

What We Heard

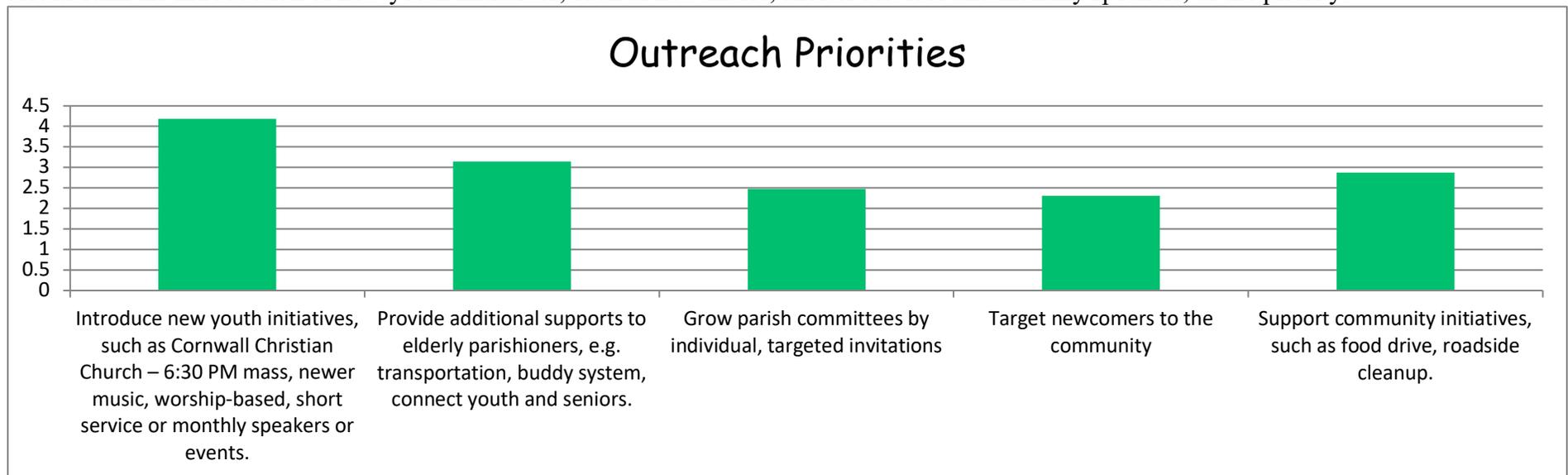
Our Lady of the Assumption Parish – May 2019

How can we best accomplish what God has in mind for us? How can we best use the gifts and talents of the people who are a part of this parish to achieve great things? These are important questions, and we are exploring them at Our Lady of the Assumption Parish.

In 2013, the Pastoral Council, and Property and Finance Committee, initiated a process that engaged the parish community and its various committees and groups to develop the Parish's first Strategic Action Plan. We achieved a number of objectives but recognized last year that it was time to revisit the plan and review the spiritual, fiscal, and operational health of our parish. In the spring 2018, the Pastoral Council, and the Property and Finance Committee enlisted the expertise of parishioner Carol Gabanna, on a voluntary basis, to facilitate two sessions to help identify strategic priorities.

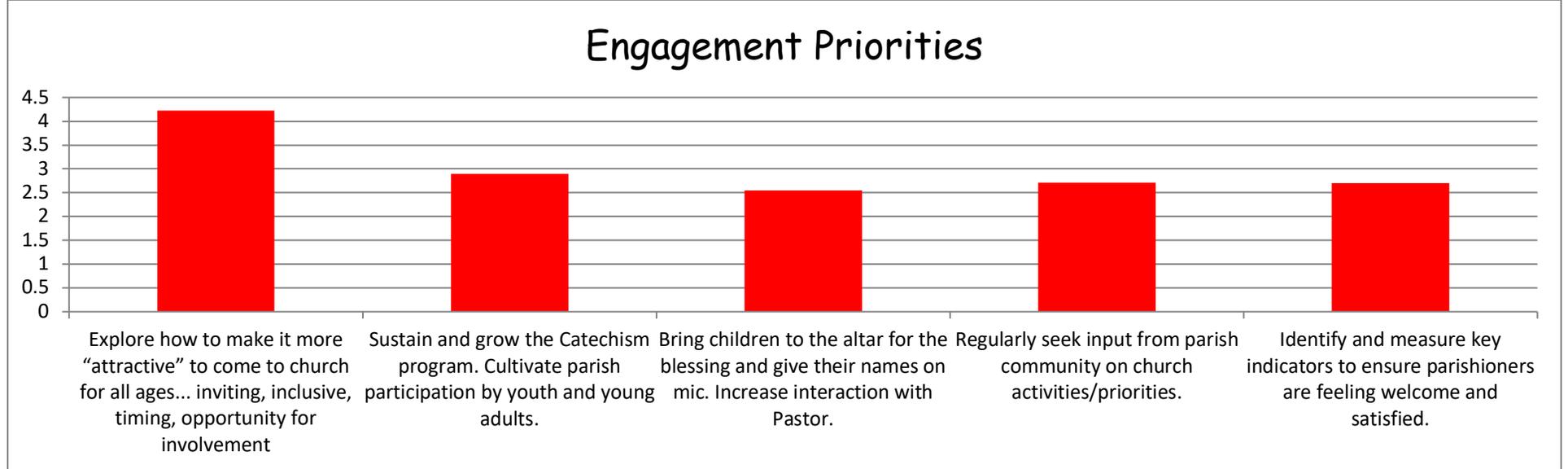
Following last year's sessions, the Pastoral Council streamlined the feedback into six themes, from which to build our new strategic plan. In May 2019, Our Lady of the Assumption Pastoral Council invited the entire parish community to participate in a second feedback process through a survey designed to share information, seek additional feedback and rank Parish priorities. The survey was distributed to 353 parishioners by email, posted on the Parish website and Facebook site, and paper copies were available at the parish office. A total of 73 surveys were completed.

Outreach was the first of six themes identified during the 2018 parish planning sessions. A range of ideas were generated in this area and the survey results rank the introduction of new youth initiatives, such as new music, shorter services and monthly speakers, as the priority.

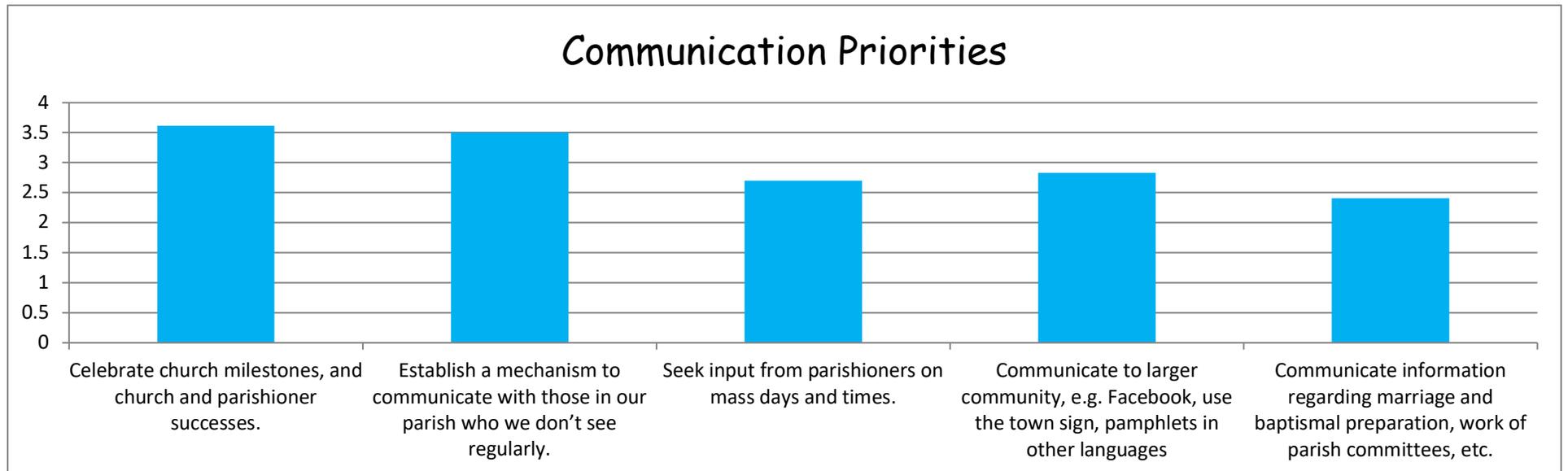


Our Lady of the Assumption Parish

Exploring how to make mass attendance more “attractive” for all ages was the highest ranked priority in the category of **engagement**.

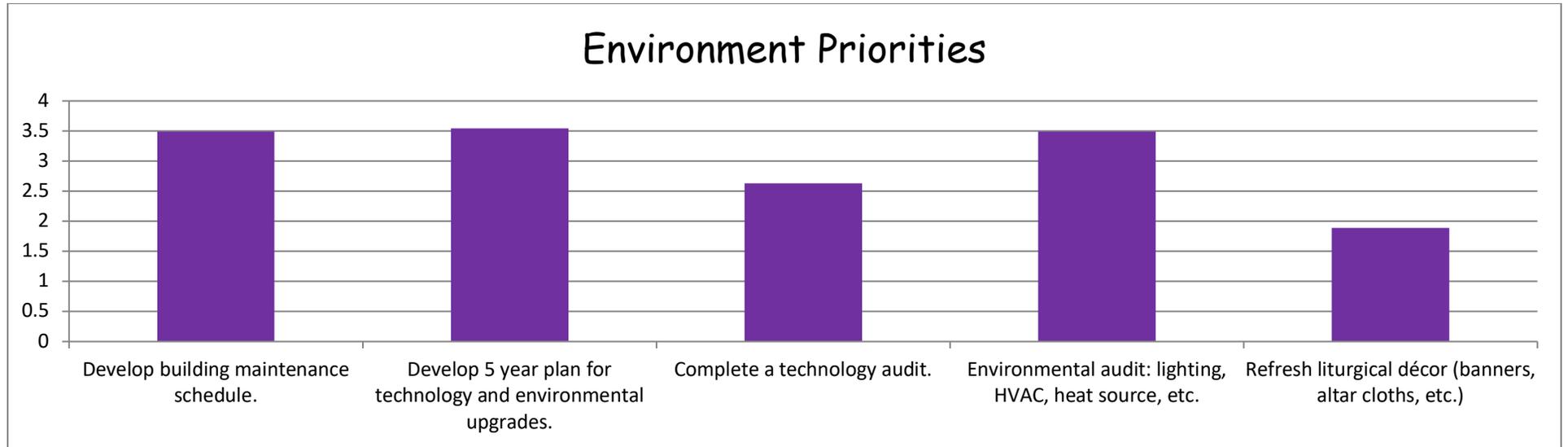


Effective **communication** is critical to the success of an organization. At Our Lady of the Assumption, a majority of parishioners want the parish to focus on celebration of milestones and communication with parishioners we don’t see regularly.

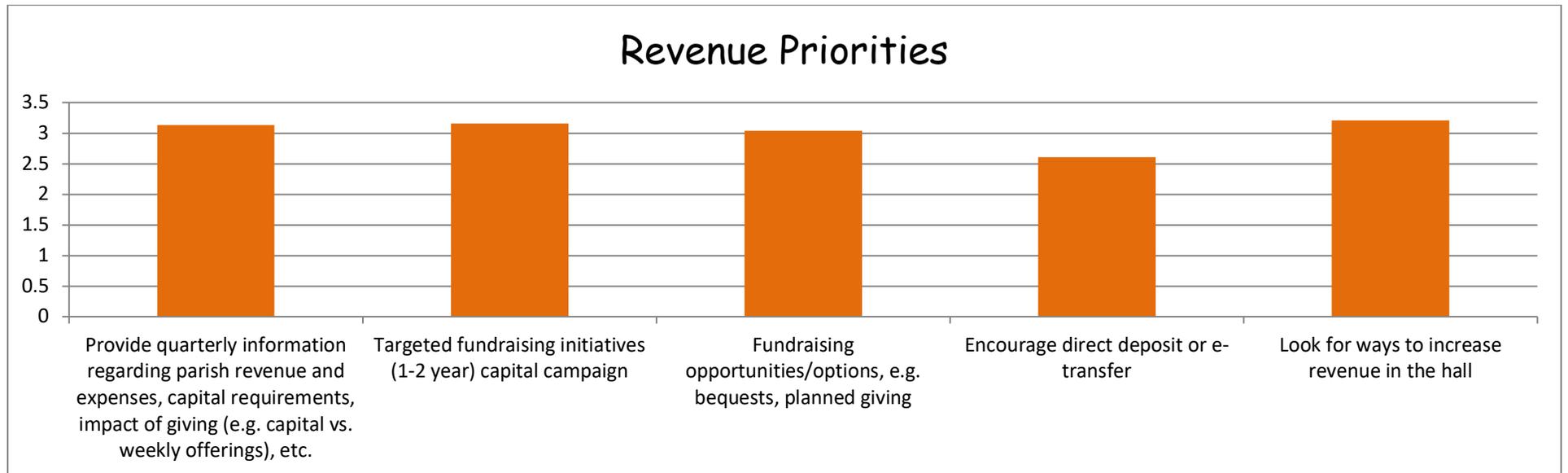


Our Lady of the Assumption Parish

Audits and planning for infrastructure improvements and maintenance were identified as parish priorities for our physical **environment**.

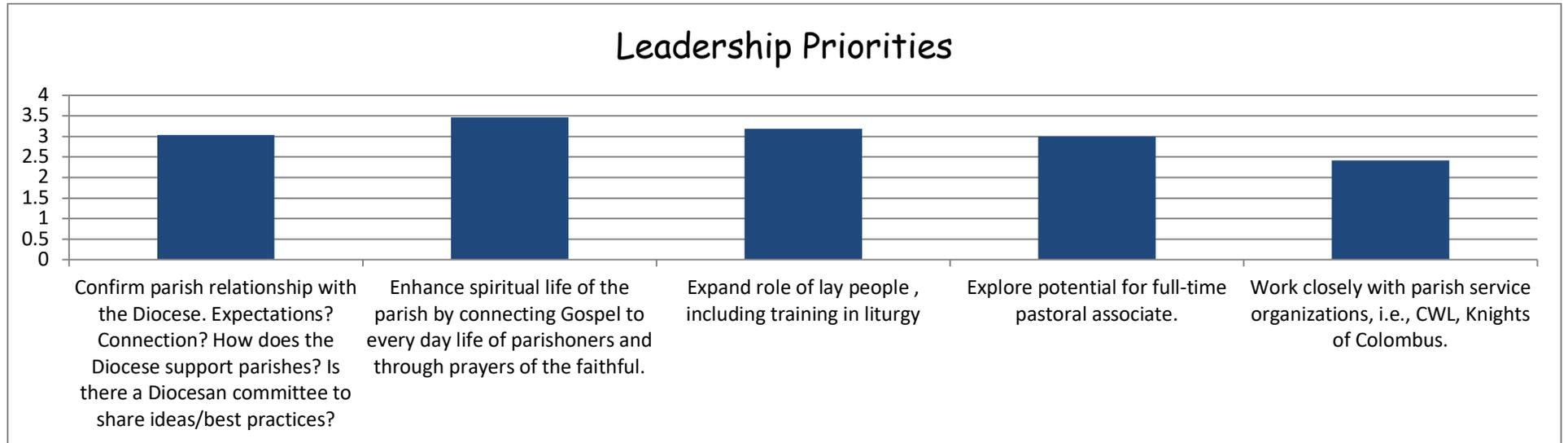


Increasing the hall revenue came out slightly ahead of the remaining **revenue** priorities.

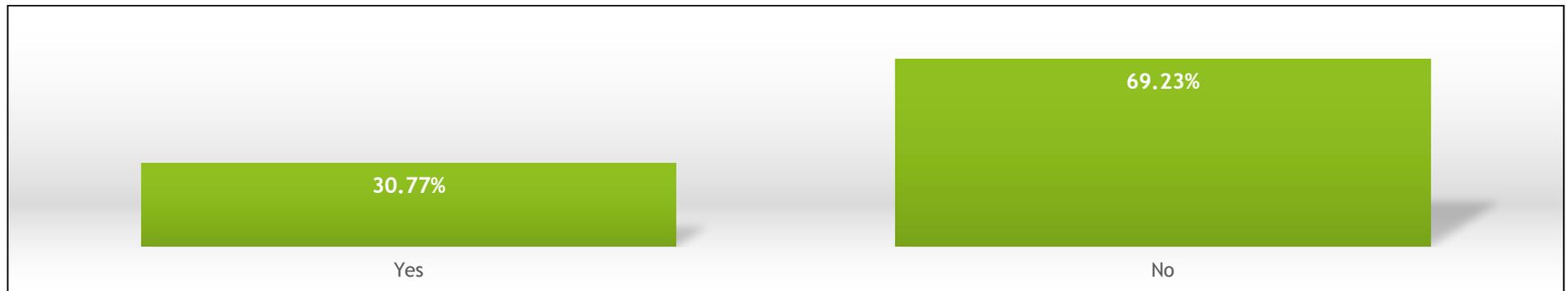


Our Lady of the Assumption Parish

Enhancing the spiritual life of the Parish by connecting the Gospel to everyday life of parishioners, and through the prayers of the faithful, is the Assumption parishioner's **leadership** priority.



In addition to recruiting for the Pastoral Council, the Parish is seeking volunteers to help bring the strategic plan to life. 30.77% of survey respondents indicated a willingness to share their time and talent.



Our Lady of the Assumption Parish

The survey provided an additional opportunity for parishioners to give feedback and make suggestions regarding parish priorities and activities. The general themes were:

- Offer teaching on the Catholic faith
- Collaborate with community-based organizations
- Increase outreach to community
- Establish parish annual general meetings
- Create a lay pastoral associate position
- Enhance training and resources for lay ministers
- Grow the music ministry
- Increase youth involvement
- Invest in the hall to increase revenue opportunities
- Think outside the box about how the church and hall are used (and how they can generate revenue)
- Introduce more evangelization programs such as Alpha, Life Teen, and explore the expansion of lay ministries
- Increase the visibility of church leadership in the parish
- Harness the amazing talents and skills in our parish, and grow a real sense of community at OLA

This survey helped to reaffirm the strategic priorities that became evident during our 2018 sessions, and provide a clearer picture of the order in which we should address them. In the next few months, a new strategic plan will be developed and made available to parishioners. This is an exciting time for our Parish as we take important steps toward fulfilling God's purpose for us. We thank you for your participation!

Sincerely,

Karen MacDonald and Nicole Phillips
Co-Chairs, Pastoral Council
Our Lady of the Assumption Parish