

By the Ignite Your Faith Committee

“I have heard such positive feedback about *Ignite Your Faith* from fellow parishioners. There is a renewed hunger for deepening our spirituality and the church’s campaign has been quite inspiring.”

Tod Worner

Although the weekend of Sept. 17, 2016 seems like it was just a few weeks ago, it has already been more than four months since we kicked off our *Ignite Your Faith* initiative. We are now adding the next building block to becoming a Dynamic Catholic...*Study*.

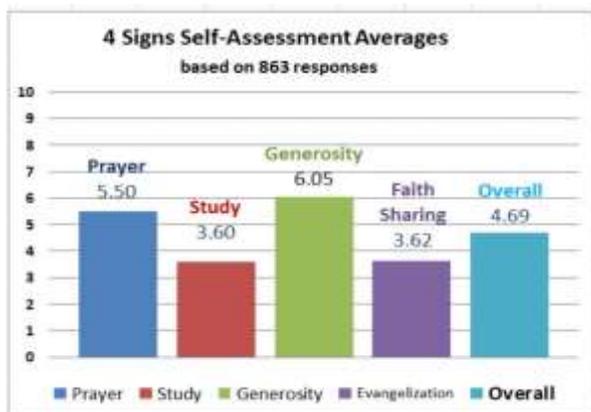
As we add on, let’s reflect on where we’ve been. During the kick-off weekend of this spiritual campaign, everyone was handed a candle upon entering the church. Fr. Mike introduced the *Ignite Your Faith* initiative during his homily and all the candles were lit during a short ceremony and blessing. It was a beautiful sight to see and a growing symbol of how we want our faith to burn brightly.

During Fr. Mike’s homily parishioners, young and old, anonymously completed a survey, rating themselves on a 1-10 scale as to where they see themselves in Prayer, Study, Generosity and Evangelization as a Catholic. We received 863 responses and the breakdown is below. We thought this would be helpful to gauge our progress through the four phases. Parishioners will be asked to fill out a follow up survey after each phase.



Once Mass was over each family received a copy of Matthew Kelly’s book, *The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic*, to read and follow along on our journey.

Two weeks later we introduced the Prayer phase of *Ignite Your Faith*. During Masses we had each person fill out a Prayer pledge form to state what they would work on during the Prayer phase. We received 687 forms. As people left Mass volunteers handed out The Prayer Process card as a helpful guide for individual prayer.



The first significant community event was the small group book discussion of the Prayer chapters of *The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic*, facilitated by Tod Worner. More than 50 people attended and all left feeling spiritually fed and ready for more. Next came an evening of prayer through word and song with Fr. Michael Joncas. The program followed the four types of prayer using real life examples, scripture readings, worship hymns, and a call for each of us to reflect on our own relationship and ways of communicating with God. Over 200 parishioners were in attendance for this grace-filled evening. Finally, on January 28, 120 adults attended a prayer retreat featuring internationally-known speaker Ryan O’Hara and worship music provided by our own Connor Flanagan and Andrew Allen and Connor’s worship band. The morning of prayer and inspiration proved to be a wonderful way to cap off our prayer season.

A DOSE OF INSPIRATION

Let's say you are just reading about this for the first time or didn't get into a prayer routine...it is never too late. Each day is a new opportunity to begin. Here are some inspiring thoughts from some fellow parishioners.

"I am more deliberate about prayer, which for me is meditation. I am not big on rote prayer. Meditation clears my mind, which then allows God to speak to me, maybe not through words, but by observing and listening to others who God puts in my life to help me with my spiritual journey. Igniting our spiritual fire has never been more timely."

Scott Sayer

"Since receiving The Prayer Process card, I have been successful at praying at night! Each morning when I make my bed, I put the prayer card on my pillow. That way when I return to the bed at night, I am reminded to pray before going to bed. I pray the 7 steps on the card, one thing per step to keep it simple. It literally takes me less than two minutes!"

Graeme Braithwaite

Parishioner Terri Obermiller found herself worried about her son's struggle to find employment and sought peace through a novena to her patron saint, St. Therese. After concluding the novena, a miracle happened. A wilted rose of Terri's began to bloom again, giving her a sign from God that everything was going to work out. Recently, God answered her prayers and her son was offered a job.

Study

FEBRUARY — MAY 2017

Time to find your copy of *The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic* as we enter into the Study phase of *Ignite Your Faith* which kicked off during the weekend of February 11 and 12. Now that we have been practicing growing our relationship with God through prayer, Matthew Kelly names the second sign as "all about our continuous learning, the daily discipline of exploring the way of Jesus and the genius of Catholicism." Study will look different for each of us, as we are all in different places on our faith journeys. There will be many opportunities to learn about our beautiful faith in phase two and listed are some of the upcoming events to look forward to in the next few months.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

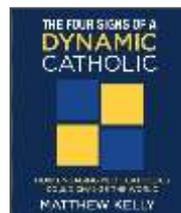
- INITIATIVE OVERVIEW
- EVENTS
- RESOURCES (INCLUDING PAST BULLETIN ARTICLES AND LINKS)
- KICK-OFF VIDEO
- SIGN UP FOR MONTHLY E-FLAME ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

WWW.ST-BARTS.ORG/WORSHIP/IGNITEYOURFAITH



FEB. 27
7:00 PM
NIC DAVIDSON
SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

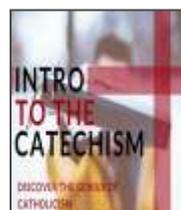
Nic is an energetic and funny speaker who is on fire for his faith. A convert from Assemblies of God, Nic brings delightful humor coupled with his deep knowledge of the faith to all of his speaking engagements.



MARCH 20
6:45—7:45 PM
SMALL GROUP
BOOK DISCUSSION:
The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic

Led by Tod Worner

Topic will be the *Study* chapter (pages 75–106).



MAY 2017
DATE AND TIME TBD
INTRODUCTION TO THE CATECHISM: Discover the Genius of Catholicism

Presented by Andrew Allen, Director of Faith Formation and Connor Flanagan, Director of Youth Ministry.