

Affirming Welcoming Engaging (AWE!)

THE NEXT STEP - INPUT SESSIONS BEING ORGANIZED FOR JULY

Stirring opinion and creativity

2013 begins our 40th year here in Westlake as a parish. As with any anniversary we look back and ask 'how well are we doing?'. We celebrate the past and look to the future with new ideas and initiatives.

Your opinions.
Your ideas.
Your experience.

Over the next several months, we will be inviting many people throughout our parish to assume an active role in determining our immediate direction and future focus in this area. We feel it is important to gather further input and opinion regarding ways we can better welcome, invite and involve our parishioners.

St. Ladislas is currently involved in a workshop series *Affirming, Welcoming and Engaging (AWE!)* which is geared to continuing to build a strong faith community here at St. Ladislas. This workshop is an engagement process, and by that we are saying, how can we more meaningfully involve people into the life of the parish? Usually, in most Catholic parishes, 30% are involved; 30% are uninvolved; and 40% are actively disengaged, meaning that the parish holds no relevance for these folks in their everyday lives.

In a recent homily announcing the AWE initiative, Father Snyder said it best, "There's a richness to our faith. There's a beauty and a blessing to have God in your heart, in your life, in your midst. How can we bring them to an awareness? Help them celebrate God who loves them... help them know the Lord who calls them? Once you have a sense of belonging and ownership, once you know you have a place, once you feel you are welcome and your gifts are well received and your opinion and your creativity is stirred... your faith is fed. Then you feel you are engaged."



BELONGING LEADS TO
BELIEVING

What do you need to do now? Watch your mailbox for an invitation to an input session and come with your ideas. Stay tuned for more updates from the Core Team, or visit the redesigned website at www.stladislas.org for the latest updates.

Steps In The Process

A Core Team of parish members has already attended three workshops with two more upcoming. We wanted to share with you the steps in this process:

1. *Presentations by the Core Team to all the regularly meeting ministries.*
2. *Core Team will conduct input sessions with randomly chosen parishioners who will have the opportunity to express their opinion on how we can better invite, involve and welcome.*
3. *Development of a parish wide survey that will be distributed in the future to determine the level of engagement of our parish families.*
4. *Formation of a People Engagement Team, a group of 40-60 people who will meet and plan for how we can engage more people into the life our parish.*
5. *Finalization of the Plan of Action for the next year which will incorporate the ideas growing out of the planning process.*
6. *Workshop in the use of technology and how the parish can become more technologically savvy.*