



## Questions and Answers.....Post Zoom Meetings

These answers were compiled by the communication team members of the Vision Committee and Meitler.  
September 30, 2020

### Q. What is the reason for the significant decline in membership since 1999? 24.2 %.

A: We believe the decline in membership since 1999 is largely due to location of the parish. Other factors for the decline include: Our Lady of Lourdes is an older parish, school families join and then leave when the children complete their education at the school, historically declining school enrollment had an impact on membership although enrollment is stable recently, the effect of and handling of the priest abuse scandal, transfers of families working for the Arsenal, Arconic and John Deere, difficult access to the parish and the land constraints.

### Q. I noticed that total income for Our Lady of Lourdes was \$1,498,335 for FY ending 6/30/19. I find it hard to believe that it is more than SJV given that SJV has more than twice the number of families. Was there a large bequest given to the church last year? Is that basically envelope income and offertory? And why was the school income not included? It's a package deal, correct? What is the total income for church and school combined?

A. If we look solely at Envelope, Offertory and Other Parish Envelopes Our Lady of Lourdes and St. John Vianney are remarkably close in giving. Any bequests or memorials given would be represented in "Other Income" below, which is minimal compared to envelope and offertory giving. Please see the table below to address your questions of school and combined income.

	St. John Vianney	Our Lady of Lourdes		St. John Vianney	Our Lady of Lourdes
Parish:	2019	2019		2018	2018
Envelope	\$1,071,730.42	\$1,017,022.60		\$1,061,330.75	\$1,081,052.33
Offertory	\$98,046.08	\$64,967.70		\$97,674.55	\$71,368.32
Other Parish Envelopes	\$56,781.00	\$58,009.76		\$63,397.48	\$34,169.83
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$1,226,557.350</b>	<b>\$1,140,000.06</b>		<b>\$1,222,402.78</b>	<b>\$1,186,590.48</b>
Other Income	\$145,046.38	\$358,335.20		\$200,637.40	\$228,612.37
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$1,371,603.88</b>	<b>\$1,498,335.26</b>		<b>\$1,423,040.18</b>	<b>\$1,415,202.85</b>
<b>School:</b>	<b>\$101,213.57</b>	<b>\$1,789,945.90</b>		<b>\$131,403.42</b>	<b>\$1,864,327.19</b>
<b>Combined Income</b>	<b>\$1,472,817.45</b>	<b>\$3,288,281.16</b>		<b>\$1,554,443.60</b>	<b>\$3,279,530.04</b>

**Q. Why did the total for the option results on the poll total more than 100%? It seems like the results were skewed since couples with different choices were able to make two choices but couples who agreed were only able to vote once.**

**A.** The reason for the poll totaling more than 100% was that the computer system did not allow for persons answering more than one response, meaning the number of responses was greater than the number of respondents. A quick poll in a zoom call should be considered informal. More important and reliable will be the survey that will be sent out shortly to all parishioners. Each spouse who votes, regardless of their vote will be counted separately and results will add to 100%.

**Q. Would like to ask how many people attended the meetings from both parishes?**

**A.** If you combine both of the Parish Zoom meetings together with the Leadership Zoom meetings there were approximately 250-300 participants. Because some parishioners attended both meetings and others attended with their spouse, family members or significant other, we do not have an exact number of attendees.

**Q. Is it possible to only build a new school with large activity space at the growth area? The large activity area could also host Masses for the school. But SJV would be the main parish location.**

**A.** In the Diocesan school study, there was a strong consensus that schools should remain closely aligned the parish, including co-location of the school and parish facilities. Therefore, the concept of a separate school facility away from the parishes was discussed but then dismissed as a viable option.

**Q. Talking with other people on the call a lot of people were shocked at the high sticker shock. Especially, with the whole current pandemic situation happening now. What wasn't discussed in the presentation was the ability to fund raise. St John Vianney's levels even doubled won't cut it.**

**A.** Once a consensus is reached on which option should be recommended to the Bishop (the process we are going through now), the next steps would be to commission initial architectural work to determine a cost estimate and possibilities for phasing and expansion. With this information and a clear case statement, a capital campaign feasibility study would help to determine the real potential for fund raising.

**Q. What is the retention rate from students in the county catholic grade schools going on to Assumption?**

**A.** More in depth information regarding schools and enrollment trends are available in the leadership report available online at: <https://lourdescatholic.org/church/vision/>, however a quick answer is that, The catholic grade school retention rate for students attending Assumption has ranged from 57% to 80% in the last 15 years. The average retention rate is 70% of our catholic grade school children attend Assumption High School.

**Q. What is the proposed enrollment?**

**A.** For fall 2020, enrollment at the school opened with 312 students in Pre-kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The overall trend is stable, with K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade being up 10% this year. Enrollment for St. John Vianney preschool is 36 students for fall 2020. The vision of a new site and facilities that expand offerings should increase enrollment.

A more formal enrollment study is necessary to determine how many classrooms to build in the first phase, with the possibility for the building to support expansion in the future.

**Q. With Option 3 do you then have two properties for sale to help offset cost?**

A. The existing property(ies) are assets to the parish(es); and if not needed, would be used to help offset costs to the overall project.

**Q. Has it been discussed if additional land could be traded/purchased for Assumption to relocate to the same area? Assumption is encountering some of the same issues as Lourdes in regard to an outdated building/repairs.**

A. The idea of moving Assumption High School was considered during the Scott County School Strategic Planning meetings. The following conclusions were drawn:

1. Assumption High School is currently centrally located within the area allowing the school greater diversity in its student population.
2. The footprint needed for extracurricular activities at the high school level would require approximately a \$40 million capital campaign, which has not been attempted in the area.
3. Assumption has current partnerships with St. Ambrose University which provide great facilities for extracurricular activities.
4. Due to transportation needs, it was decided it is much more important for elementary schools to be in the right place versus moving the high school.

**Q. Do the consultants sense a different opinion between members of the two different parishes about which option is preferred?**

A. No, however, the leadership has been open to the various options presented; the survey will help give everyone a clearer direction for the parishes.

**Q. Has consideration been given to having a Catholic cemetery at the new site?**

A. This has not been part of our OLOL & SJV discussions.

**Q. Covid-19 will have far-reaching effects on the economic impact of this project as well as on the number of Catholics who will return to regular Mass attendance after the epidemic is ended. I would advise proceeding under a yellow light as any aspect of this project moves ahead.**

A. This is a concern we are keeping in mind during all discussions. Our present reality is the cost of maintaining quality facilities at Our Lady of Lourdes Church and Lourdes Catholic School is not a good investment for the long term. The impact of Covid-19 is giving lead time to consider long-term facility needs in a first phase construction, with the idea expansion allows for growth that cannot be fully seen at this time.

**Q. Given 15000 people how big would the church need to be and how many Masses?**

A. Today Our Lady of Lourdes and St. John Vianney parishes together have memberships of 2,968 households (spring 2020), about 9,195 parishioners. It is early in the process to know exactly what a merged parish might look like, but a possible scenario could be a large church with seating capacity of maybe 1500. With two priests assigned the parish could celebrate 4 to 6 Masses per weekend. In regards to square footage of the church, it is really dependent on ministry needs, again it is too early in the process to know this information but just to give perspective: St. John Vianney seats 1,000 and is 35,000 square foot, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish seats 750 and is 23,800 square feet and St. Patrick in Iowa City seats 1,000 and is 45,000 square feet.

**Q. Fr Jason brings up one option not mentioned that being what would the cost to the diocese be to CLOSE Lourdes Catholic school.**

**A.** The path of logic tells us that faith formation is part of the mission, and Catholic schools are part of faith formation. This was affirmed by the Scott County Catholic Schools study in 2019 and supported by the Diocese of Davenport; and it called for continuation of the four parish-based Catholic grade schools in Scott County. Going west to east, these schools are JFK on Division Street, All Saints on Marquette, St Paul's on Rusholme Street and Our Lady of Lourdes. It has also been concluded by diocesan review and the Bettendorf Vision Committee that Catholic schools should be an integral part of the future church in Bettendorf. Schools are a special mission of the Catholic Church to form young people into adults who will lead in the church and bring the Gospel of Christ to the world.

**Q. Possibly a plan could be considered to have some type of mission presence in central or downtown Bettendorf.**

**A.** Currently we do not minister on sight, we go forth to where the need is. Neither parish has an onsite social action ministry, like St. Anthony's for example and their window/lunch program. We use the physical parish building to gather resources and then go forth to distribute them at other locations. So, we go to those in need, we don't expect them to come to us. Also, it is important to consider the changes to downtown Bettendorf. With the new construction of the bridge, gas stations, inexpensive hotels, and typical places for people to gather have been replaced by condos and new establishments. OLOL is currently in a business district surrounded by property rentals.

For the parishes to be able to provide comprehensive ministries to the City, they will need more space. With the long-term growth forecast for the City, the goal is to find a central location that will be accessible to all. Coming together as parishes with combined resources and coordinated outreach can allow for an even greater care to the poor and those in need in the community. There is always the possibility to consider owning or operating ministries in the city that are not on the parish site.

**Q. Does the church at Lourdes have a problem of any kind? I went to CEW this year and got to spend more time quietly in the church. Someone next to me said, "What a beautiful church." Is it strange to leave such a nice church? Is it Costly?**

**Q. Does the Church or School have problems? Or Both?.....(This was Copy/Pasted from 08/26/2020 Q&A..Page1)**

**A.** Some details regarding the facility at Our Lady of Lourdes: The current buildings have a substantial amount of asbestos. Asbestos abatement is extremely expensive. Upgrading of HVAC and electrical systems are needed. Due to multiple additions there are multiple stairways. Several levels have been added. Handicap accessibility is lacking except for the first floor. The school and church buildings have been expanded where possible over time, but the layout of patchwork additions does not provide for efficient use. The roof needs substantial work, or full replacement. Or for a more in depth look, Please review the following document (facilities section) to obtain a brief overview of the current needs: [https://lourdescatholic.org/church/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2020/09/VisionForBettendorfCatholicChurch\\_QA-PlusOptions-IncludeTable.pdf](https://lourdescatholic.org/church/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2020/09/VisionForBettendorfCatholicChurch_QA-PlusOptions-IncludeTable.pdf)