

St Vincent 2013 Survey of Lenten Services: Responses to Open-Ended Queries

In the 'why not?' questions, I have **highlighted** comments other than scheduling or inconvenience issues for our discussion.

In the 'what went well, what can we do better' queries, I have **highlighted** the negative comments.

There is a summary Table at the end of this document.

6. If you did not attend Ash Wednesday services, why not?

- 1 Stayed local in AA County
- 2 Went to another church. I have attended St V before and found services interestingly adequate.
- 3 transportation
- 4 I was working.
- 5 Attended local church. St. V's too far at night.
- 6 attended at noon because of my work schedule.
- 7 travel. i usually attend
- 8 I attended near my workplace.
- 9 timing
- 10 Work schedules--have Wed eve class this semester
- 11 kids did at school, went to local church other years, not this one....
- 12 Went to service near my office.
- 13 Out of town
- 14 Working
- 15 Making it to evening services during the week is very difficult for me.
- 16 We were out of town and went elsewhere.
- 17 Had to work
- 18 Out of town
- 19 I had business in Washington DC that day. I really missed not being able to attend.
- 20 out of state
- 21 Schedule issues
- 22 Usually do, but did not feel well that day.
- 23 Cannot attend everything because of health
- 24 I went to church downtown on my lunch hour.
- 25 Invited to attend service at friend's parish.
- 26 Usually don't 'cause service is too long. I can get ashes elsewhere more speedily.
- 27 Weather and difficulty driving at night.
- 28 I was sick at this time.
- 29 Had to work late
- 30 i don't know why i didn't attend because i always make it a point to do so.
- 31 Was out of town. Probably would have attended if we had been in town.
- 32 inconvenient during workweek
- 33 I was working on the setup for the seder. Additionally, **I have attended the service a few years ago and did not very meaningful at that time.**
- 34 just no time
- 35 was sick

9. If you did attend Ash Wednesday services: What did we do well? What could we do better?

- 1 This year was done quite well.

- 2 Very nice but less music, less preaching
- 3 I think it was fine but I don't remember details after this long a time.
- 4 attended at noon. It was low key, but lovely.
- 5 thought fire was effective
- 6 Don't remember specifics but nothing bad occurs to me
- 7 I don't remember anything special about Ask Wednesday except the pastor's usually superb sermon and the application of ashes. Maybe this year was different.
- 8 Well: lighting; the burning of ashes; way gospel is read. Better: **I know Dick thinks he doesn't need a mike but we're all getting older.** Basically I think my own thoughts during his (largely missed) homily and just ignore him
- 9 Liturgy is a good fit for the day- **get rid of the campfire** in church- high risk- little added value
- 10 everything qnd nothing
- 11 Whole thing was great
- 12 **Too much smoke!** The rest of the service is very meaningful.
- 13 Having more lines for communion was a good idea
- 14 Everything was done very well
- 15 I like everything about it.
- 16 The fire was good. **Preaching in the dark was not.**
- 17 The service was very moving and satisfactory.
- 18 Making own ashes was different. Darkening the church was good symbolism.
- 19 how can you improve perfection?
- 20 symbol for ash wed was very prominent
- 21 I went to the noon service. It was simple and prayerful.
- 22 The burning of the "wood" for the ashes beautifully done.
- 23 Attended the 12N Mass which I always find very meaningful. Nice to celebrate with people in the immediate neighborhood.
- 24 I really like all of it- especially the fire and the dramatic reading. Sometime I do wish it was just a communion service, or just distribution of the ashes, because it runs so long,
- 25 Went to afternoon service. Was nice. Seemed pretty standard. This was my first time. Usually go to another church because of timing.

11. If you did not attend Stations of the Cross Services, why not?

- 1 Conflicting schedule.
- 2 Stayed local in AA County
- 3 Lateness of the hour.
- 4 transportation
- 5 **Not my thing.....**
- 6 More convenient at local church.
- 7 Work
- 8 **I'm a convert, it doesn't interest me**
- 9 timing
- 10 not easy to get out during the week w/children and special learning needs
- 11 Schedule didn't allow it.
- 12 too far to travel other than Sunday Did not feel the need
- 13 Had to baby sit
- 14 **Stations of the cross is not a tradition I have ever had a habit of attending.**
- 15 Working
- 16 It didn't fit my schedule.
- 17 Again, making services in the evening are very difficult; **this service is not one that I would go out of my way to attend;**
- 18 working
- 19 Too far from home to come often.
- 20 I live far from St.V's but would like to have attended.

- 21 not available in time
- 22 Not my favorite liturgy--a lot emotion that, from my younger years, seemed being fake overwrought.
- 23 Conventionally done- no longer core to my faith
- 24 not interested
- 25 hate them
- 26 Forgot about it.
- 27 have never considered this liturgy meaningful to me personally
- 28 not that inspired by doing the Stations
- 29 No time
- 30 Schedule issues
- 31 Not my thing.
- 32 scheduling issues
- 33 No reason, just did not attend
- 34 Old fashioned. Stations - boo!
- 35 Not my thing
- 36 Don't believe in that form of piety.
- 37 ?
- 38 Working
- 39 I was hospitalized
- 40 forgot about it
- 41 unlike Ash Wednesday; I don't generally always attend this service.
- 42 driving distance
- 43 I think I was working that Wednesday night
- 44 I work in the evening.
- 45 not interested in that service
- 46 Had another obligation
- 47 not on a work night
- 48 We were in FL for a convention.
- 49 Was not available.
- 50 Just no time
- 51 not a personal devotion
- 52 Went at another church this year because of other commitments. Once is enough. Plus I don't really like the stations.
- 53 have attended before and find them uninspiring

14. If you did attend Stations of the Cross Services: What did we do well? What could we do better?

- 1 It would be nice to vary the stations readings.
- 2 explanations well
- 3 Readings for each station are excellent...very relevant in our modern society. They help me to appreciate what i have and am lucky to be here. No change necessary. Perfect as is.
- 4 solemn, meaningful music and contemplative prayers
- 5 the way of the cross is powerful and meaningful
- 6 Don't care for the text we use. I really like tying the Stations to people suffering in today's world but our current text seems to jump all over the place.
- 7 It lacked life. There did not seem to be much energy in the service. The handout for the service was old and worn.
- 8 I'd like something different. Although the stations we use are good, we've been using that format for as long as I can recall
- 9 very appropriate lenten service. put me in frame of mind for the entire lenten season
- 10 It may be helpful to alternate some years with a newer script relating to those who are suffering in the body of Christ in today's world.

11 I very much like the way the entire service is planned. Barbara has put much work, thought & prayer into this service.

12 I like the format. I do not see any real need for improvement.

16. If you did not attend the Reconciliation Service at St. Ignatius, why not?

1 Did one locally in AA County

2 no transportation

3 transportation

4 I do not like to drive and try to park in the dark alone.

5 Working

6 Inconvenient time for me.

7 Work

8 i'm a convert, it doesn't interest me

9 didnt know

10 sounded nice, same as above-long work days/commute, child care needs

11 Scheduling.

12 same as above

13 Again I had to baby sit

14 Extra work to go to a church at a different location.

15 Working

16 Other commitments

17 It didn't fit my schedule.

18 Ditto

19 out of town

20 Too far to come often.

21 Other obligations

22 not able with time

23 Frankly, I forget. Reconciliation and repentance seems to have dropped from the St. V's screen.

24 This is a sacrament, and a spiritual discipline, which is now neither promoted by the Church, or meaningfully changed so that people can incorporate it into their regular practice

25 not interested

26 I was working and my schedule did not allow for it.

27 did not have transportation

28 Forgot about it

29 schedule conflict

30 Forgot and then had a conflict in schedule

31 No time

32 schedule issues

33 Not my thing.

34 scheduling issues

35 Schedule conflict

36 because it was not at St. Vincents

37 No childcare - husband attended the service, I went to confession at another location on another day and husband stayed home with child.

38 Didn't pierce my consciousness.

39 Was sick. I usually do attend and like the fact that we alternate services with our sister parishes.

40 Trouble enough getting to one church. Didn't want to face hassle of parking.

41 ?

42 Schedule conflict

43 I don't find this necessary for me

44 i don't usually attend.

45 this is not a service that means much to me

46 Schedule conflict

47 Had just had surgery

48 Again I was working

49 I work in the evening.

50 not interested

51 ??

52 same

53 Still away

54 Time conflict.

55 Not sure- probably not free.

56 just no time

57 reconcile in more effective ways

58 Not interested in reconciliation services.

19. If you did attend the Reconciliation Service at St. Ignatius: What did we do well? What could we do better?

1 More announcements; great service.

2 No specifics stand out

3 Very clerical--understandable they've got lots of priests. Prefer St. Vs and Corpus!--more lay, more creative (like our Advent one)

4 No need for improvement

5 My husband attended for the first time and said it was beautiful, felt intimate and meaningful.

6 Very penitential. Time for confessions and private prayer

7 What we could do is what the whole church needs to do: to help people understand that confession is a liberating experience and not a shaming one.

8 clerical and dry

21. If you did not attend the Palm Sunday Mass, why not?

1 other commitments

2 Was out of town

3 Out of town

4 ill

5 Getting too old to walk around the square block. Noticed a growing number of folks didn't participate in this part.

6 I was away

7 had to work

8 I was out of town.

9 traveling; out of town

24. If you did attend the Palm Sunday Mass: What did we do well? What could we do better?

1 well done

2 Yes! First time.

3 Procession really set the tone. Dialogue reading of passion.

4 The music was beautiful.

5 The Park is great, and inside is fantastic, but the procession tends to unravel a bit. It is difficult to walk and sing unaccompanied and in such a large group. Could someone or technology help? Speakers?

6 good as is. I like the group reading of the passion

- 7 create celebration spirit
- 8 Starting in the park, processing, singing, always wonderful and inspiring homilies--especially touched by the liberation through compassion theme. The reading by the young adults was powerful.
- 9 I think I had to spontaneously teach little ones...
- 10 More coordination on the music for the March back inside
- 11 The Spirit was present in the community. It was a combination of the joy of the people, the music, the quality of the liturgy and homily...Jesus was present
- 12 Procession is nice. Preaching and music are great but they are all overdone....less music and TEN minutes of preaching. I can't stand the recitation of the passion. It reminds me of a second grade play...it takes too long. Let the celebrant read it to kick up the pace. Do we really need to hear a plethora of announcements after such a long service????
- 13 The singing outside is difficult due to the long procession. Someone always pulls the palms apart so there are only one or two attached so you can't make much out of them; this is sad.
- 14 I liked the young adults performing the Gospel; In general I do not like that the entire passion is read on Palm Sunday when you will be experiencing it the rest of the week; kind of like seeing the ending before it happens;
- 15 Music, proclamation of the Gospel, entire ritual
- 16 We went to the 11:45 Mass. I don't like the long procession outside at the 9:30 Mass.
- 17 passion is so long, but enjoyed having number of readers
- 18 Liked the enthusiasm Would like it shorter
- 19 The procession this year seemed disjointed and poorly organized, even though each year the singing disjunction between the front of the line and the back of procession is a factor. Maybe assign some people to get in the procession at different place with the task of holding the singing and the procession together would be appropriate.
- 20 Although I usually go to 9:30, went to 7:15 for this one. Why didn't we start on steps outside as usual? Like having long gospel done in parts.
- 21 liturgy always good and meaningful
- 22 the music was very good this year.
- 23 well; Music and the active reading of the passion
- 24 I reading of the Passion was excellent! There was just enough acting out of the story to bring a lot of meaning and reality to the story, but not too much that it was over-dramatized. Well done!
- 25 I would like to see the pastor enter on an ass.
- 26 love the interactive gospel presentations
- 27 Fr. Dick's shouting of Hosanna at the beginning after the procession, seemed a bit bizarre.
- 28 I thought everything worked well.
- 29 Reading of the Passion was particularly well done this year.
- 30 it was well done
- 31 No improvement needed. the reading of the Gospel was great
- 32 I like the procession, the music, the joyful feeling that was present in the congregation. I liked that the parish provides nursery care.
- 33 the music was good. Need to have the bell ringer cue to the song. & play in between verses so it doesn't feel like a marathon.
- 34 Provide something meaningful instead of the hike around the block. Reading the gospel is tedious, but so too is the interpretative reading with everyone's face stuck in their notes and no audience contact.
- 35 The reading of the Passion was especially well done this year.
- 36 always puts me in frame of mind for holy week
- 37 this service kicks off Holy Week for me.
- 38 when the Mass ended I thought how nice it would be if more people could experience Palm Sunday like we do at St. V's!
- 39 Excellent gospel dramatization
- 40 The reading of the Gospel by the young adults was very well done.
- 41 we don't need 15 people to read the Gospel
- 42 The service was beautiful. Like the way the Gospel is read by various readers have always liked this..
- 43 The only thing that does not seem to work well is the singing during the procession. Unless you strategically place choir members throughout the procession the singing dies out quickly.

44 nothing, I loved it

45 I think the performance of the Passion really brings it to life. Makes a long reading more compelling.

However, I don't really enjoy the procession, mostly because of the music. Why don't we sing something familiar like The King of Glory when processing? For those of us who don't read music well, it is very difficult to sing an unfamiliar song with no accompaniment when walking outside. Really it's not even worth trying. As is often the case at St. V. If you don't read music you're out of luck.

26. If you did not attend the Tenebrae Service, why not?

1 Schedule conflict.

2 Schedule conflict.

3 transportation

4 I can't do all the services, so I pick those most meaningful to me.

5 Inconvenience. Don't drive at night in the city.

6 Work

7 I'm a convert, it doesn't interest me

8 timing

9 same as above

10 scheduling

11 Again I had to baby sit

12 Not in the habit of attending tenabrae

13 Working

14 It did not fit my schedule.

15 too difficult to get to services in the evening during the week

16 work,

17 Too far to come often.

18 Unable to attend during the week

19 not able with schedule

20 I was on a flight to India.

21 not interested

22 I had another obligation to attend.

23 do not drive at night

24 conflict in schedule

25 Schedule issues

26 Was not available.

27 had to choose what I could reasonably do

28 I was helping to set up for the Seder

29 Don't care for Tenebrae service

30 Attend other service in the morning and just can't do it all.

31 Last time I did it was a downer.

32 ?

33 Too tired after a long day at work

34 I was away but usually don't attend this service due to the number of services during Holy Week

35 too tired that evening

36 driving distance

37 Schedule conflict

38 I work in the evening.

39 not interested

40 not during the week

41 working

42 Knew that I would be at church a lot during the week, so needed to take care of other things that night.

43 just no time

44 too much

45 Busy

29. If you did attend the Tenebrae Service: What did we do well? What could we do better?

- 1 Extremely well done. Loved it.
- 2 Its very holy. Leave as is.
- 3 Readings are thought provoking, good opportunity to prayer and pondering
- 4 Did well maintaining the somber atmosphere
- 5 I fell in love with Tenebrae when Corpus C used to do it--There it was tied to people continuing to suffer in the world. I find the emphasis merely on Jesus' suffering "misplaced" (it's Wed not Fri)-- understandable considering when the service was developed--but we do a mini-Good F, then need to change gears for Holy Th -- I found the service at CC much more meaningful: kind of "we're going to be focusing on Jesus the next three days; let's be mindful of those still living the Paschal Mystery in our world"
- 6 Music and readings fit and were meaningful
- 7 All fine.
- 8 Good reading.
- 9 Though well intentioned, it seemed to be another half- hearted service. One illustrative detail is that the candle extinction seems a bit hap hazard. Some were extinguished on cue, some were extinguished as the next part started. That made it feel like it lacked a proper ceremonial structure. The other is that the church does not go dark. The lights to the reservation chapel were already on a day early. That takes away from the effect of the darkness of Tenebrae.
- 10 Need a "tech" person (to operate music, dim lights as service progresses, make the loud bang that concludes the service, etc.)
- 11 The music was too loud. The soloists were off key.
- 12 this year's service was particularly well done and significant.
- 13 Nice blend of scripture and song
- 14 The music and texts from Lamentations and dousing of the candles, the plunge into darkness made the service dramatic but not overdone
- 15 The mood was very somber and prepared us for the sadness of Good Friday. If it was possible, I think I would have liked it to be done in the dark (or with less light) except for the candles that were to be extinguished. The Daly's and Graham (and guest singer) did a wonderful job.
- 16 music was better this year- especially the Taize chants that invite participation; I can do without the recorded Jewish chant at beginning

31. If you did not attend the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday at St V on March 28, why not?

- 1 Schedule conflict.
- 2 time
- 3 Other commitment
- 4 illness
- 5 Unable to attend during the week
- 6 Same reason, a day later, for question 26
- 7 distance to travel
- 8 We attended the Seder before the mass, had child with us, and she was ready for bed at time mass was beginning.
- 9 It's attached to the seder and the folks who attended that sometimes are a bit tipsy. Mass is way too late because of the seder. I'd keep the seder and skip the mass.
- 10 I was away

34. If you did attend the Mass of the Lord's Supper: What did we do well? What could we do better?

- 1 Celebrant and ministers wearing yamalkas and singing the blessing at consecration
- 2 Isn't the transfer of the reserved Sacrament usually part of the service?
- 3 I liked the whole service and again, the music was beautiful.
- 4 Wow! It doesn't get any better than that. The connection to the Jewish Jesus, the celebration, the institution of Eucharist, the sweet sorrow...
- 5 good as is
- 6 Washing of the feet...but, I worry about Fr. Dick doing this act.
- 7 Seder followed by liturgy is deeply meaningful. The continuity is important to me.
- 8 very inclusive and symbolic, particularly the feet washing....
- 9 Since service is so long, how about a TEN minute homily? Service is great. All of the prayers are a nice merge of Catholicism and Jewery.
- 10 The Seder is done very well. I think the lights were not fully turned out during the mass at the key parts so that is disappointing.
- 11 Seder meal; service was beautiful; washing the feet always moves me;
- 12 Music, proclamation of the Word, ritualization of the Lord's Supper with imagery and verbal content connecting to the history, tradition, sacredness
- 13 It is a beautiful service as it is.
- 14 liked seder dinner as always!
- 15 Liked the music
- 16 The Seder seemed chaotic and mostly a huge fuss over the process of getting things right, rather than a spiritual exercise. Maybe it has improved since I last attended.
- 17 Like using the "table set up" Like the washing of feet. Like using matza for Eucharist. "Dick needs a mike" comment -- see Ash W comment
- 18 I was a very meaningful mass. It was also very long, but part of this is inevitable. I think the washing of the feet was very well done, as well.
- 19 high point of my religious year
- 20 It would be so much better if people were reminded about and observed the silence as they leave the church after mass
- 21 Good pacing . Long but meaningful at each part.
- 22 I simply noticed that Fr. Dick could not even straighten himself when doing the foot washing. I was glad to see someone take over for him.
- 23 This is one of my favorite services and we do it well.
- 24 Always a very meaningful liturgy.
- 25 Loved it
- 26 Everything was done well
- 27 Too much emphasis on "we're doing it NOW." The kids couldn't be heard. The pastor and council president washing feet was good,.
- 28 I find this service (and the entire Triduum) very meaningful. I would never travel during the Triduum because I would not want to miss the services here.
- 29 Music and washing of the feet is always very moving.
- 30 all good
- 31 this Mass never fails to be significant for me.
- 32 Always done well
- 33 nice transition from Seder to the liturgy
- 34 I worried about Father Dick getting down and then up from his knees. I was glad that Chris and Jim were there to come to his assistance.
- 35 remind people to leave QUIETLY
- 36 I found the entire service very moving
- 37 I really like this service, but again if anything, wish it could be a little shorter. It's a long night, especially with the seder before hand. But I really like the washing of the feet.
- 38 nothing it was wonderful
- 39 starting with the seder meal
- 40 I love this. This my favorite Mass. Others in my family, however, find it a bit long.

41 Homily seemed to wander and was too long and repetitive; otherwise the service was wonderful

36. If you did not attend the Good Friday Service, why not?

1 Went to Mass in AA County.

2 transportation

3 I am tired of the SUNG Passion story, no matter how beautifully done. Again, it is a matter of choosing which services to attend.

4 Same reason

5 time

6 working and 3 kids out of school....

7 Personal choice.

8 Again I had to baby sit

9 Working

10 I do not like the good friday service especially the veneration of the cross; I will not come to St. V's due to this practice/ritual

11 Too far to come often. We have to go closer to home, but it doesn't compare to St V.

12 Out of town

13 I was in India.

14 The sung gospel prolongs the liturgy, but probably appeals to a few- it is a major reason to find an excuse to stay home or attend elsewhere

15 I traveled to attend with my family.

16 do not drive at night

17 Jesus is in tomb, don't believe there should be any service other than "Waiting" and watching

18 schedule issues

19 Too long with the singing of the Passion

20 had to choose what I could reasonably do

21 To be honest, I don't like the service. I don't even like the name. Veneration of the Cross sounds like something that Catholics are accuses of doing Worshipping statues. If an atheists was sitting watching us line up to knee at the foot of cross and kiss the wood cross it would appear we are worshipping the cross.

22 All the services seem to be overly long and the same year after year. It wasn't worth the trip to attend.

23 ?

24 I was away.

25 I've come not to prefer this service because i am distracted by the monotony of having the entire service sung.

26 two nights of driving downtown were too much for me

27 had another engagement

28 Singing the Gospel is a distraction, it's all about the PERFORMANCE. I went to services at my neighborhood church. One person, the PRIEST, read the Gospel. Cut the theatrics.

29 I don't like that the reading is sung.

30 To be honest, the way they sing it is just not really my style of worship. It is beautiful, but I have a really hard time concentrating.

31 just no time

32 not my style of devotion

33 Not in my habit to go on Good Friday. Prefer to pray at home.

39. If you did attend the Good Friday Service: What did we do well? What could we do better?

1 NOT have the passion sung. It was very hard to understand- esp. the narrator one was constantly straining instead of focusing on the scripture itself. PLEASE no more chanting and just have it read- well.

2 Matzo - communion is so meaningful, but seeing it also spread about the parking lot for the birds was a little off-putting.

3 good: homily do better: eliminate sung passion

- 4 Prayers and homily fit the service beautifully. PLEASE scrap the singing of the passion. Enough already!!! Voices are excellent; however i cant take the length of it. So stop the singing! I like all what Anne Maura and Jerome do...slides and meaningful commentary. Keep it up you two.
- 5 The singing of the Gospel of John ranks as one of my favorite services during the entire year; it was done great.
- 6 The singing of the passion is long, I actually like it when our choir does it. Nevertheless, the cantor(s) were excellent.
- 7 Liked it all
- 8 Good sermon, good scene in general--nothing in particular. I liked the chance to drop in the recitation of the office during the afternoon.
- 9 I know many people don't but I like the sung gospel. Is there a way to do it aesthetically with some sung parts? Idea for the future. Back when Sister J was Pastoral Director at Corpus C, SHE was the presider at Good Friday—because it's NOT a Mass. Therefore only opportunity all year for her to exercise liturgical leadership reflecting her leadership in the community. I know Dick usually has a theme for homilies he carries from Palm to Easter but maybe he and Chris could plan together so Good F homily could still reflect that theme.
- 10 see above
- 11 Didn't feel it was a well prepared as past years; not enough people involved in various aspects of the service
- 12 The one criticism is that the church does not go dark.
- 13 As always, the singing of the Passion and the Crucifixion slides during the Veneration of the Cross is very moving.
- 14 The sung gospel is too long in an already long service.
- 15 Everything was good. Except the singing of th passion. Although it is very good and the singer are great we have been doing now for several years and it gets boring. I think that Good Friday needs a little more drama like how they do the passion on palm Sunday.
- 16 I don't like that the story of the passion is entirely sung antiphonally, but that's a personal preference. For me, after the first few minutes, it's annoying.
- 17 I find this service (and the entire Triduum) very meaningful. I would never travel during the Triduum because I would not want to miss the services here. I would like to see the St. John's Oratorio again!
- 18 The veneration of the cross with the slide show is always very meaningful. I don't like the sung Passion.
- 19 Although I didn't attend be attend because I was away, I had decided I probably wouldn't attend anyhow. The intentions portion is very long. The slides were always meaningful.
- 20 all good
- 21 I actually like the older version of John's Gospel the choir use to sing.
- 22 While I admire the singing skill brought to the chanting of St. John's Passion. I have heard enough and it prolongs the service by 25 minutes. I know Anne Maura shortened the Petitions and they were still too long. I left after an hour and a half before the end of the service because I couldn't endure sitting on those uncomfortable pews another second.
- 23 It may be just me, but I feel strange going up to the front and all by myself kissing the crucifix. I would rather do this in private.
- 24 I like it just the way it is.
- 25 I do not like the sung gospel.

41. If you did not attend the beginning of the Easter Vigil, why not?

- 1 Schedule conflict
- 2 transportation
- 3 DO NOT like all nite vigil. Would klike liturgy to begin around 7 pm (so children can participate). and do the whole thing during the evening- maybe ending around 10 pm. No early AM liturgy. How many people stay all nite? The rest of us are held hostage by those few. So disappointing not to be involved.
- 4 time
- 5 I am starting to feel a little guilty...w/this line of questioning....)
- 6 personal choice.
- 7 To tired
- 8 illness
- 9 Attended numerous times in the past
- 10 Had family obligations earlier in day and was too tired;

- 11 We usually do attend, but this year family circumstances prevented us.
- 12 Other obligations
- 13 Out of town
- 14 I was in India.
- 15 The protracted nature of our Easter Vigil discourages people in our community from experiencing it- only a handful stay for the whole thing- nice concept that ought to be shelved
- 16 needed to get more sleep that night. I love this service but my schedule on Easter day often requires me to get a lot of sleep the night before.
- 17 health problem
- 18 I was working that evening.
- 19 do not drive at night
- 20 schedule issues
- 21 We have in the past, but think the Easter Vigil has run its course. Too much with everything else that week. Too tired to attend that and get up early for Easter AM.
- 22 had to choose what I could reasonably do
- 23 just didn't
- 24 I was asleep..
- 25 Couldn't find an available babysitter this year. We attended last year and it was wonderful!
- 26 Too late. Losing our cantor, Judith S., over not singing the Exultet, and never reaching out to her for reconciliation makes me not want to hear it.
- 27 I never do. I become too tired for the Easter Sunday.
- 28 had to work late
- 29 same reason as previous comment since I was driving back down the next morning
- 30 I don't stay up that late.
- 31 Had a family affair to attend
- 32 If I am going to attend the entire Easter vigil, which I find impractical,. I am not going to attend only parts of it.
- 33 Busy, not in my habit, others in the family would consider it "too much." However, I am interested and may attend at some point in the future.

44. If you did attend the beginning of the Easter Vigil: What did we do well? What could we do better?

- 1 perfect
- 2 Make sure the electric lights in the church are not on until after the lighting of all the candles from the Easter Candle. This is powerful symbolism, as well as beautiful to see.
- 3 Lighting of fire was very impressive. As I recall, the church could have been darker as the procession entered, or candles lit earlier.
- 4 good as is
- 5 celebrate
- 6 Love the fire
- 7 The starting fire is always impressive. I don't know what could be better.
- 8 The Music, invitation to journey through HT, in other words an opportunity to experience that we are a Judaic/Christian community, roots in HT
- 9 liked time as being earlier again this year
- 10 Outside is impressive and then the church in darkness. Would like a little more service before the hours start
- 11 The fire, the lighting of the Easter Candle, the candle lights. The sermon.
- 12 Fire. Like a shorter Exultet but still sung. Mostly well BUT for people coming just for that--why did we start LATE??? Dick was ready. We all sat and watched Jerome set up mikes. Why not let him do that and we'll go on outside and get started. START ON TIME!!!
- 13 be more careful not to set father on fire otherwise perfect service, although seems it should be later like 11:30 or so
- 14 Preferred past years when the choir sang
- 15 The fire and the proclamation are always excellent.
- 16 I
- 17 The general succession of the service is good, but the fire was scarier than usual this year and the lights were on in church before the lighting of the candles. The lighting of the candles in the dark church was much more beautiful.
- 18 I have always found the lighting of the fire and bringing the light into the church beautiful and meaningful.

- 19 symbolism very visible and very meaningful
- 20 The Lighting of the New Fire and the Exultet mark the anniversary of my first coming to St. V and I wouldn't miss it for anything short of hospitalization or rumour of my untimely demise.,
- 21 I make it all the way thru every year since the beginning. It is always special.
- 22 the fire ceremony is always one of my favorites
- 23 Beautiful beginning to the Easter Celebration.
- 24 This is one of my favorite things about St. V's- I love all of it. It was all very meaningful.
- 25 I loved the gregorian version of the exultet.
- 26 felt truncated; puzzled why we could not receive Communion

46. If you did not attend the Hours of Jewish Scripture, why not?

- 1 personal failure; should have been there
- 2 Too tired. Hope to make it next year.
- 3 transportation
- 4 out of town
- 5 Past my bed time.
- 6 I'm a convert, it doesn't interest me
- 7 time
- 8 I have in the past--a most meaningful and profound experience. Did not attend due to professional commitments requiring sleep!
- 9 above
- 10 Don't stay up that late and don't recover well after staying up all night.
- 11 I did not nor have I ever felt the need to attend the all night happenings at St. V's through the night. Accommodations there are not conducive to an all night event.
- 12 To late. Easter is too busy to have a night without sleep.
- 13 To tired
- 14 Did it in the past, a lot
- 15 I have attended in the past; it ruins Easter Sunday when you sleep the day away;
- 16 Again, family circumstances prevented.
- 17 Out of town
- 18 Out of town
- 19 wanted to sleep to enjoy Easter Sunday all day
- 20 Too late
- 21 I was in India
- 22 Other than the pastor, and many adolescents, most adults are in bed at these times
- 23 too late
- 24 too late hour in the evening
- 25 can not stay up all night
- 26 Needed sleep.
- 27 just not able to stay up all night
- 28 schedule issues
- 29 Cannot stay up late anymore.
- 30 Can't make it through the night and participate in family celebrations the next day.
- 31 had to choose what I could reasonably do
- 32 I can't stay awake and function the next day
- 33 Just didn't want to.
- 34 I was asleep.
- 35 The whole all night vigil method is getting very old. Few, other than the planners, attend. It is a great waste of heat, electricity, time and talent. The booklet notes that even the early Christians realized it wasn't the best way to spend their time.
- 36 I can't stay up all night.
- 37 too tired
- 38 i used to keep the overnight Vigil; however, my health precludes my doing so now.

- 39 Need to sleep
- 40 can't stay up that late any more :)
- 41 Too old and "weak" to stay all night. Sorry to have missed the ones in the middle of the night.
- 42 I do not stay up that late. I have attended years ago, too much drama.
- 43 I am just not willing to make an all night commitment.

49. If you did attend the Hours of Jewish Scripture: What did we do well? What could we do better?

- 1 Has our time passed for an all-night vigil?
- 2 The sense of waiting for something really big.
- 3 Like to attend the all of the hours but, I can't stay up all night.
- 4 I know it is hard to do but I felt that most of the speakers were reading from a prepared script that someone else wrote instead of their own reflections
- 5 Everything is beautiful as is. No improvement necessary.
- 6 I liked the introduction to the new baptismal font. We left after that presentation; the rest is too late.
- 7 I love the vigil but it is too difficult to stay the evening.
- 8 I loved the individual presentations, but it is getting harder and harder to pull an all- nighter!
- 9 It depends entirely on the quality of the program for a particular hour. Can be great. Can be weak.
- 10 Like the creativity of individuals. Like the availability--maybe we could do more with ritualizing ("missioning") those who remain by those who are leaving—create our own MINI (just a few minutes) "we leave you know to keep Vigil for us"-- those leaving extend hands in blessing, ask others to keep vigil for us??. I know not everyone wants the all night thing. Could we do creation, then let a group do the other mini-three reading thing (lay lead) either in the classroom or undercroft OR ask those staying to spend quiet time in rectory building (with supervised door) or Undercroft and let the mini happen in church. This is just for the readings. Completion still at 8:30 next a.m.
- 11 well organized.
- 12 always learn something new, and getting people involved we don't see often on the bema
- 13 The first hour on Genesis and the new font was a bit hoakey and lacked the dignity that seems to be required for the vigil. I also thought the explanation of the antiphonal responses was not necessary.
- 14 Disappointed that the First Hour seemed more like a public relations announcement about the Baptismal Font than a reflection on the Creation story in Genesis.
- 15 I find this service (and the entire Triduum) very meaningful. I would never travel during the Triduum because I would not want to miss the services here. I have not missed an all night Vigil since the services were begun 33 years ago.
- 16 all hours worthwhile. time for private prayer important
- 17 I stayed until 4am after Jim Casey's meditation. I enjoyed the 2pm meditation on faith and work. I have mixed feelings about attending the Vigil. I enjoyed seeing what members of our congregation can create, but attending it makes me numb on Easter morning
- 18 The two we heard were well done.
- 19 I like the format and wish that I could stay all night- maybe next year!
- 20 I know that we need to give freedom to the planners, but it seemed like virtually all planners used hymns we seldom if ever sing and I didn't know any of them. In the middle of the night I can't learn a new song, but I would have liked to sing more.
- 21 I would have preferred it not to be over night; Holy Thursday until midnight is better.
- 22 The first hour was awful- little spiritual content; like a docent tour. The second hour was fantastic. Then I had to go home. I grieve over the loss of access to this part of the vigil- I cannot stay up all night.

51. If you did not attend the completion of the Easter Vigil Mass, why not?

- 1 I'll be there next year.
- 2 No and I will not. St Vincent's formerly had a beautiful, meaningful, complete liturgy on Holy Saturday nite. I SO miss that. Maybe the early Christians did the all nite thing, but times have changed.

- 3 out of town
- 4 schedule
- 5 Out of town
- 6 Out of town
- 7 I was in India.
- 8 Schedules issues
- 9 it was a first that i did not return to for Easter Vigil Mass. of all years! i still feel the loss, not only because Holy Week (starting w/Palm Sunday and ending w/the Easter Vigil and Mass) are the highlight of my year but also because the baptismal font was dedicated.
- 10 I was too exhausted to get up after going to bed at 5am
- 11 See my answer to question 41 above. Besides, I like the 11:45 mass held on Easter.

54. If you did attend the completion of the Easter Vigil Mass: What did we do well? What could we do better?

- 1 perfect
- 2 I am sorry but I am at a loss to comment in detail because of the passage of time.
- 3 The music ministry drew the whole congregation.
- 4 Thanks for the camera view of the baptismal font.
- 5 Very joyous occasion!
- 6 good as is
- 7 Maybe one year we could try what other churches do and have the entire vigil on Saturday?
- 8 celebrate well
- 9 Simply beautiful--enriched in aesthetics and symbol by the new baptismal font. Lived the simplicity of the banner!
- 10 all good...wish I had more constructive feedback....really probably don't need the Easter bunny thing...the hunt is fun...hate to be a party pooper
- 11 It was just a lovely service. It was very meaningful for me.
- 12 Skipp Sanders singing.
- 13 Once more the community was alive in the Spirit. It came from the people because of the music, the powerful, prayerful meaning of the homily, the joy of celebrating together
- 14 Music was terrific. Preaching was greatnot too long. Announcements not too bad. How about 10 min homilies at all masses, fifteen min top. Father is phenomenal, so is Joe. Kust cut what u do back a little. Thanks.
- 15 The cameras showing the activity at the baptismal font were very helpful
- 16 As long as the all night vigil is held, you will always feel like you are coming in the middle if you only attend the completion; it is awkward and you feel like you have missed something (which you have!); dedication of baptismal font was wonderful;
- 17 I think the time is drawing near to for us to celebrate Easter, in its entirety on Sunday morning. We have an aging population but more important, there is a continuity when on begins on Sunday with the HT readings and moves to CT.
- 18 It's great, but very long. We have tried to get some family members to come, but once they did and now won't come back because of the length of the service. Having breakfast after is pure St. V's!
- 19 I enjoyed the speakers, and, as always, Father Lawrence's homily.
- 20 music. All was great. Liked saints come marching in singer as always too
- 21 Beautiful service but a little too long
- 22 That Father Lawrence even has the stamina to preach and summarize the reflections of the vigil is amazing. The joy around the holy water at the hour is exhilarating.
- 23 Use of baptismal font and viewing on screen: good. Confirmation ritual. Candle use. Maybe have a definite "Traffic flow" (in by center doors, return to church by sides? Maybe work on way to speed up filling the Easter water: fill two large containers (with people available to refill with pitchers) and move those to the far sides. Folks visit the font then move to far sides to get their bottles. I am NOT a person who just wants things to go faster BUT I AM against time use that's not for some meaningful reason.
- 24 Great liturgy- no changes

- 25 I am not fond of the location of the baptismal font (though I realize there is nothing that can be done about that now). Otherwise, things were good.
- 26 The whole mass was wonderful! What a celebration! The broadcasting of the blessing of the baptismal font was great for everyone to be able to see and participate.
- 27 I cannot think of anything. it is always fantastic.
- 28 Singing, baptismal font and everything else was great.
- 29 HE is risen, what else can be said. maybe quicken the pace of the water dipping but don't cut it out. the candles reflected in the laylight is awesome.
- 30 Everything done on Easter Sunday morning is done well. I would not change anything.
- 31 Everything was well done
- 32 too much confusion around the new baptism area and watching on the screen is ok but there is more connection when the ceremony itself is right in front of you
- 33 No improvement it was great
- 34 I find this service (and the entire Triduum) very meaningful. I would never travel during the Triduum because I would not want to miss the services here.
- 35 Blessing of the font. The filling of the holy water bottles. As always, at all services, Dick's preaching is the best part.
- 36 The blessing of the new font made this year's service extremely meaningful and it was beautiful.
- 37 All of it is done well and very joyous and meaningful. The addition of our baptismal font was wonderful. It was helpful to have the video at the time too.
- 38 perfect celebration for Easter
- 39 all good
- 40 every part was beautiful; it is a highlight of the liturgical year
- 41 It was so wonderful to have the Baptismal Font sanctified on Easter morn. Perhaps Father wanted us to be surprised about all the features of the new Font, but I would have liked to have explanations ahead of time. I was glad for Father's homily this past Sunday that clarified all my questions.
- 42 Now that we have the Baptismal Font the blessing of the water part of the service has changed. The viewing on the screen was good though difficult at times to see the entire area. New traditions to get use to & is "a work in progress" since this was our 1st year with the font.
- 43 I love the festive atmosphere. I know it can't be later, because it needs to close the vigil, but that would be my only desire, to start later than 8:30am.
- 44 the flowers crowded around the door were misplaced; .they should have gone by the altar
- 45 I really like everything about it except the music is not particularly joyful. But that is par for the course at St. V. I like most everything about it, except the music, which I find to usually be a downer. But it is particularly disappointing on Easter when you want to sing joyfully.
- 46 My most favorite liturgy of the year. I wish we could have an intact vigil experience and not this disruptive experience.

Service	Why did you not attend?			What was done well? Could be better?		
	Number comments	Somewhat or mostly critical	Percent critical	Number comments	Somewhat or mostly critical	Percent critical
Ash Wednesday	35	1	3	25	4	16
Stations	53	19	36	12	5	42
Reconciliation	58	12	21	8	2	25
Palm Sunday	9	1	11	45	12	27
Tenebrae	45	4	9	16	5	31
Holy Thursday	10	1	10	41	11	27
Good Friday	33	12	36	25	14	56
Vigil- Fire	33	10	30	26	8	31
Vigil- Scriptures	43	27	63	22	13	59
Vigil Mass	11	3	27	46	12	29