

Our Lady of the Snows • QS#4

1 to 1 Conversations

by Carmine Colletti - PPC Member

Before we started our conversations, announcements were made at every mass. The announcements basically let the congregation know that members of the PPC would be contacting them and inviting them to have a conversation about the future of our parish. The congregation was asked to have an open mind and take advantage of the opportunity to be involved in the future of our parish.

The council agreed that each council member would do a minimum of 5 conversations per month, which would give the council a minimum of 60 conversations per month total. We had our list of people we were to start out with and we were on our way.

Our approach was to call the person, introduce ourselves and invite them to have a 30-minute conversation on the future of our parish. We told people that there was no right or wrong answer, only the answer in their hearts. While expecting the worst reactions, the council was pleasantly surprised.

Everyone that was contacted for a conversation reacted in the most positive way possible. They were only too happy to sit down with us and give us their views on the future of OLS. They took the conversations and our questions to them very seriously. They wanted to make sure that their views were completely understood. But above all, the happiness at being contacted by the Church to find out their feelings on the parish was astounding. The people contacted wanted to give their opinions, they wanted to sit down, talk and be heard.

As people set dates to have their conversations, other family members asked to be a part of the conversations. One woman that I contacted asked if her sister could also have a conversation. She and her sister were so happy to have a conversation and to be asked their opinion that they couldn't agree fast enough. Another woman stressed to me that she was only one person, what did her opinion matter. When I told her that every person mattered and every opinion counted she was only too happy to get together. In fact most people offered to contact other family members and friends to have conversations as well.

For me, it was so wonderful to be able to talk with other members of OLS about our parish and hear their concerns and opinions. It was good to see how happy they were to be asked to be a part of this. I truly felt that through these conversations alone I was doing God's work. I felt as if I was an extra pair of ears for God.

The OLS PPC is off to a good start. Thanks to our enthusiastic congregation, we expect to have great success in our Parish Pastoral Plan and have a great OLS.