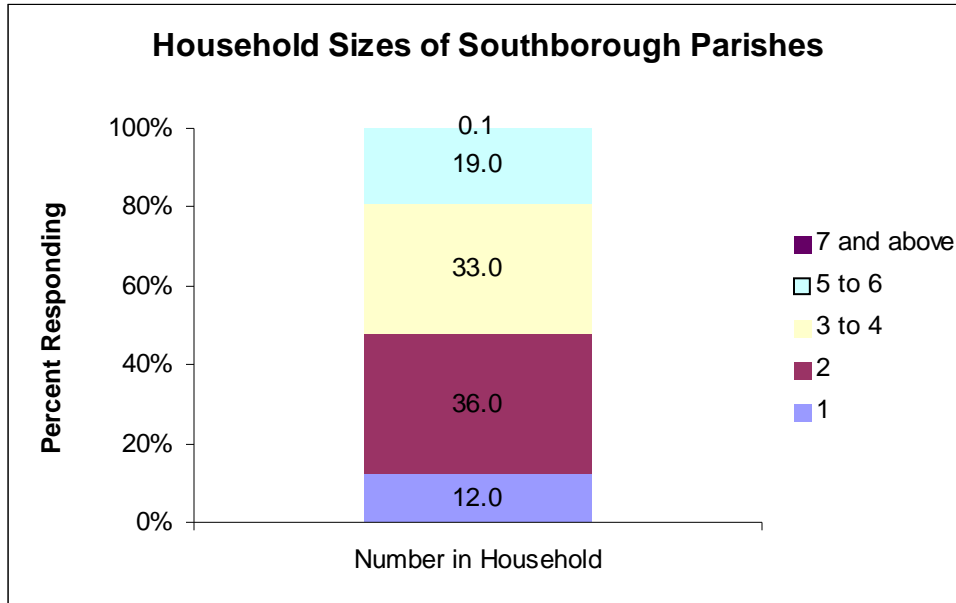
Question 3: What do you most value about your current parish?



Question 4: How would you describe your involvement in parish organizations, ministries, committees, and activities?



Question 7: How many people are in your household?



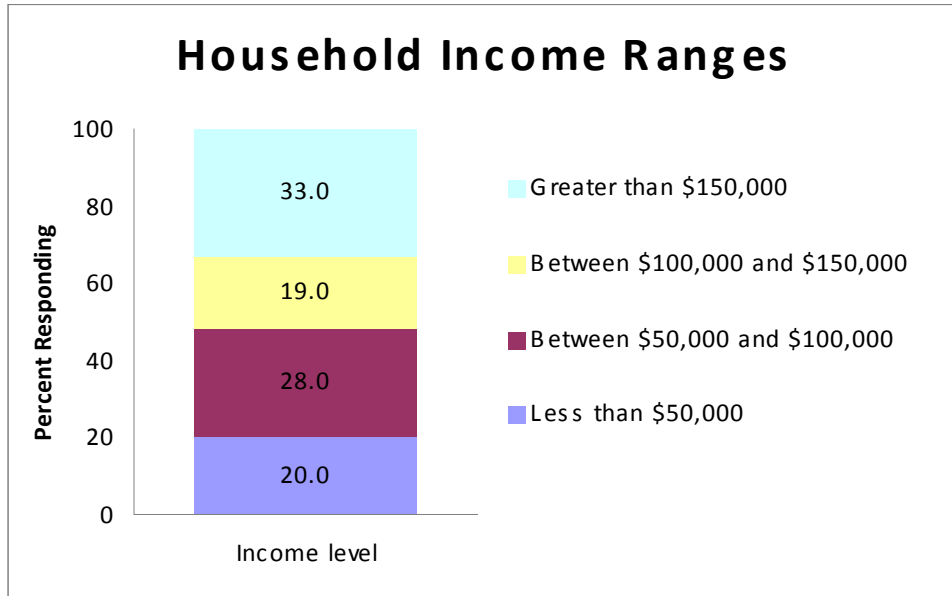
Question 8: Are you a resident of Southborough?

	Percent Responding
Yes	72.0
No	28.0

Question 9: How many years have you lived there?

	Percent Responding
Less than one year	0.1
1 to 5 years	13.0
6 to 10 years	15.0
More than 10 years	72.0

Question 10: What is your estimated annual household income?



Question 11: What is your estimated annual contribution to your current parish?

	Estimated Annual Contribution
Up to \$999	40.1%
\$1000-2499	32.3%
\$2500-4999	10.1%
\$5000 and above	1.5%
Did not provide an amount	16.0%

Question 12: To build adequate parish facilities for a combined Church, approximately 6-10 acres of land and \$6-8 million would be necessary. St. Matthew and St. Anne have some foundational resources in land and savings. Nevertheless, substantial additional financial resources will be needed. If St. Matthew and St. Anne were to build a new parish, would you be willing to offer additional financial support to the new building?

	Willingness to offer financial support
Yes	37%
No	22%
Not sure	42%