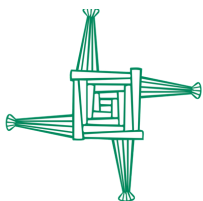




Real PresenceReal Future

JUNE 2021

# REPORT TO PARISH



SAINT BRIGID OF KILDARE

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# REAL PRESENCE, REAL FUTURE

The Catholic Church in America faces significant challenges with declining attendance, a shortage of priests and religious, aging and costly facilities, and an immediate but unknown impact from the coronavirus. The Diocese of Columbus and Saint Brigid of Kildare are not immune to any of these issues. In response, Bishop Brennan invited the Catholic Leadership Institute (CLI) to our diocese to assist with his Real Presence, Real Future (RPRF) Initiative. CLI has a great track record of helping other dioceses with these issues.

## THE PROCESS

An initial step of the RPRF Initiative was to target the Mass-going population and ask them to take the Disciple Maker Index Survey (DMI) during Lent. The DMI consisted of 75 questions, with topics ranging from core Catholic beliefs to effectiveness of parish support to missionary discipleship. CLI will next gather data about each parish in the diocese, including survey results, demographics and population trends, and perspectives of Key Parish Leaders (see below), to create models addressing the issues that most impact each parish. The models will be presented to the parishes in the fall, and parishioners will be asked to give feedback on the proposals. CLI will incorporate your suggestions as they finetune the models and plan to present a final proposal in early 2022.

## THE SURVEY RESULTS

(Saint Brigid of Kildare Parish)

793

individuals completed  
the survey

27%

of our Mass-going population  
represented (statistically  
significant based on our  
October 2019 count)

85%

indicated they attend  
weekly or daily Mass

## DEMOGRAPHICS OF RESPONDENTS

(note this better reflects our Mass-going population, rather than our parish population)

88%

married

68%

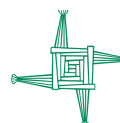
female

95%

over 35

75%

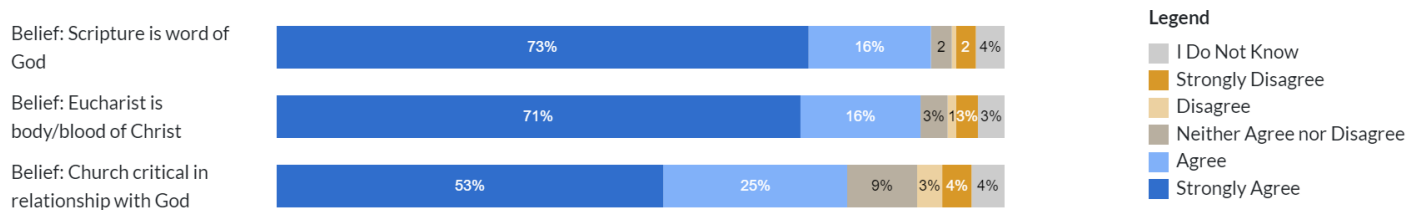
members for  
> 10 years



SAINT BRIGID OF KILDARE

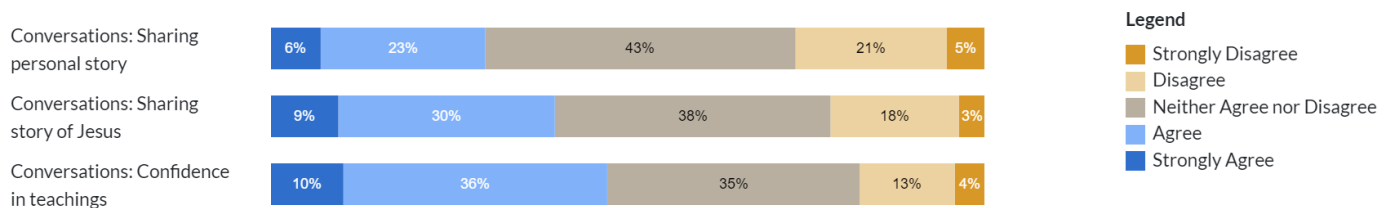
# OUR STRENGTHS

Your feedback helped CLI identify strengths on which to build and opportunities on which to focus. In light of Bishop Brennan's RPRF Initiative, we were pleased to see that St. Brigid parishioners embrace the core teachings of the Catholic Church. Below are Saint Brigid of Kildare's top three results by highest percentage of "Strongly Agree."



# OUR OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH

Below are Saint Brigid of Kildare's top three results by lowest percentage of "Strongly Agree" in answer to the questions, "My parish equips me to have conversations with family and friends by teaching me about...".



After a deeper review by both CLI and our leadership team, we also identified the following opportunities for growth:

- only 10% had ever invited anyone to consider religious life or the priesthood as a vocation
- Less than half strongly agree or agree they are involved in the decision-making of the parish
- Less than half strongly agree or agree they are provided transparency regarding the finances of the parish
- Less than half strongly agree or agree they receive follow-up when interest is expressed in becoming more involved
- Only 70% strongly agree or agree that the parish provided adequate support to help their child know Jesus

Please note that some of these questions contained the phrase "in the last year" (a COVID-impacted year).

Based on a broader analysis of many questions, there is an opportunity to strengthen **missionary discipleship** and **evangelization** among our parish family.



## THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

Monsignor Hendricks has fully embraced the RPRF Initiative and has formed a team of Key Parish Leaders to navigate the process. Team members include staff members Becky O'Connor and Allie Wing, and representatives of our parish community: Kristen Alcox, Peter and Sue Corcoran, Christine Drab, Jim Flynn and Heidi Heaton. Each represents a different demographic of our parish and brings a perspective that we hope represents that demographic. They have been meeting since April to review and understand the DMI results for Saint Brigid of Kildare and to present the findings to you. The parish steering and finance committees also reviewed the details of the DMI and had the opportunity to give their input. This report is the result of that work and is the end of Phase One of the RPRF Initiative.

STEP	TIMELINE
1) Disciple Maker Index survey taken by entire parish	Lent 2021
2) Survey data tabulated and results shared by RPRF Leadership Team	Summer 2021
3) Local planning and parish consultation sessions attended by entire parish and led by CLI volunteers	Fall 2021
4) Proposals reviewed by entire parish	Early 2022

## YOUR INVOLVEMENT

It is imperative that we receive input during this process. Feel free to reach out to any of the Key Parish Leaders or send comments to Becky O'Connor at [boconnor@stbrigidofkildare.org](mailto:boconnor@stbrigidofkildare.org). In the fall you will be asked to attend one meeting (several times will be offered) so you can see the CLI proposals and give your feedback. In early 2022, you will be asked to review the proposals before they become final. Please keep us in your prayers as we help navigate the future of Saint Brigid of Kildare!

**Monsignor Hendricks**  
**and the Real Presence, Real Future Key Parish Leaders**

