

How Prayerful Are We?

Through the generosity of the Diocesan Catholic Foundation and the Mark and Sally Follett Fund, the diocese recently conducted a random sample study in 20 parishes to determine current levels of registered parishioners' awareness of Stewardship: prayer, service and sharing. Copies of the entire study should be available in the next several weeks. Some excerpts from the "prayer" section follow.

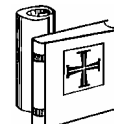
We were curious as to how people in the Diocese of Green Bay nurture their prayer life. Our study suggests that clearly 60% of registered Catholics attend mass on a weekly basis. For those age 60 and older, 80% say they attend mass weekly, however, only 23% of those age 18-40 reported attendance at weekly mass. Encouraging and challenging numbers at the same time.

Next in line was morning or evening prayer with 53% reporting they did one or the other every day. Of those age 60 and older, 69% say morning or evening prayers while 31% of those 18-40 acknowledge this practice. Interesting to note the younger crowd appears to be more likely to say daily prayers than to attend Sunday mass. The relatively high incidence of morning and evening prayer may provide some insight into the success of the diocesan *Lenten Little Black Prayer Book*.

Overall, 44% say they pray before meals daily or frequently. Age differences show that 51% of those over 60 say meal prayers daily or frequently while only 29% of those age 18-40 claim this practice.

Other results of the study indicate the following about other types of prayer:

- 11% say the rosary daily
- 6% read from scripture daily
- 4% always attend special parish religious services
- 3% gather with family members for daily prayer at non-meal times



During Lent this year, as part of the diocesan Stewardship Thrust, every parish will be asked to put some time and energy into helping parishioners grow and nurture their prayer life. According to the study, 14% of the respondents reported that during Lent last year they were able to nurture their prayer life at the "above average" or "very much" levels. As you prepare for Lent this year, how will your parish help parishioners nurture this critical aspect of Stewardship - A Way of Life?

Written by Mark Mogilka, Director, Pastoral Services