

Parish Spanish Community Conversations

This is a summary of two conversations with close to a dozen attendees from the 12:30 PM Service.

April 17 and 24, 2016

What do you value and cherish most about St. Luke?

How much St Luke's gives to the community - shower program and mana meals. Someone commented how positive homeless men and women are treated here at St. Luke's. Overall, we feel we are respected and treated well.

Our music, the liberty to express our individuality and culture. Our faith in God and religion and the sense of belonging; the relationship we have with each other and the feeling that we are a united family.

What are our strengths? What is our value to the congregation and/or community?

The sense of belonging to a spiritual group.

The value education as it relates to religion and bible reading.

Our faith in God and our religion. We believe we bring diversity to St. Luke's.

We contribute and offer:

- hospitality
- warmth
- an atmosphere where we welcome children and allow children to roam freely, make noise, and be part of the service in a natural way; to feel comfortable in church
- flexibility in terms of doing things in a less structured way
- an environment where we know, and greet, each other and which gives the sense of "family", or being among friends
- frequent social, informal gatherings where we eat together, share, have fellowship (and FUN!) but it is done often spontaneously and without much planning.
- a peaceful, tranquil environment which, in terms, give us a feeling of peace and tranquility and helped us feel at ease and wanting to return
- we greet each other when we come in, know each other's names; newcomers commented they liked being greeted by name and felt at home. Felt it was nice to be remembered and recognized and welcomed personally.
- the music

One participant commented that when she first walked in, she felt “peace, calm and comfort”.

What are your hopes and dreams for the future of our ministry?

St Luke’s to continue to offer the Spanish community with Spanish speaking services.

St Luke’s to hire a bilingual Rector. If this is not possible, hire a Rector who is sensitive to the needs of our community.

Create a Sunday school for the Spanish service.

Increase networking between the English and Spanish service

Create a Spanish directory in order to communicate outside of church.

Resume Building Bridges

Our hopes and dreams:

- we want a rector/associate rector who SPEAKS SPANISH
 - we want a rector/associate rector who has the cultural sensitivity to detect cultural nuances and subtleties and can respond to them appropriately
 - we want a rector/associate rector who can be the "face of St. Luke's" and can also represent the Latino congregation and its needs as s/he does so - like Fr. Gary was and did when he stood up and took a stance to give Liliana sanctuary
 - to have money IN THE BUDGET FROM THE OUTSET to provide translation services at big meetings and ensure we have Spanish language represented every time (not rushing around to find interpretation at the last minute, or not providing it)
 - that we can have our hopes and dreams considered seriously and not have to resign ourselves to the fact that the "majority rules" and our hopes and dreams will be always be trumped by that of the larger group
- To grow as a community within St. Luke’s and increase our participation within various ministries.
- Our hope is for the Spanish service to grow and for individuals to be more active within St. Luke’s.