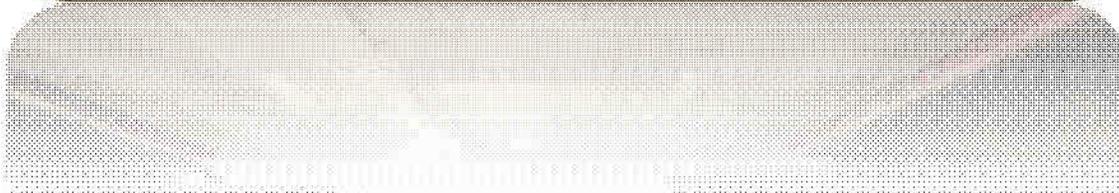


Growing an Engaged Church:

MQP for ME



Belonging deepens our Believing



at Mary, Queen of Peace

What is *MQP for ME?*

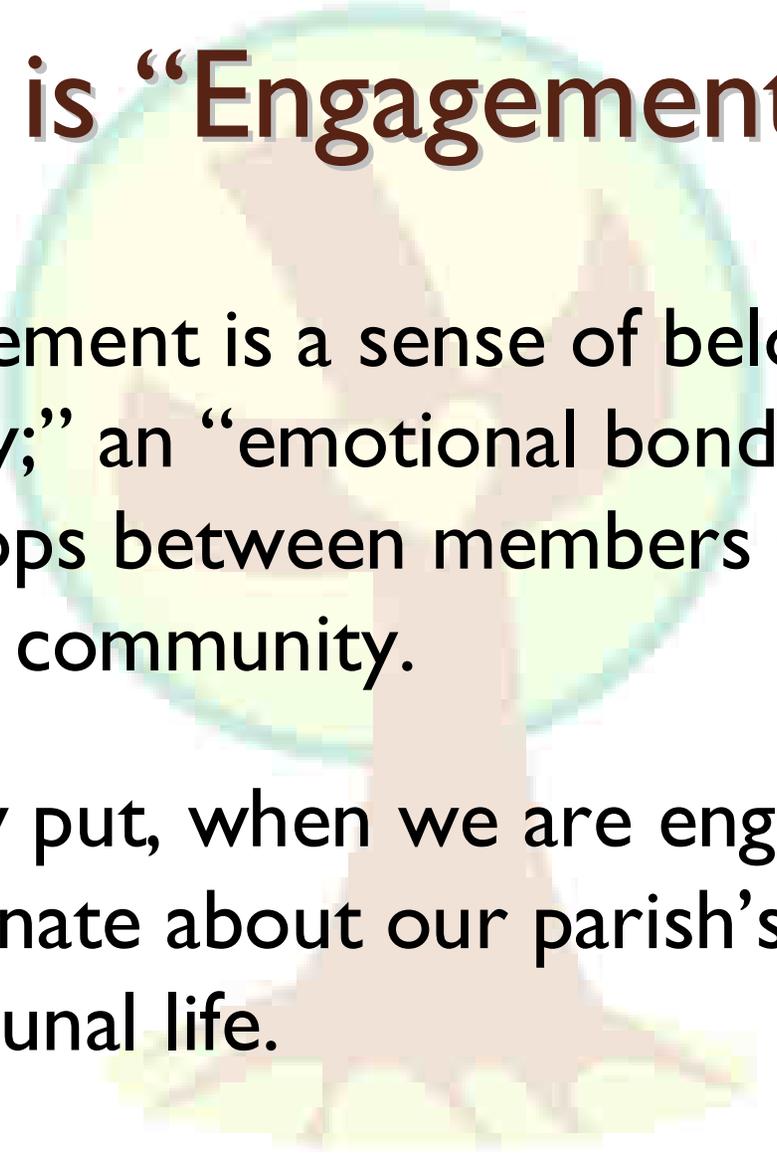
- ❖ An undertaking to foster and to increase the spiritual health of Mary, Queen of Peace and her parishioners.
- ❖ A comprehensive plan that invites all parish members into the process of growing engagement at MQP.

What is *MQP for ME*?

- ❖ A tool to enable us to be faithful to our Mission Statement.
- ❖ *MQP for ME* is the name given to the process which began with the parish survey, ME25, (Member Engagement , 25 questions) in March 2011.
- ❖ This phrase, *MQP for ME*, facilitates communication approaches that deepen and enrich the spiritual health, commitment, and vitality of our parish.
- ❖ *MQP for ME* is essentially our process for growing an engaged church.

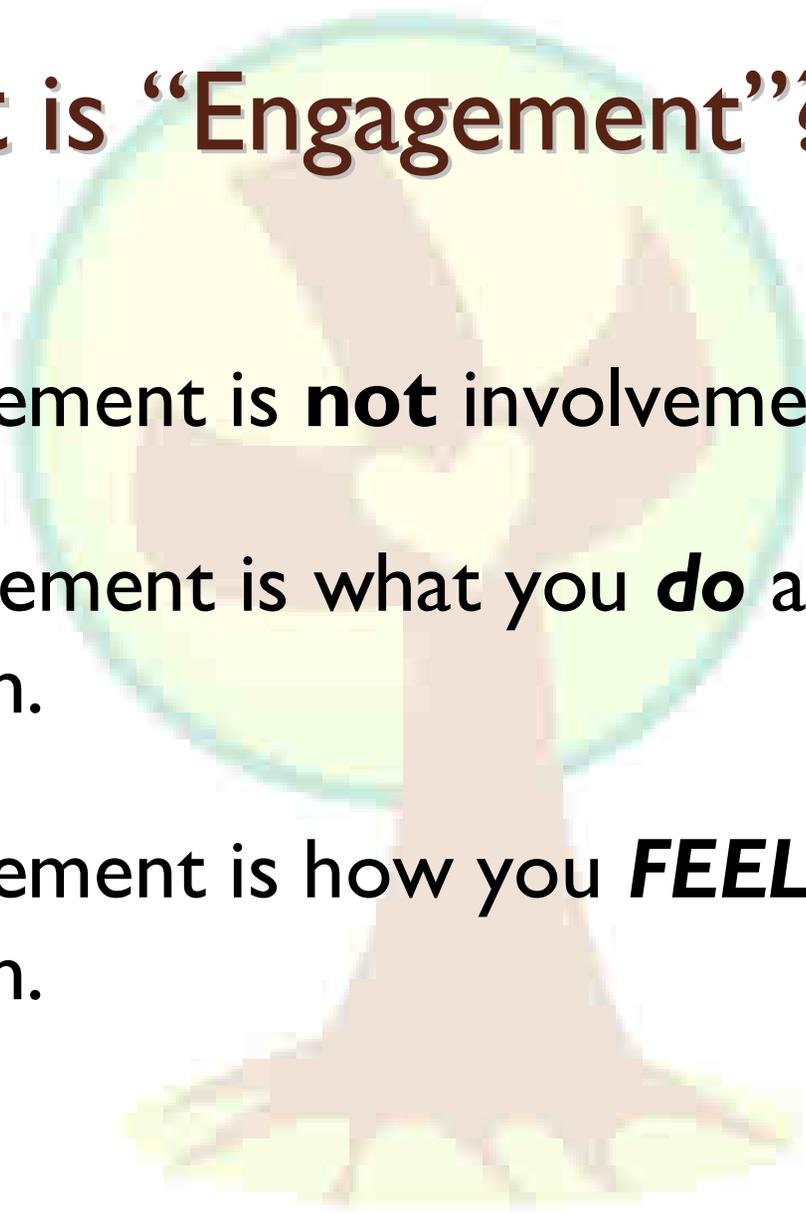


What is “Engagement”?

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- ❖ Engagement is a sense of belonging to a “family;” an “emotional bond” that develops between members and their parish community.
 - ❖ Simply put, when we are engaged, we are passionate about our parish’s mission and communal life.

What is “Engagement”?

- ❖ Engagement is **not** involvement.
- ❖ Involvement is what you **do** at your church.
- ❖ Engagement is how you **FEEL** about your church.



What is “Engagement”?

- ❖ Engagement is about belonging and making a difference.
- ❖ It is all about growing in Christ.
- ❖ Engaged churches are “good soil” churches!



We blossom in good soil...

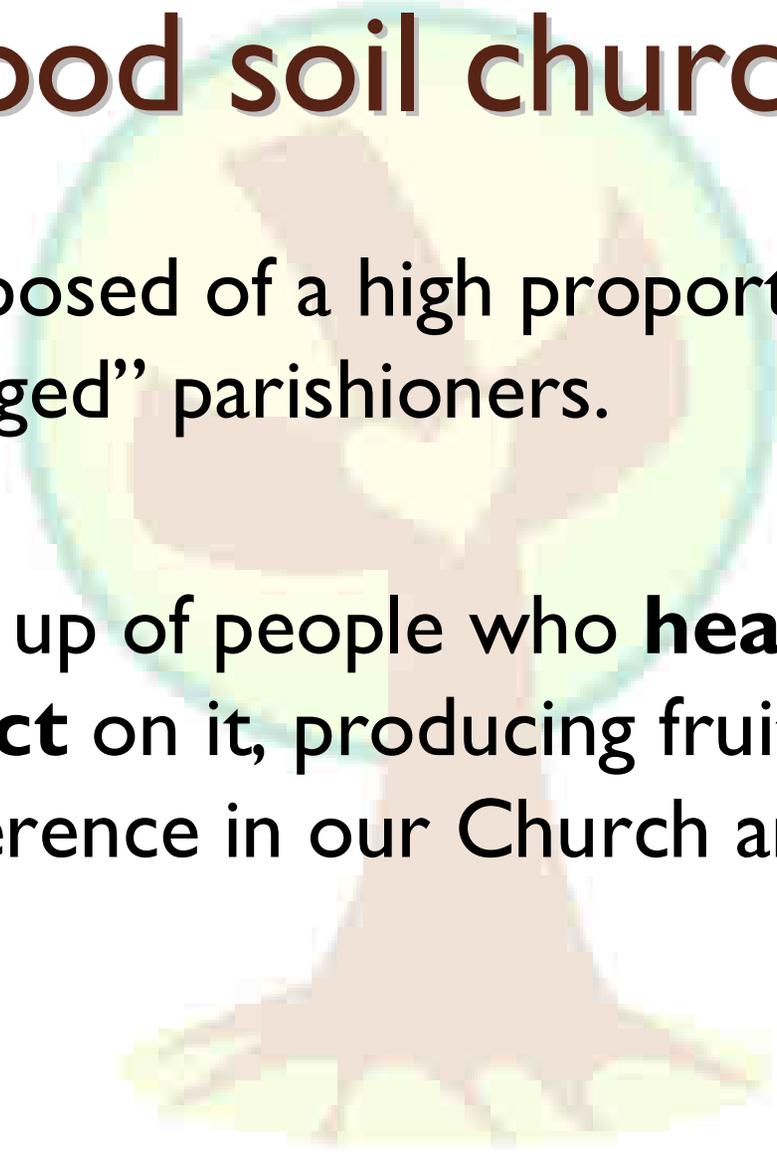
“...but the seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold.”

Matthew 13:23



A "good soil church" is

- ❖ Composed of a high proportion of “engaged” parishioners.
- ❖ Made up of people who **hear** the Word and **act** on it, producing fruit and making a difference in our Church and our world.



Engagement grows in *Good Soil*

❖ Our Mission Statement includes the following:

“We seek to be the family of God by our active participation in stewardship through worship, education, service and social activities. Our lives will bear witness to our faith.”

Mary, Queen of Peace: a “Good Soil Church”?

- ❖ Our participation in the Membership Engagement survey, ME 25, March 2011 was the initial step in developing *MQP for ME*.
- ❖ Survey results were analyzed by Gallup and provided us with important feedback on church engagement at Mary, Queen of Peace.
- ❖ Thank you to the 984 people who responded!

How did Gallup arrive at its conclusions about our parish?

The 25 survey questions measured specific areas of significance:

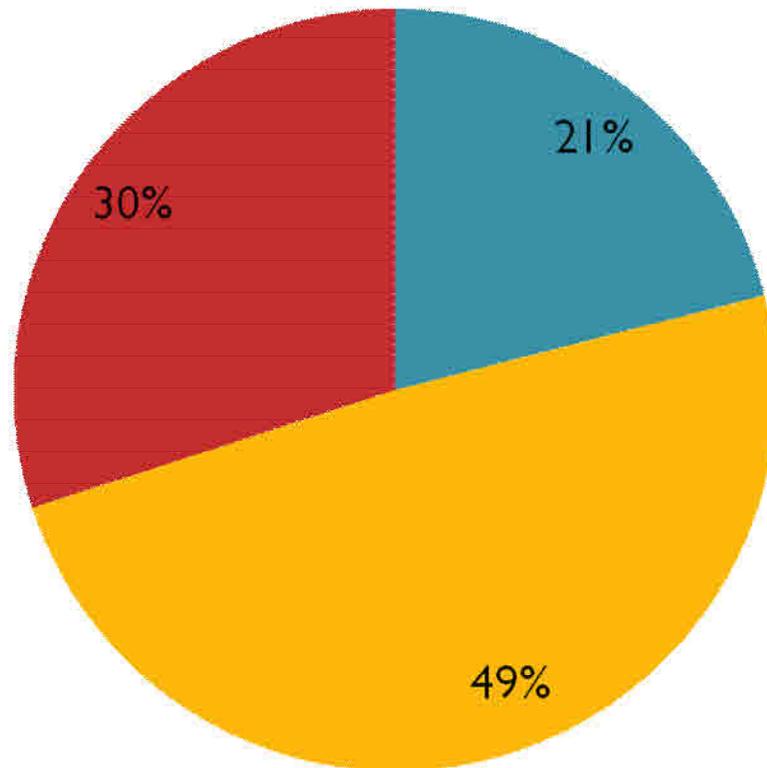
- ***Member Engagement***
 - Feeling of belonging within Mary, Queen of Peace
- ***Spiritual Commitment***
 - Individual spirituality, or “my believing”
- ***Spiritual Health***
 - Life satisfaction
 - Serving
 - Giving
 - Inviting
- ***What does Mary, Queen of Peace “look like?”***
 - Demographic information unique to Mary, Queen of Peace parishioners

Engagement and Spirituality

- ❖ Deeper spirituality grows as engagement in our parish grows.
- ❖ Examination of specific areas through the *MQP for ME* process enables us to “take the temperature” of the spiritual health of our parish.
- ❖ Evaluation and discernment of survey results enable positive responses to parishioner desires for growth and community.

Parishioner Engagement

(as measured by the ME-25 survey March, 2011)



Mary, Queen of Peace

- Engaged 21%
- Not Engaged 49%
- Actively Disengaged 30%

ME25 survey information

Questions about “parishioner engagement”

- ❖ Identify how **we feel** about “Our Belonging” at Mary, Queen of Peace,
and
- ❖ Measure our level of engagement in the life of Mary, Queen of Peace Parish, specifically with respect to:
 - *What do we get from Mary, Queen of Peace?*
 - *What do we give to Mary, Queen of Peace?*
 - *Do we feel like we belong at Mary, Queen of Peace?*
 - *How can we grow as a parish?*

ME25 survey information

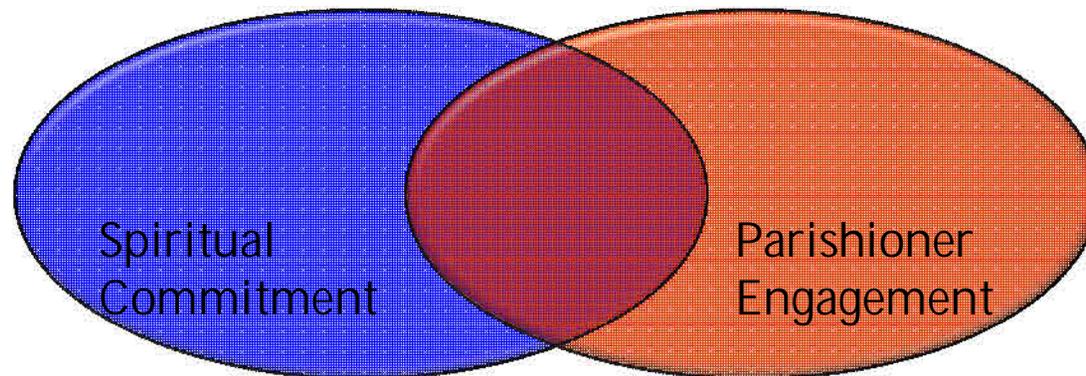
Questions about “Spiritual Commitment”

- ❖ Identify how ***we feel*** about “Our Believing” at Mary, Queen of Peace.
- ❖ Our Spiritual Commitment is reflected in our
 - **ATTITUDES**
as well as in our
 - **BEHAVIORS**

Simply put....

Spiritual Commitment + Parishioner Engagement =
Spiritual Health

- ❖ Spiritual Commitment is INDIVIDUAL and is defined as “my believing.”
- ❖ Parishioner Engagement is COMMUNITY and is defined as “my belonging.”



Parishioner Engagement

Gallup identified three types of engagement.

The first group of people is Engaged.

❖ These parishioners

- Attend mass regularly;
- Invite others to parish activities;
- Give generously of talent, time, and treasure;
- Have a strong and healthy emotional connection to our parish.

Do you see yourself here?

Parishioner Engagement

The second group is the *Not ^{YET} Engaged*.

❖ These parishioners.....

- May or may not attend Mass regularly;
- Rarely invite others to parish activities;
- Contribute some amount of talent, time, and treasure;
- Are less emotionally connected to our parish.

or here?

Parishioner Engagement

The third group, self-identified by their responses, are *Actively Disengaged*.

❖ These parishioners. . . .

- May attend mass two to three or four times/year;
- OR may be physically present but emotionally and/or spiritually absent ;
- Usually not invite others to parish activities;
- Share little, or even none, of their time, talent, or treasure with the parish;
- Tend to be unhappy with the parish and may communicate that unhappiness with others.

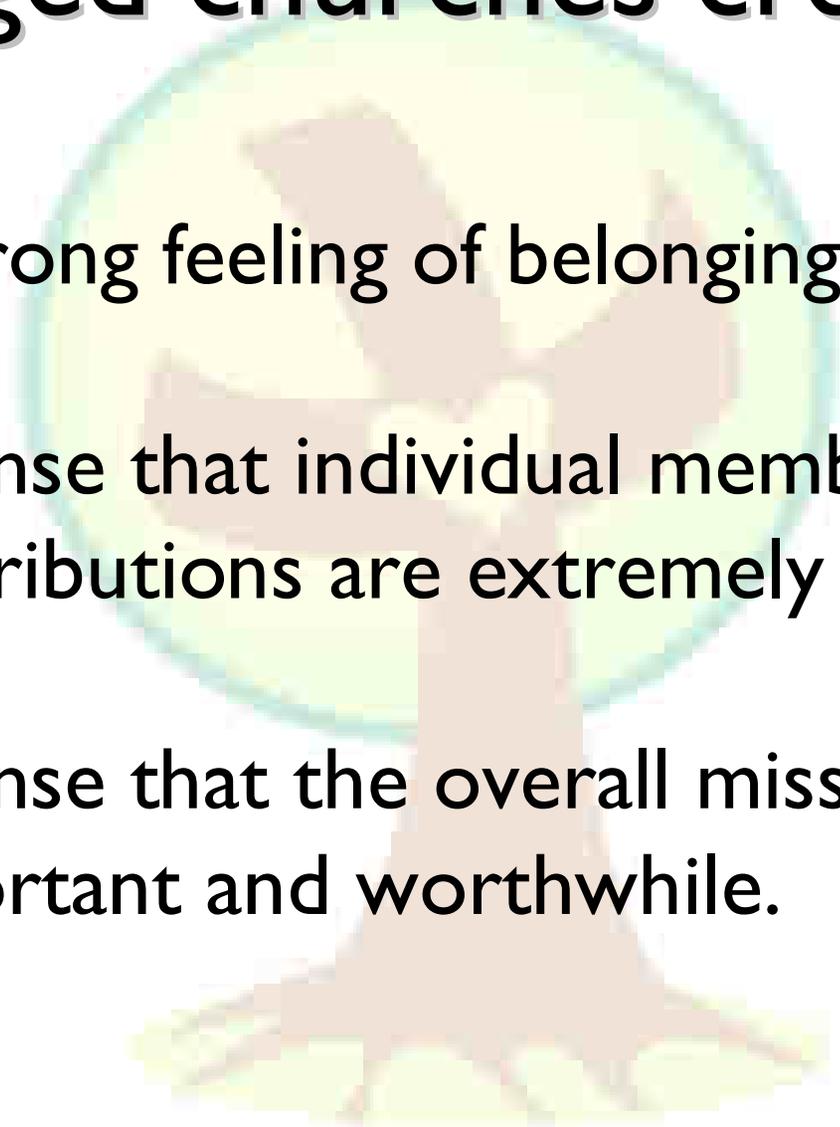
or, are you here?

Good Soil or Engaged Churches

- ❖ Reach out to people and make them feel valued.
- ❖ Define clear expectations of the parish for parishioners, as well as providing clear expectations as to what parishioners can expect from their church.
- ❖ Let parishioners know that their opinions count, that their participation is important.

Engaged churches create

- ❖ A strong feeling of belonging.
- ❖ A sense that individual member contributions are extremely important.
- ❖ A sense that the overall mission is truly important and worthwhile.





What does this mean to us?

- ❖ Did you know, according to Gallup surveys, on any given Sunday in the average parish only three out of ten people really care whether they are in attendance?
- ❖ Can you imagine the difference an “engaged” church would make in your life? Or, in your family’s life?

MQP for ME means

- ❖ Finding ways to increase parishioner engagement.
- ❖ Enriching the “good soil” through the engagement process and reaping a rich harvest.
- ❖ Knowing engaged parishioners are nearly three times as likely to be extremely satisfied with their lives, and become stronger, more energized, and more engaged in everything they do.

What Mary, Queen of Peace has done:

- ❖ Created the *Engaged Church (MQP for ME)* steering committee

Completed Feb. 2011

- ❖ Attended a “debriefing” with the Gallup leaders where the results and significance of Mary, Queen of Peace’s participation in ME 25 were shared.

Completed May 2011

- ❖ Prayerfully discerned the survey’s implications for our parish and isolated two areas upon which we, as a parish, will concentrate for growing engagement at Mary, Queen of Peace.

Completed May 2011

- ❖ “I know what my parish expects of me and my parish knows what I expect of it.” [First action item]
- ❖ Identify and build on our strengths to create passionate involvement in our parish. [Ongoing through the *Living Your Strengths* program]

What can I do next?

- ❖ Attend *MQP for ME* Focus groups. Starting this Fall, join us at one of the many facilitator-led meetings and share your thoughts and ideas with your fellow parishioners.
- ❖ Pray and reflect on what we can do to grow our sense of belonging to the Mary, Queen of Peace parish family.

Want to learn more?

- ❖ Go to our website (www.mqp.org) to find this presentation, survey results, or *MQP for ME* updates.
- ❖ Become involved! Contact Kathi Rowley at stewardship@mqp.org
- ❖ Read “Growing an Engaged Church” which is available at the office and in our Mary, Queen of Peace parish library.