



**Married or
Single, You
Still Need to
be
ENGAGED!**

Our community is comprised of people like me.
I help make it what it is.

Our parish will be welcoming . . .
if I help others feel at home.

Our church will be full and vibrant . . .
if I actively participate in liturgy and invite others
to fill our church.

Our parish will justly serve the needs of others . . .
if I lovingly lighten the burdens of my brothers
and sisters.

Our parish will give generously . . .
if I contribute with a charitable heart.

A culture of appreciation will grow in our
community . . .
if I thank others for sharing their strengths.

With the help of God, I shall dedicate myself to
the task of being all the things that I want my
Parish to be.

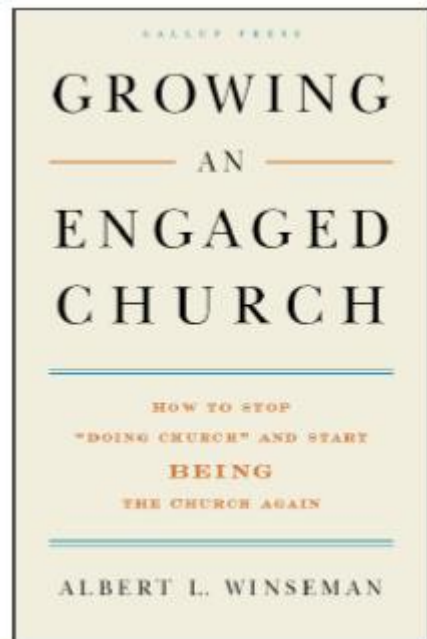
Grant, O Lord we pray, Strengthen our faith and
guide our community as we strive to be fertile
ground for **Engagement**.

We ask this through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

Engagement Prayer



Growing an Engaged Church



How to stop “doing Church” and start being the Church again

What is engagement?



Engagement is the degree of belonging an individual has with his/her parish.

Engaged parishioners use the language of “family” and have a strong emotional connection to their parish.

They want to know that they are valued, and they are able to make meaningful contributions to the mission of the Church.

They share their talents to accomplish something bigger than themselves.

What's the
difference
between
Engagement
and
Involvement?



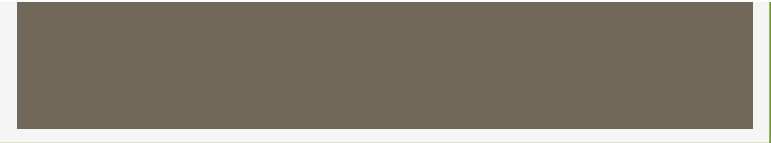
Involvement is
what I do in my
parish

Engagement is
how I feel about
my parish



Why is it important for the life and health of the Church to have engaged parishioners?

- Engaged parishioners are loyal and have a strong psychological and emotional attachment to the parish
- They are more spiritually committed, more likely to invite friends, co-workers and family members to parish events
- They give more financially and in commitment of time



The goal of every parish is to be a Church that is spiritually healthy – one that shares the Good News of Jesus Christ

- Increasing Engagement will have a tremendous impact on a parish. Spiritual Commitment will improve as well as the overall spiritual health of the parish.

12 Items of Engagement

- As a member of my parish, I know what is expected of me
- In my parish, my spiritual needs are met



12 Items of Engagement

- *In my parish, I regularly have the opportunity to do what I do best
- In the last month, I have received praise or recognition from someone in my parish
- The spiritual leaders in my parish seem to care about me as a person
- There is someone in my parish who encourages my spiritual development





12 Items of Engagement

- As a member of my parish, my opinions seem to count
- The mission of my parish makes me feel my participation is important
- The other members of my parish are committed to spiritual growth
- Aside from family members, I have a best friend in my parish

12 Items of Engagement

- In the last six months, someone in my parish has talked to me about the progress of my spiritual growth
- In my parish, I have opportunities to learn and grow





9 Items of Spiritual Commitment (Attitudes)

- My faith is involved in every aspect of my life
- Because of my faith, I have meaning and purpose in my life
- My faith gives me an inner peace
- I am a person who is spiritually committed



9 Items of Spiritual Commitment (Behaviors)

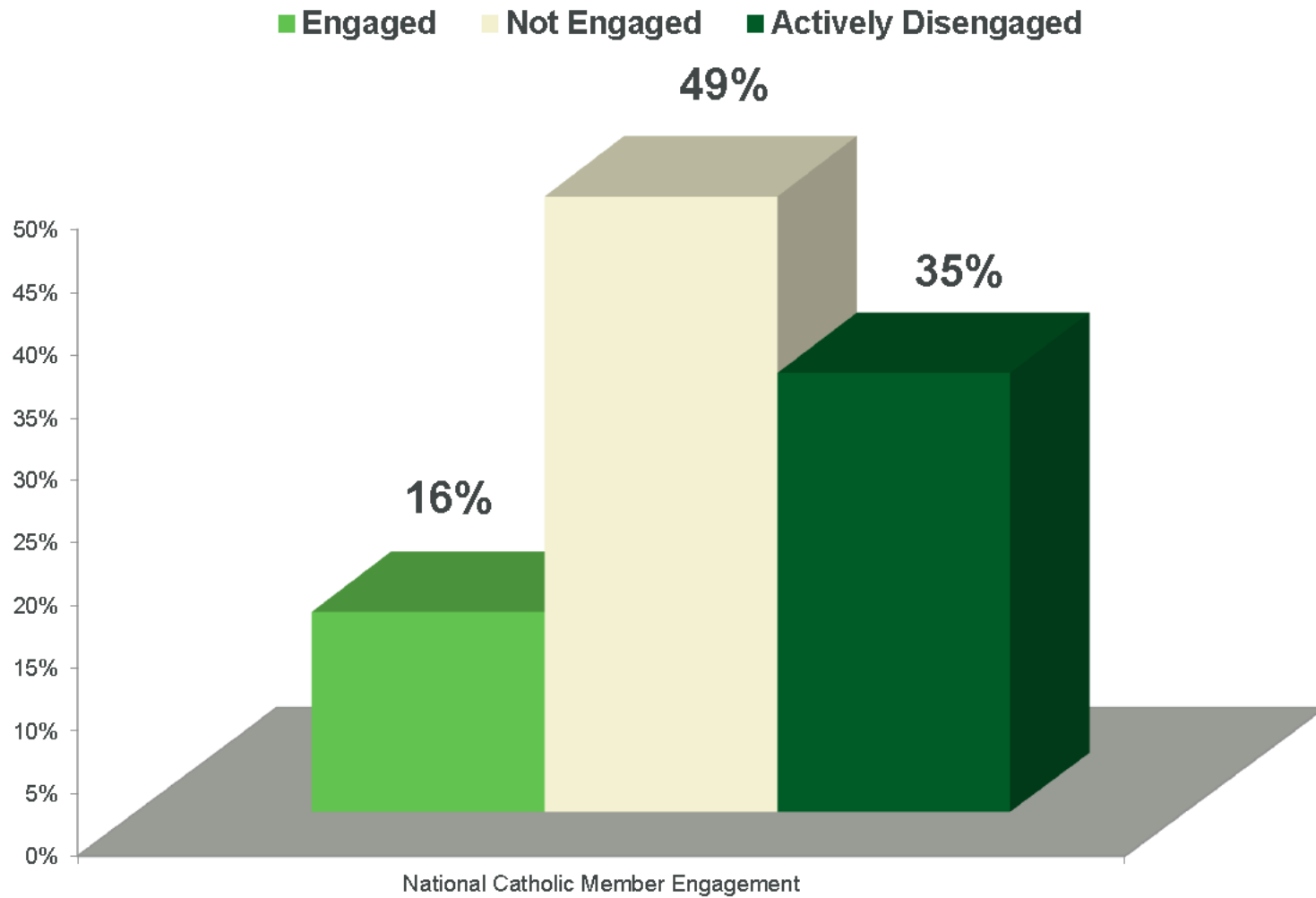
- I spend time in worship or prayer every day
- Because of my faith, I have forgiven people who have hurt me deeply
- My faith has called me to develop my given strengths
- I will take unpopular stands to defend my faith
- I speak words of kindness to those in need of encouragement



One Parish's Experience

St. Joseph Catholic Church
Vancouver, WA USA

Catholic Engagement



GALLUP

Three Types of Parishioners

1. Engaged

- Loyal and have a strong emotional and psychological connection with the parish
- More spiritually committed
- More likely to invite others to parish events
- Gives more financially and in commitment of time





2. Not Engaged

- They might attend Mass regularly but are not psychologically attached to the parish
- Their connection is more social than spiritual
- They give moderately but not sacrificially
- They do minimal amount of volunteering in the community
- They are less likely to invite others and more likely to leave

3. Actively Disengaged

- They may only go to Mass once or twice a year at Christmas or Easter
- They may be registered but not know the pastor's name
- However, they might be regular attenders, physically present but psychologically absent
- They are unhappy with their parish and insist on sharing their unhappiness with just about everyone
- C.A.V.E. dwellers = **C**omplain **A**bout **V**irtually **E**verything



Focus on the Engaged

- How many hours do you have in a day?
- Focus on those parishioners who are ALL IN
- They are the ones who are connected emotionally to the parish
- They consider their fellow parishioners as family
- They love their parish
- They give of their time in prayer, talent in serving, and financial resources in support of the parish



Invite the Not Engaged

- Those who are not engaged may be happy and satisfied with their parish
- Sometimes people just need to be invited personally to a greater opportunity and participation within the life of the Church
- This requires an invitation; one that is warm and welcoming; personal and authentic



Three Action Items to Effect a Positive Change in Engagement

- Clarify the Expectations
- Identify the Strengths and Talents of each parishioner
- Host, encourage and nurture small faith groups

Engagement Item #1

- As a member of my parish, I know what is expected of me



Engagement Item #3

- In my parish, I regularly have the opportunity to do what I do best



Engagement Items #4, 6

- In the last month, I have received recognition or praise from someone in my parish
- There is someone in my parish who encourages my spiritual growth



Closing Prayer

We pray for a Church where no one feels alone

We pray for a Church that loves God and each other

We pray for a Church that values each person's
strengths

We pray for a Church that is guided by the Holy Spirit to
rediscover itself

We pray for a Church that is fully engaged

We pray for a Church that focuses on love, peace,
justice and compassion

We pray for a Church in which everyone is welcoming

We pray for a Church that proclaims the Good News of
Jesus Christ

We pray that **we will be** that Church!

Amen.

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