

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What makes a living parish?

1. Living parishes are excited about new plans.

- **Dying parishes** glory in the way it used to be.

2. Living Parishes walk in the living Word of God.

- **Dying Parishes** act like Bible Study is only for fanatics.

3. Living parishes dare to spend money for worthwhile things.

- **Dying parishes** bury it away in bank accounts.

4. Living parishes draw their life from Holy Eucharist

- **Dying parishes** emphasize minimum duty.

5. Living parishes have joyful liturgies

- **Dying parishes** act like it's God's funeral.

6. Living parishes operate on the faith they stand for.

- **Dying parishes** operate as if they were a business.

7. Living parishes try new ways of doing things.

- **Dying parishes** insist on doing things, "the way we've always done it."

8. Living parishes support missions and charities generously even in hard times.

- **Dying parishes** keep it all home.

9. Living parishes see God's world vision for His Church.

- **Dying parishes** can't see beyond the parking lot.

10. Living parishes are a community of love and concern.

- **Dying parishes** are full of bickering and grumbling.

11. Living parishes look at needs and ideas before they plan the financing.

- **Dying parishes** always see a limiting budget first.

12. Living parishes stress the catholic. (universal)

- **Dying parishes** dwell on the parochial. (local)

13. Living parishes foster Christian freedom in their youth.

- **Dying parishes** try to domesticate and control young people.

14. Living parishes actively welcome new and lapsed members.

- **Dying parishes** complain about those who quit coming.

15. Living Parishes know God makes them alive.

- **Dying Parishes** operate on human skills alone.

16. Living Parishes value and support those with a deep personal relationship with Jesus.

- **Dying parishes** are suspicious of parishioners who strive to be holy.

17. Living parishes see the Church as a living organism that grows and blossoms in season.

- **Dying parishes** see everything carved in stone.

18. Living parishes are Christ alive to the community.

- **Dying parishes** try to keep Christ securely locked in the tabernacle.

19. Living parishes are faithful to the Magisterium of the Church.

- **Dying parishes** think mainly in terms of popular secular values.

20. Living parishes are well supported without hassle.

- **Dying parishes** resort to threats and badgering for financing.

21. Living parishes make free use of their facilities.

- **Dying parishes** allow the heating bill, the insurance company, and janitor to limit what they do.

22. Living parishes make cooperative decisions with the pastor in prayer and led by the Holy Spirit.

- **Dying parishes** allow pressure groups, petty politics and cranky complainers influence decisions.

23. Living parishes have holy leisurely liturgies, good music and worthwhile homilies..

- **Dying parishes** have quickie masses so people can get home to watch the ball game.

24. Living parishes have a variety of well formed lay ministries with most parishioners involved.

- **Dying parishes** have one or two people who jealously run everything and guard their positions.

25. Living parishes love and respect the risen Jesus alive through their pastor.

- **Dying parishes** fail to appreciate their pastor and fight everything he does.

26. Living parishes understand Holy Mass as a miraculous adventure in the timeless saving work of Jesus.

- **Dying parishes** see the Mass as mostly a human art that should somehow entertain us.

Take this list home and discuss it with family or other parishioners. What would you add or subtract or change on this list?