

## Images of Parish Community

*Circle phrases that speak to you, that express the kind of Parish community you seek and long for.*

1. The community I seek is one in which people are free to be themselves; to speak and listen fully and authentically. In which differences are accepted (we can fight with those we love). In which we can make decisions and solve the problems we face.
2. Listening in community requires listening to one another “whether we like it or not, whether we hear what we want to or something that is actually disagreeable or threatening.” (From *Seeking God: The Way of St. Benedict*, by Esther DeWaal)
3. Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude, Love does not insist on its own way, it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. I Corinthians 13:4-7
4. O Raphael, lead us toward those we are waiting for, those who are waiting for us: Raphael angel of happy meetings, lead us by the hand toward those we are looking for. May all our movements be guided by your light and transfigured with your joy. Flannery O'Connor
5. God has so ordained things that we grow in faith only through the frail instrumentality of one another. John of the Cross
6. Community life is made up of a lot of small things. It is the small courtesies that matter. Basil Hume, OSB

(see reverse side)

## Your participation in the parish community

*As you consider your participation in the parish community – which of these statements do you most need to hear? NOTE – You’ll only be asked to share what you want to share.*

- “live in harmony with one another” (Romans. 12:16)
- “through love, be servants of one another” (Galatians 5:13)
- “with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love” (Ephesians 4:2)
- “be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another” (Ephesians 4:32)
- “be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ” (Ephesians. 5:21)
- “If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you ...” (Matthew 18:15-17)

### COMMUNITY LIFE ASSESSMENT

#### Images of the Community

**1. The community I seek** is one in which people are free to be themselves; to speak and listen fully and authentically. In which differences are accepted (we can fight with those we love). In which we can make decisions and solve the problems we face.

I don't want church to be that way					It is what I seek; and more
1	2	3	4	5	

#### 2. Connection with people

I don't know anyone well				I know a number of people and have a few friends in the parish
1	2	3	4	5

#### 3. Participation in parish social life

Not at all				I participate regularly and frequently
1	2	3	4	5

**4. Listening in community** requires listening to one another “whether we like it or not, whether we hear what we want to or something that is actually disagreeable or threatening.” (From *Seeking God: The Way of St. Benedict*, by Esther DeWaal)

I don't want church to be that way				It is what I seek; and more
1	2	3	4	5

5. Once a **decision** has been made in accordance with the norms of the community, I work at being supportive. "All should obey cheerfully and...refrain from "murmuring in words...[or] heart." (From *The Rule of St. Benedict*.)

I don't want church to be that way				It is what I seek; and more
1	2	3	4	5

**Assess your own participation in the parish community**

6. I frequently find myself agreeing with others at church, or simply remaining silent, because I don't want to cause conflict.

This is very true for me.				This is not true—I may generate conflict for its own sake.
1	2	3	4	5

**7. On speaking fully and authentically.**

I avoid saying what I think if I believe others will be upset		I carefully consider my words and their impact on people, but generally share feelings and opinions I think are important		I say what I want, when and how I want to say it, with little prior consideration of how others will feel.
1	2	3	4	5

**8. How I manage commitments I make in the parish.** (Circle the pattern that comes closest)

I often take on duties I don't want and then fail to complete them	I take things on I don't want and complete them.	If I take too much on I am good at renegotiating commitments in a timely manner	I am pretty good at only agreeing to what I'm able and willing to do.	I am pretty good at knowing what I'm able and willing to do. I'm willing on occasion to stretch beyond that for the community.
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