

## Deanery 15: Common and Individual Parish Responses to Lay Advisory Board (LAB) Questions - July 2019

This document is a formulation of Deanery 15's responses to the LAB Questions that were asked of Parish Pastoral Councils in our deanery. The written responses reflect what was common about our responses as well as what each of our communities held as important but different from one another.

### Archdiocese of Saint Paul & Minneapolis LAY ADVISORY BOARD (LAB)

#### Deanery 15

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"As to discussion points coming out of the LAB for the Parish Reps of your deanery, there are four questions for you to formulate based on the experience of your deanery."

*Note: We were asked to complete the questions relative to our individual parishes. So we listed our responses in two sections: (a) those that were "common" across all parishes; (b) those that are uniquely important to individual parishes.*

1. What are the three positive things going on in your deanery?

Common:

Robust involvement of lay leadership and engaged ministry volunteers.  
Welcoming communities.  
Vibrant liturgies.

Additional individual parish positives:

Social Justice commitment and financial investment. (Pax Christi)  
Creation of a more Catholic environment. (St. Edward's)  
Financially strong. (St. Bonaventure)  
Being proactive with creating strategic plan. (St. Richard's)

2. What are the three most pressing things that need to be healed in your deanery? Please note that any emphasis on healing is not intended to dismiss other areas of healing. The last thing intended is to dismiss someone and cause additional hurt. At the same time, the process of healing for focal points will serve the healing of other hurts.

Common:

Lack of information, communication on what is being done to address abuse scandal at archdiocesan level and how to address accountability and deficit of trust in parish communities.

Addressing the sin and repairing the damage caused by the power structure resulting from clericalism.

Conflict between our Catholic faith and secular culture (such as social media) that minimize the importance of faith.

Additional individual parish items that need healing:

Keeping youth involved (e.g. after confirmation). (Pax Christi and St. Bonaventure)

Being embarrassed to say "Yes, I'm Catholic". (St. Richard's)

What three things could be done to help with healing in your deanery?

Common:

More transparency and communication on how the archdiocese is addressing justice for victims and prevention of clergy abuse.

Publicize the good things going on in the diocese.

Encourage the church to be relevant to people's lives and provide support for living our faith and having impact on the secular world.

Additional individual responses for help with healing:

Empower laity to celebrate their baptism and live out their discipleship in the church. (Pax Christi and St. Bonaventure)

3. The Archbishop is seeking input from each deanery of three to five areas of priority for the local Church before next meeting.

Common responses:

Social justice and outreach to the poor and struggling.

Increase engagement in faith and community. This includes volunteerism and lay leadership.

Keep a vibrant, growing church (for example – build relevance for youth, embrace diversity of our various cultures).

Increase evangelization in its many forms.

Additional individual parish priorities:

Need to get parishes and communities working together. (St. Richard's)

Heal damage from clergy abuse scandal, drive accountability, trust and robust prevention. (Pax Christi)

Implement new 2019 - 2021 Parish Vision Plan. Overarching goals: (1) Leadership Development; (2) Emerging Generations; (3) Intentional Diversity; (4) Communications, Marketing and Technology; (5) Safety and Facilities Management. (St. Bonaventure)

Completion of new worship technology. (St. Edward's)