



Year of Renewal Tuesday Evening Gathering Participant Feedback to Share with the SJF Community

After a week delay because of snow, the fourth Year of Renewal Tuesday Evening Gathering took place on February 16 with an enthusiastic group of approximately 75 people. Fr. Jerry provided an excellent overview of conscience formation. This was followed by both group discussion and brief comments from a panel of St. John Fisher parishioners.

Upon completion of the session, attendees were asked to submit a brief survey that asked for reactions to the material presented, list any surprises and respond to the question “What ideas do you want to carry away with you?” Following is a summary of the 51 responses received.

Reactions

- Several positive comments about the evening were expressed: well done, excellent job, inspirational, great presentation, affirming, challenging, grounding and uplifting.
- There were also many comments expressing an appreciation of the panel discussion.
- A good visual was provided to help us remember the key points.
- The “path” metaphor describes the faith journey in a way that is easy to understand.
- It is good to hear other’s stories about families—it is not only our children who have left the Catholic faith, leaving us feeling guilty.
- This program is a great way to help our community deepen our faith and commitment to one another.
- Our future is full of hope; we can each make a difference.
- The information presented this evening is important to hear and reflect on. It provides more than I learned in my “faith formative” years.
- I liked the explanation of both the personal and community faith; until now, my whole life has been at a second grade level of faith – accept the rules of the church.
- Fr. Jerry describes the church at its best, despite the realities of injustice within its leadership.
- The table discussion was good; good input from the community.
- This was a good opportunity to delve deeper into Year of Renewal issues.
- I liked and learned from the “track” analogy.
- Those who participate in this need to stand together and include more in the discussion.
- It is important to challenge our values and engage in discussion.
- It would have been interesting to hear the panel members discuss times of conflict and doubt.
- I was moved by the love within the group and the willingness to share.

Surprises

- Others have made difficult decisions using conscience formation.
- I loved the prayer, song and discussions.
- The personal witnessing from panel members was inspirational.
- The readiness to diversify from Rome is surprising.
- It was surprising to hear others vocalize our ideals: raise children with simplicity and intentionally.
- I was surprised there were not more questions about Catholic Social Teaching.
- Each person can help each other.
- I needed to make up my own mind to not feel guilty about breaking the rules.
- I could relate to so much of what was said.



Year of Renewal Tuesday Evening Gathering Participant Feedback to Share with the SJF Community

Surprises (continued)

- It was more powerful than expected. The table discussion opened my mind to my own judgments; I will be more open.
- The concept of the railroad track was surprising.
- The importance of community was stressed.
- I was very happy to hear mentioned how inappropriate the bishop's comments about gay people were.
- It was surprising that you were explaining what I have been thinking and sharing with others.
- Raising our kids here but them not being Catholic – I am glad this was addressed.
- This deepens what I believe.
- I am surprised by the growth I am experiencing in my faith at this point in my life.
- There is a lot for me to learn about working for the greater community through proper political channels.

Ideas to Carry Away

- It is important to share between the individual and the community for the growth of both.
- As a community, we are stronger.
- Bringing something “to the table” is important.
- Everyone has a role to play
- We must live our faith every day.
- Social justice is essential.
- There is a need to teach our children how to form conscience.
- We must continue to be leaders of faith for our teenage sons – they will reap the benefits later in life.
- We can help others in many different ways.
- We are all in this together; we must appreciate the support offered by others.
- There is a need to be a catalyst within our community.
- Finding a good community is important to strengthen our faith.
- The sense of family, including living with less is a worthwhile message.
- We should follow the path laid out by the community and then help others on their journey.
- I would love to hear more from Dot about social justice issues.
- Bringing the faith to our children is our responsibility.
- Doing things with intention is important.
- As an individual and as a community, we should express God's love within a strong commitment of our church.
- I have learned about the resources needed to help form conscience.