Results of 2024 MMOJ Annual Community Survey
12/5/2024
Jack McKillip

In mid November the MMOJ board surveyed 38 members to help prepare for the January 25, 2025 Annual Meeting. 18 members responded at least partially.

Liturgies

Our liturgies take place entirely on Zoom. We would like to know how you feel about this practice. What do you like or dislike? What can be done to improve the liturgies?

Question 1 How satisfied are you with the MMOJ liturgies on Zoom

- -Very (14, 78%)
- -Somewhat (4, 22%)
- -Not at all

Question 2 How often do you attend the MMOJ liturgies? (select one)

- -Weekly (14, 78%)
- -Couple times month (3, 17%)
- -Monthly
- -Occasionally (1, 5%)

Question 3 Suggest at least one change for our Zoom liturgies: (13 commenters)

Content of Liturgy:
-a bit shorter with shorter prayers
-More focused thematically
-More scripture
-Suggest prayers focused on one theme. Some prayers are extended covering several theological concepts which is distracting and confusing. I appreciate the dedication and hard work put in to developing liturgies
-The homily starter should be precise and open ended to enable more group sharing.

Music:
-No long-playing music without words, except maybe during the eucharist. Keep to 4 minutes maximum.
-shorter music selections
-Sometimes music repeats for too long
-for songs that have many verses, we should shorten by selecting most appropriate
-Limit song length to 3 minutes max. Pls., no more six minute songs; it disrupts the flow of the liturgy

Logistics:
-Schedule of presiders, readers, etc. a month or so out, if possible. Priests to share the elements that go into deve!oping liturgy
-A sign for the readers which says"PLEASE UNMUTE "
-for Illinoisans, the time (3pm) cut Saturday in the middle of the day, and it is hard for me to set aside the slot time
-There has to be an increase in the number of participants. There should also be an appeal to younger members with children

Other:
-A set column to check off
-Cannot at this time

Question 4 Would you be willing to send email feedback about our liturgy after it is completed?

-Yes (10 55%)
-Perhaps (6, 33%)
-No (2, 11%)

Outreach Projects

This year we have donated $1000 each quarter to two global (Coalition of Immokalee Workers and Food for the Poor) and two local (Meals on Wheels of Englewood and All Faiths Food Bank) not for profit organizations. We also will donate $1000 to Seasons of Sharing as a memorial to our deceased MMOJ members for All Saints Day.

As we plan for 2025, the Board would like to know if we should continue this practice

Question 5 Should we continue our practice of making donations to spend down our current surplus?

-Yes (17, 94%)
-No, please comment. (1, 5%)

Question 6 If No to Question 5, what should the Board do about the current surplus?
(1 Commenter)

-I suggest donating more money to ARCWP and PCS in honor of our ordained presiders and PCS's mission of fostering religious studies in contemporary theology and spirituality.

Question 7 Should special additional donations be made as needs arise and funds remain available?

-Agree (16, 100%)
-Disagree

Question 8 In these Global listings, please rank ONLY 4 of the following with your preference from 1 to 4, with "1" being the most important. (n= 18, average rank)

(1.9) -Coalition of Immokalee Workers
(2.1) -Food for the Poor
(3.1) -Mary's Pence
(3.3) -Other:*
(4.6) -Other:*

* Due to an error, these suggestions were not collected.

Question 9 In these Local listings, please rank ONLY 4 of the following with your preference from 1 to 4, with "1" being the most important. (n=16, average rank)

(1.6) -All Faiths Food Bank (Sarasota area)
(3.0) -Meals on Wheels (Englewood area)
(2.5) -Church Women United (Carbondale, Il)
(3.2) -Seasons of Sharing (Sarasota area)
(5.3) Other:*
(5.7) Other:*

* Due to an error, these suggestions were not collected.

Question 10 Do you access the website for MMOJ: Marymotherofjesus.net

-Weekly (4, 22%)
-Monthly (1, 5%)
-Occasionally (11, 61%)
-Not at all (2,11%)

Question 11 What additional materials would you like to see posted on the website? (6 Commenters)

-Guest articles
-Current changes at other liturgies
-Sacramental services provided
-Links to PCS and ARCWP
-I would like to enjoy life experiences comments from members, each is a universe and little chance to share those universes online, but at the same time, I am concerned about the World Wide Web in general and privacy.
-This is going to require more thought.

Potential MMOJ Activities

Question 12 Who would you like to invite as a speaker? (8 Commenters)

Specific:
-Pope Francis
-Chan leader of blue lotus meditation center
-Joan Chittister
-Ilia Delio
-Karen Haugen
-Jacqui Lewis
-Brian McLaren
-Richard Roark

General:
-Scripture scholar
-A Local Educator who is teaching future educators.

Question 13 What topics would you like a speaker to address? (8 Commenters)

Spiritualty/Pray
- spirituality and justice
- Daily prayer and meditation
- Where are we as a spiritual community and where are we going
- Spirituality in todays world
- Spirituality-

Modern Life
- Relationship with institutional RC church
- Application of gospel values in today's political environment.
- Practical actions for seniors because of limitations of aging.
- Practicing our faith in our time
- How to continue with freedom our path, despite Church refusal to accept women.
-Surviving and Reaching Out in the Trump Era

Other
- Apocrypha

Question 14 Would you help work on a monthly newsletter?
- Yes
- Perhaps (4, 27%)
- No (11, 73%)

Question 15 Would you participate in a Day of Recollection?
- Yes (10, 62%)
- Perhaps (5, 31%)
- No (1, 6%)

Question 16 Would you participate in a Book Club?
- Yes (5, 31%)
- Perhaps (9, 56%)
- No (2, 12%)

Question 17 Would you attend a Zoom presentation on the Synod Meeting?
- Yes (6, 37%)
- Perhaps (5, 31%)
- No (5, 31%)

Comments on the survey itself: (10 Commenters)

Survey Problem [See Questions 8, 9 above]
-Couldn't add other organization - would like to add Habitat for Humanity.
-I could not enter text when, e.g., selecting "other."
-Limited my answers seem to be deleted. Paper survey might work better for me

Survey
-well done!
-Very thoughtful
-Thank you for the survey.
-Clearly stated and easy to fill out. Communicates welcoming of suggestions and openness to issues.
-I hope it collect a valuable info. I was in a blank moment myself to give a good feedback.
-Thanks

Other
-Not sure how to seek and assess growth and evolution as community.