

Discerning a New Season – Survey Results

Thank you to everyone who submitted a response to the “Discerning a New Season” survey! We had 70 responses from our community, which is terrific! We’ve read all of the submissions and comments, and below, we share a summary, charts, and some points for clarification and reflection.

Response Summary:

- Most respondents want the Queen of Apostles Community to continue to meet weekly (47%) or every two weeks (23.5%) in our new season, whether for Mass or another type of gathering
 - A monthly meeting option (19.1%) was the other top response
- Continuing to celebrate Mass together is important to QAC, even if we can’t do it every week
 - 24.3% of respondents said celebrating Mass together every week is absolutely a priority
 - 28.6% ranked celebrating Mass together weekly as a 4/5 importance
 - 27.1% ranked celebrating Mass together weekly as 3/5 importance
 - Celebrating Mass together with regularity (at least monthly) is important to our community
 - 52.2% said celebrating Mass together at least once a month is a priority
 - 33.3% ranked monthly Mass as 4/5 importance
 - 7.2% ranked monthly Mass as 3/5 importance
- Our current QAC indicates it is very important that our new community be part of the Marianist family
 - 22.9% of respondents marked 5/5 (being part of the Marianist family is very important)
 - 35.7% marked 4/5
 - 21.4% marked 3/5
 - 8.6% marked 2/5
 - 11.4% marked 1/5 (being part of the Marianist family doesn’t matter)
- Most of the community is open to partnering with a parish to allow access to Sacraments, perhaps shared liturgies, etc.
 - 29.0% marked 5/5 (yes, absolutely willing to partner)
 - 31.9% marked 4/5
 - 27.5% marked 3/5
 - 8.7% marked 2/5
 - 2.9% marked 1/5
- The term “social justice” to our community means both financial and tangible support.

Sampling of Comments from Open-Ended Responses:

“Participating in Sunday Eucharist is central in my life, as is remaining part of this amazing community of believers. If we have to celebrate Mass together in another parish, I would be okay about that.”

“QAC started as a community that shared liturgy together and COVID taught us that we can survive without a weekly mass. Celebrating liturgy together with another parish will allow us to share our gifts with others.”

“Although I'd love for things to stay as they are, I know we have to adapt and embrace the change. If partnering with another church is an option, I'm intrigued how that would look and work.”

“Our family will attend Mass every Sunday. When QAC community can celebrate Mass, we will be there, otherwise we will attend somewhere else.”

“I am a Catholic and wish to remain a Catholic. Weekly mass with my QAC family would be wonderful. But this is probably not possible. Once a month Mass or as many times as possible will be ok. I will attend the non-QAC Sundays at another Catholic Church. I look forward to seeing my QAC friends as often as we are able to meet.”

“The Catholic traditions are not that important to us. We are far more interested in the community and the people and have found the most friendly, loving and caring family at QAC. I feel the Catholic rules and laws are man-made, and it's far more important to treat others as you would like to be treated rather than getting hung up on some rules. However, since we were raised Catholic it's probably the most comfortable situation if we were forced to change churches.”

“I have been blessed to be an active member of QAC for a very long time. We are family, and we have celebrated births, baptisms, weddings, the sacraments, and celebrations of life – TOGETHER. While I am flexible on how we go into our new season, many of us need the presence of each other in many ways, the togetherness we crave.”

“Without our celebration of the Eucharist weekly (our way), something will be missing. We somehow need to be able to celebrate Eucharist the QAC way, weekly, monthly or often.”

“I believe that QAC will continue to remain a community of love for as long as people are willing to belong and support it in substantive change. The focus of the community may change, but individuals will choose to belong (or not) based upon their beliefs and needs. As long as there are two or more gathered as QAC, QAC will exist.”

Points for Clarification and Reflection:

- We received a couple comments in the survey that UD is closing QAC. This is not true. The Society of Mary (Marianists) are both the founders of UD and the religious order our parish operates within. UD has no decision-making power in the future of QAC.
- There is a lot of discrepancy within the community about what it means to be Marianist and live the Marianist charism. Most seem to have a grasp of the charism (even if we don't all use the same words to do it!). Themes of social justice (both in service/acts and financial support), community, inclusivity, and mission are very prevalent in the responses from our community – and are all parts of the Marianist charism. We're living it in many ways already, and there's an opportunity for "formal" community education and formation in what it means to be Marianist.
- QAC has been on a bit of an island from the rest of the local Marianist family. There's an opportunity to move forward more collaboratively, knowing much has changed over the course of QAC's history and there's an opportunity to create new relationships with Marianist priests, brothers, sisters and laity in Dayton and beyond. This could help us create a renewed community that retains our inclusive and welcoming approach within the support network of Marianist life.
- To be Marianist is to be part of the Catholic family, focused on continuing Mary's mission of bringing Jesus into the world through acts of service. Some respondents felt they must choose being Marianist or being Catholic, but there's no need to choose because Marianist is a Catholic order (like Franciscan, Jesuits, Dominicans, etc.). To learn more about the Marianists, their social justice work, history and so much more, visit www.marianist.com. (This graphic provides a short overview: www.marianist.com/infographic)
- There was some confusion in the responses about use of the chapel. To our knowledge, the Marianists and Mt. St. John are not closing the chapel. We cannot continue to be a non-territorial parish because the Marianists are not able to dedicate a priest to our parish on an ongoing basis after late next year. If we remain in the Marianist family in our new season, we believe the chapel will still be available to our community for gatherings.

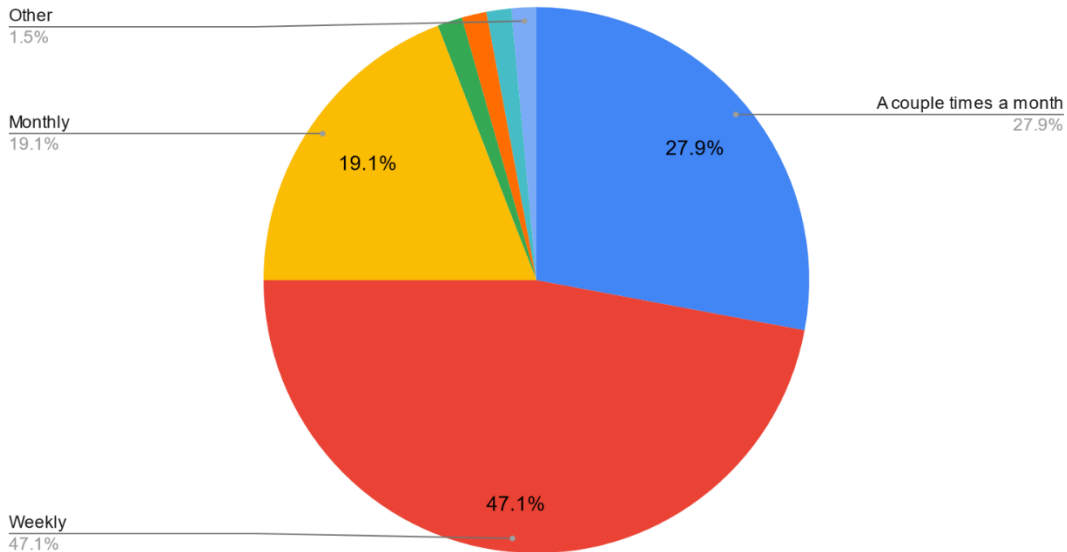
Next Steps

Please join us in praying about the results and the direction of our community. The transition coordinators will share a recommendation with the community mid-September on next steps.

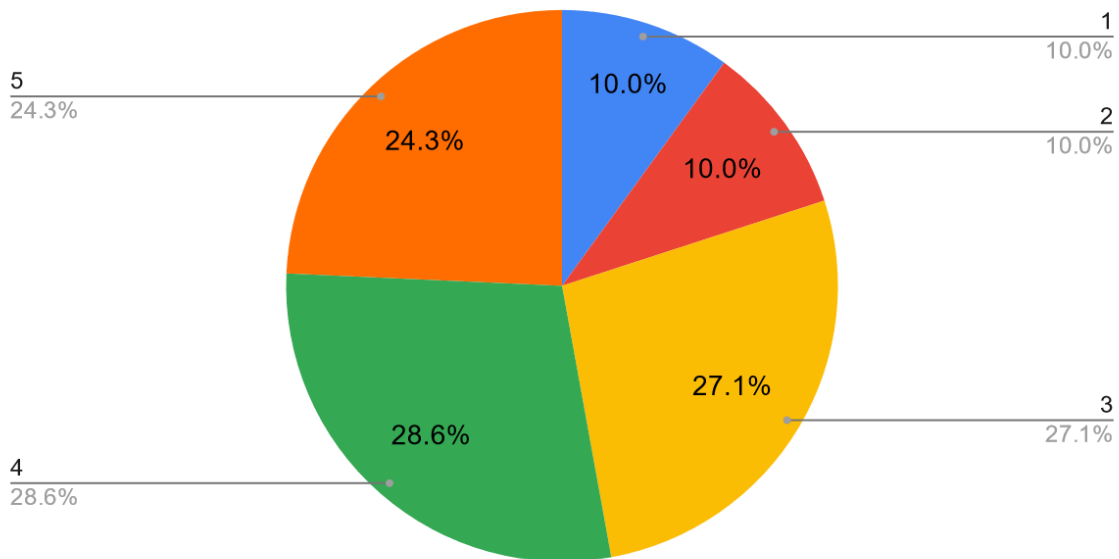
Charts of Results

Below are several charts created from the 70 survey responses. Please note that when a question had an "other" field, those responses show with pieces of the pie (like the first chart below). Notable/thematic comments representing those responses are included on page 2.

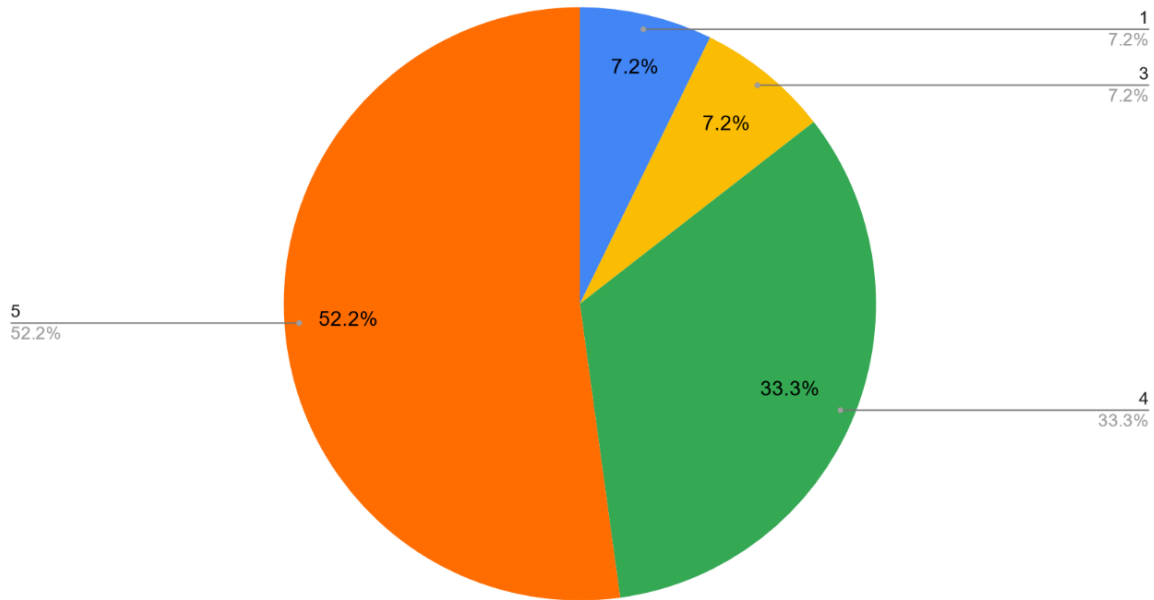
Regardless of whether its for Mass or a different type of gathering, how often would you like QAC to meet as a full community in our new season?



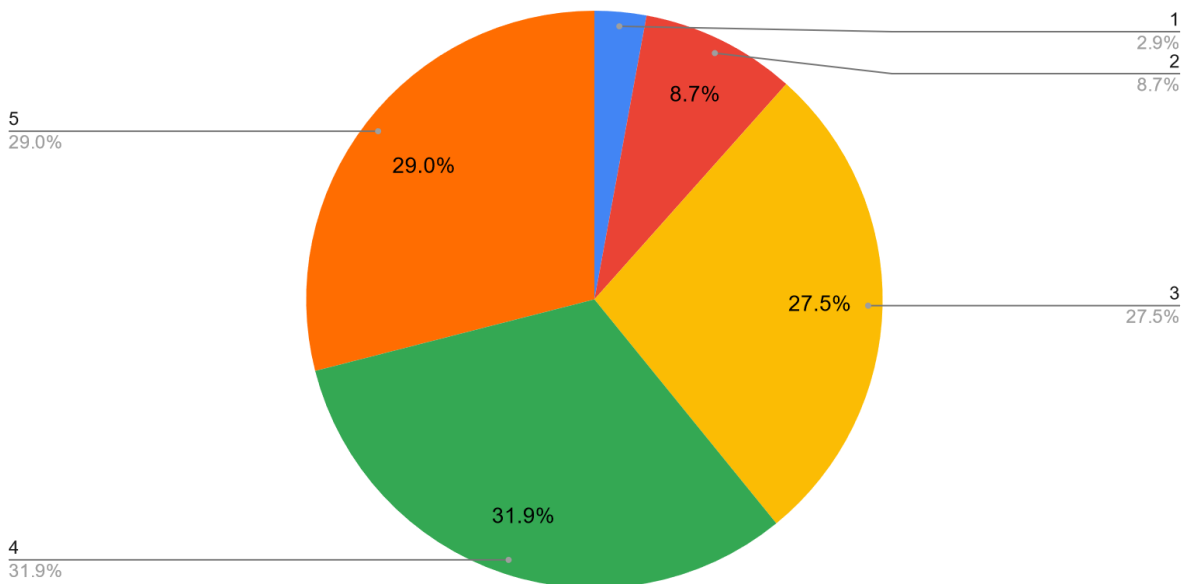
How important is it to you for our QAC community to celebrate Mass together every Sunday? (1 = not priority, 5 = absolutely)



How important is it to you for our QAC community to celebrate Mass together with some regularity (at least once a month), but not weekly?



How would you generally feel about partnering with a parish to allow access to Sacraments, perhaps shared liturgies, etc., while still maintaining a sense of QAC as a distinct community? (1 = no, thank you; 5 = yes, absolutely)



How important is it to you that our new community be part of the Marianist family? (1=doesn't matter, 5 = very important)

