

New Season Gatherings

Frequency, Day, and Time Recommendation

Presented by: New Gatherings Task Force

Wisdom

“There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heavens.” – Ecclesiastes 3:1

“We have been urged to preach in season and out of season. It has been foreseen that the world will not always listen to us. We must nevertheless bear witness to the truth. God will see to the fruits in his own good time.” – Blessed William Joseph Chaminade

The Objective

For the New Gatherings Task Force to lead the community in discernment of the frequency, day(s), and time(s) of gathering as a Lay Marianist community beginning January 2024

The Process

- New Gatherings Task Force is the group responsible for gathering formats and frequency/day/time recommendations to the community
- Gathering format recommendation presented August 20
- Gathering community input is a key part of this process
 - Community survey (Aug 30 - Sept 17) - 90 responses
 - Community meeting and discussion (Sept 24)
 - Community input form (Sept 24 - Oct 10)
- Draft recommendation presented October 22

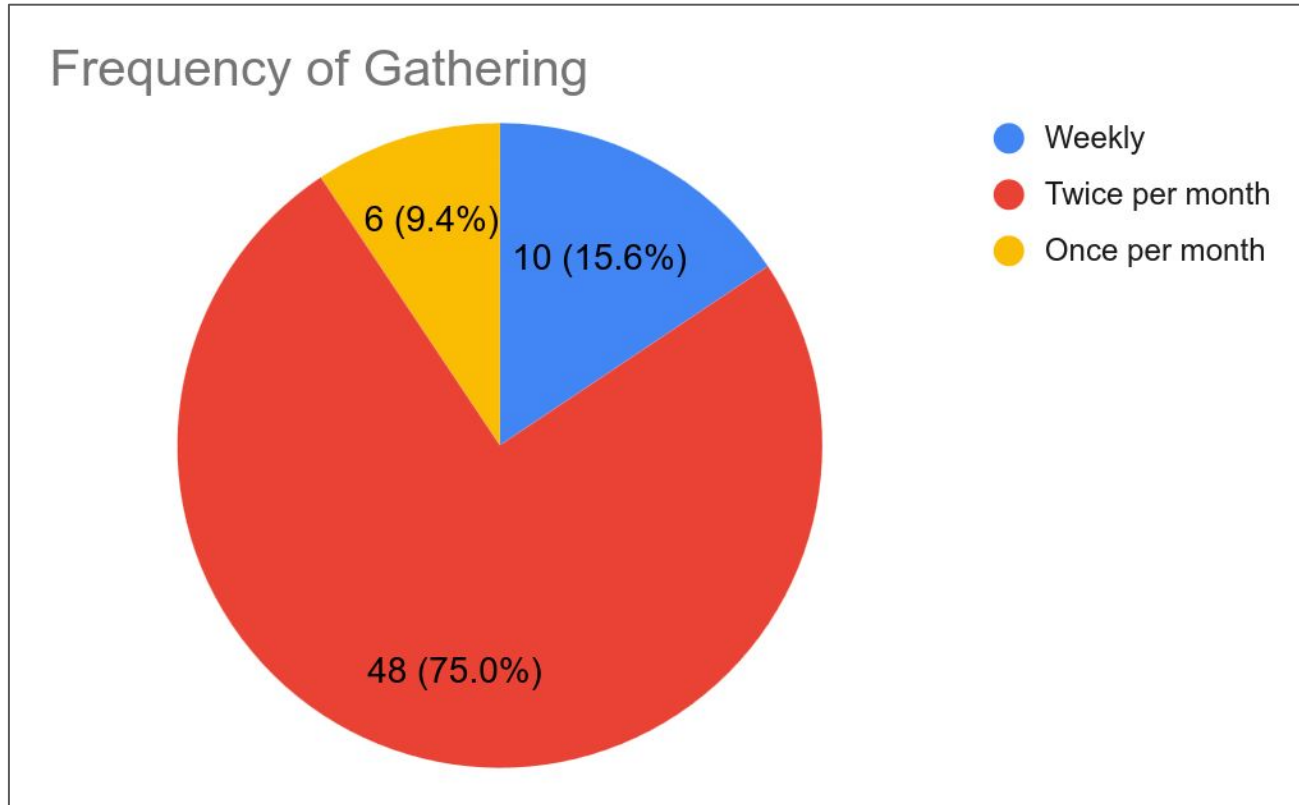
Community Input Form Results & Discussion

Input Form Overview

- The survey asked 3 questions on what the COMMUNITY needs:
 - Frequency of Gathering - Weekly, Twice per month, Once per month
 - Consistency of Gathering - A consistent schedule, A schedule changing with the seasons
 - Day & Time of Gathering - Sunday morning, Sunday afternoon, Sunday evening, Wed eve.
- **64 total responses** - 41 paper and 23 online

This briefing will present the data from the input forms and the recommendation of the task for to the community for discernment

Frequency of Gathering Results



Frequency of Gathering Considerations

- Significant majority recommends that we gather twice per month
 - Significant shift since the first survey
- Some of us feel a loss of gathering every week
 - We should be sensitive to this real grief
- Several creative ideas have come forward with what to do with the “other” weeks of the month
 - Social justice activities, joining other parishes in groups, socializing, etc.
 - These are likely to be things people from our community do, but may or may not be formal community activities

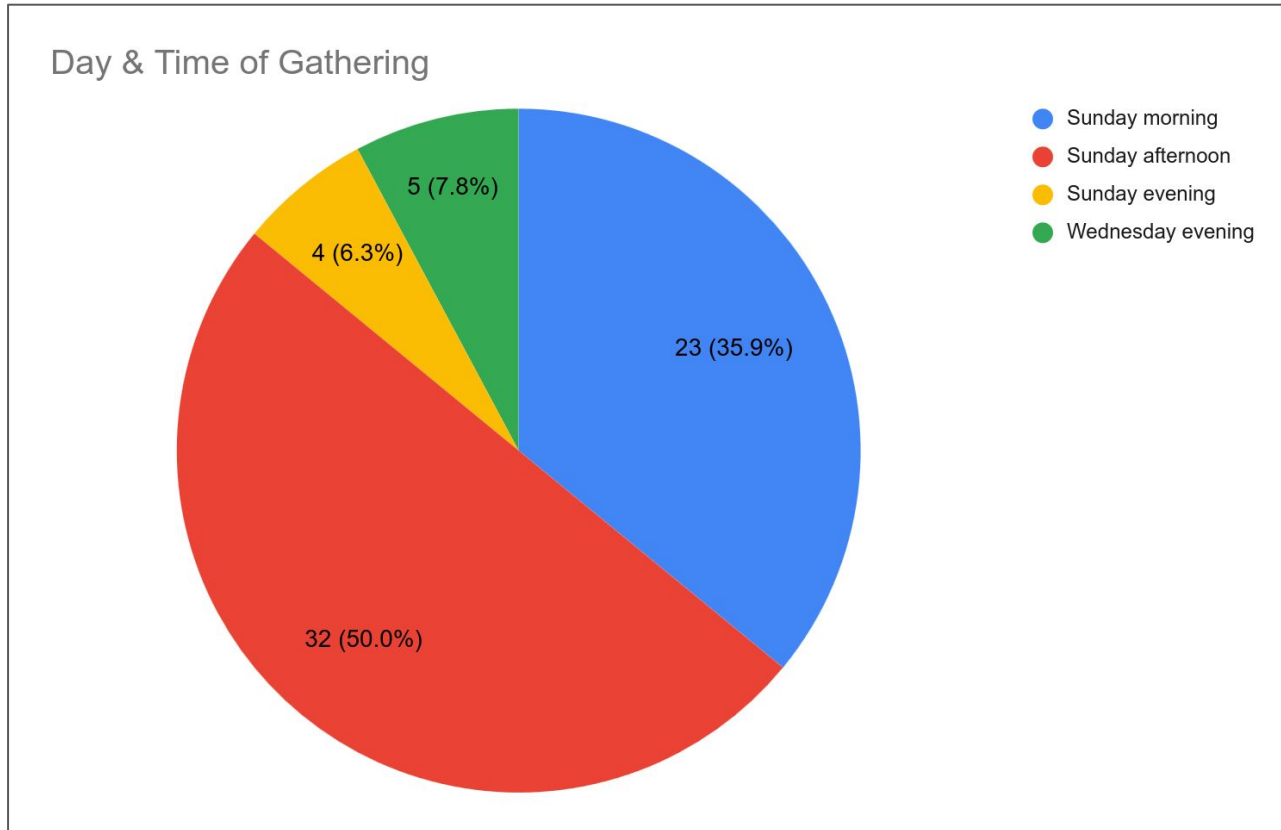
Consistency of Gathering Results



Consistency of Gathering Considerations

- Significant majority prefer to gather on a consistent schedule
 - Majority increased slightly over the first survey
- Frequently shared opinion that gathering twice per month makes the consistency feel even more manageable/desirable

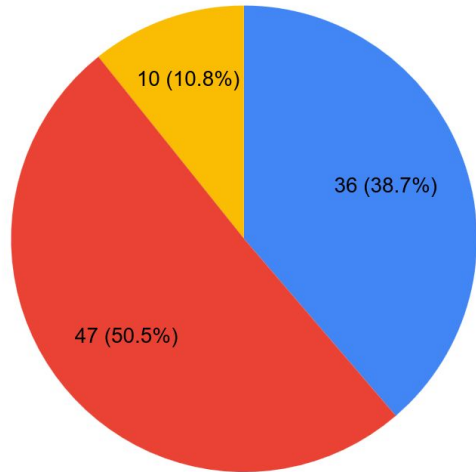
Gathering Time Results



First & Second Survey - Sunday and Wednesday

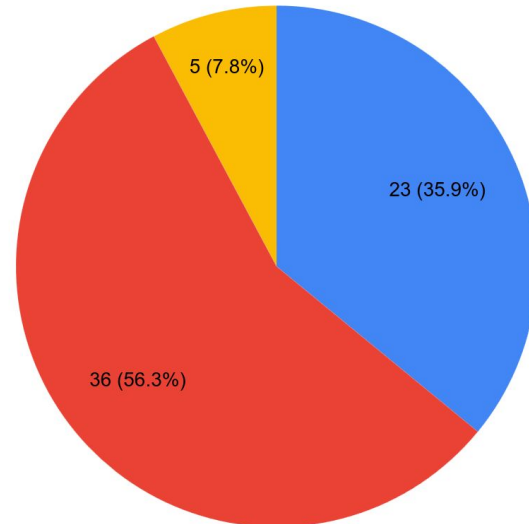
First Survey

● Sunday morning ● Sunday afternoon/evening ● Wednesday evening



Second Survey

● Sunday morning ● Sunday afternoon / evening ● Wednesday evening



Gathering Time Considerations

- Majority of the community prefers a Sunday afternoon gathering time, and a significant minority prefers Sunday morning
- There was a shift toward Sunday afternoon between the two surveys
 - Some community members told us their minds were changed after the Sep meeting
- Some who prefer Sunday morning have said “if we’re only gathering twice per month, it’s not so burdensome for those who want to go to Mass/RE/etc on Sunday morning”
- Some who prefer Sunday afternoon have said “if we’re only gathering twice per month, there are free weeks for others to gather on Sunday morning for breakfast or joining together at a parish or socializing/camaraderie”

We’re not close to consensus – are we able to achieve it here?

Other Considerations

Gathering Times and Mass Times

Mass Times						
Parish	Day	Time	Sun morning	Sun afternoon	Sun evening	Wednesday evening
St Leonard Faith Community	Sunday	10:30 AM	Red	Green	Green	Green
	Saturday	4:30 PM	Green	Green	Green	Green
	Sunday (Spanish)	9:00 AM	Yellow	Green	Green	Green
	Sunday	11:00 AM	Red	Green	Green	Green
Immaculate Conception	Sunday	5:00 PM	Green	Yellow	Red	Green
Our Lady of Grace (Corpus Christi / Our Lady of Mercy)	Saturday	4:30 PM	Green	Green	Green	Green
	Sunday	9:00 AM	Red	Green	Green	Green
St Benedict the Moor	Saturday	4:30 PM	Green	Green	Green	Green
	Sunday	10:30 AM	Red	Green	Green	Green
	Saturday	5:00 PM	Green	Green	Green	Green
	Sunday	8:30 AM	Yellow	Green	Green	Green
Ascension	Sunday	11:00 AM	Red	Green	Green	Green
	Saturday	5:00 PM	Green	Green	Green	Green
	Sunday	8:30 AM	Yellow	Green	Green	Green
St Charles Boromeo	Sunday	10:30 AM	Red	Green	Green	Green
	Saturday	5:30 PM	Green	Green	Green	Green
	Sunday	8:00 AM	Yellow	Green	Green	Green
St Luke	Sunday	10:00 AM	Red	Green	Green	Green

Gathering Times and Parish Child & Youth Faith Formation

Child & Youth Faith Formation					Sun morning	Sun afternoon	Sun evening	Wednesday evening
Parish	Day	Start Time	End Time	Notes				
St Leonard Faith Community	N/A	N/A	N/A	Per website, at present they do not have				
Immaculate Conception	Tuesday	4:15 PM	5:45 PM	Ages 3 to K				
	Tuesday	6:30 PM	8:00 PM	Grades 7 & 8				
	Sunday	6:30 PM	8:30 PM	High School				
	Sunday	9:00 AM	10:45 AM	Ages 3 to grade 6				
Our Lady of Grace (Corpus Christi / Our Lady of Mercy)	Sunday	Morning	Morning	Morning time for family faith formation; TBD on specifics				
St Benedict the Moor	Sunday	Morning	Morning	Morning time for family faith formation; TBD on specifics				
Ascension	Sunday	9:40 AM	10:50 AM	Grades K to 8 (note: at St Albert)				
	Sunday	6:30 PM	8:30 PM	High School				
St Charles Boromeo	Tuesday	4:00 PM	5:15 PM	Grades 1 to 5				
	Sunday	6:30 PM	8:00 PM	Grades 6-8				
	Sunday	6:30 PM	8:00 PM	High School				
St Luke	Sunday	6:00 PM	6:00 PM	Grades 6-12				
	Wednesday	6:00 PM	7:15 PM	Grades 1-12				
	Sunday	9:45 AM	11:00 AM	Ages 3 to K				

Recommendation

Basis for Recommendation

- Deciding between Sunday morning and Sunday afternoon was extremely difficult
 - We want a unified community, but our community is divided on this issue with strong feelings on both sides
 - There is no possible outcome will align with everyone's preferences
 - Many, many, many individual, small group, and full community conversations about this issue over many months
- With prayer and in discernment with the data, ultimately the recommendation comes down to **Inclusivity**

Inclusivity in the New Community

From the Mission/Vision presented by the Branding Task Force:

Mission (who we are and what we do)

We are a community of disciples deeply rooted in love. We continuously work to be the holy people God calls us to be in our church and our world, embracing a “Martha and Mary” rhythm of spiritual growth and service. As part of the Marianist family, we passionately pursue social justice and practice radical hospitality to create an inclusive community open to all who seek belonging and accompaniment.

Values (our way of doing things to carry out our mission and vision; our culture/code of conduct)

Inclusive Community of Love

We are committed to journeying alongside one another in the joys and trials of life. We are called to build a community of love where each and every person is honored as a unique, beautiful, intentionally created child of God. Love is our guiding force, calling us to not only want the best for others, but to also take action to make good things happen.

The Task Force feels that we need to gather at a time that is inclusive of both our current community members and new ones we will invite

Recommendation

The community should gather consistently on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month at 3:00 in the afternoon

Basis for Recommendation

- **The Task Force believes Sunday afternoon is the most inclusive time for our inclusive community to gather**
- Twice per month gatherings is the clear majority preference after community discussion
- 1st and 3rd Sundays avoids some holiday weekends and allows us to begin gathering right away when the parish completes
- 3:00 allows us the possibility of attending Mass and/or RE at a parish on Sunday morning, ample time to set up beforehand, wrap up before it gets dark (to avoid driving after dark concerns), the option to sometimes have dinner together afterwards, avoiding naptime and bedtime concerns for young children, and can segue nicely into a Sunday evening youth group activity

Our community has been divided on issues before but has remained together

Next Steps

- Try to be open to the recommendation
- Listen to one another as we discuss
- Discuss
- Leadership Team and New Seasons Committee will meet and make determination for when Madeleine Room will be reserved (date TBD but will be announced)
- We will continue to re-evaluate as a community in 2024 and beyond