

St. Gerard's 40th: Survey Responses

This document is a compilation of responses to St. Gerard's 40th, an online survey that ended on August 24, 2011. Any editing of the responses is minimal and does not change the meaning. The survey is the final step in the gathering, sharing, and weighing of ideas in the pre-planning stage (concept stage) of a proposed year-long celebration of 40 years at St. Gerard's Church.

2. This question is related to the proposed September 2011 event, the brief ecumenical event celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Opening Mass, which had high participation of non-Catholic Bowen Islanders. It is envisioned as taking place at St. Gerard's not long after Sunday Mass. Which Sunday do you prefer?

Preferred Sunday:

Sept. 11: 4

Sept. 18: 4

Sept. 25: 5

None or not sure: 2

Comments:

- Sept. 18: Sept 11th is an important commemorative date for the American disaster. Also, university students and kids involved in extra-curricula will be less involved sooner in September.
- Sept. 25: Later in the month allows people to readjust to fall schedules.
- Sept. 18: Close to original date but still far enough away to plan events and services.
- Sept. 18: Sept 11 will be a big memorial day for Americans and not a great idea to clash. On a personal level I will be away on the 25th, not that that need change the date if it works best for others. There will always be someone away.
- Sept. 11: I think the long weekend complicates attendance and is too short of notice. The 18th and 25th would also be good dates.
- None: I think the St. Gerard's family should take all of September to work as a team to make the ecumenical event excellent for our guests and the memory of the founders and then celebrate the 40th anniversary on Oct 2 (still within a month of Sept 5).

3. This question is related to the many other ideas about the proposed September 2011 event in the documents, especially StG-40th-Brainstorm-Results.doc/pdf, "Ideas from brainstorming. . . ." What idea do you most wish to support, change, or add?

- Brief, powerful ecumenical event following Mass; invite other Christian churches on Bowen; advertise to general public in Undercurrent, as described in the brainstorming summary.
- I support all the ideas. They are a great way to start the 40th year. Maybe a little more credit to Fr Beauregard's efforts and absolute faith.
- Making the occasion open to all the churches on Bowen Island and having them assist with activities or special occasions as well as music.
- Good idea to open it. May lose some if it becomes too much of a "service," so a hymn as prayer should work. Not sure if we need speeches other than a welcoming and explanation of the historical context.
- Gratefully recognize the Bowen Island community support.
- I feel the ecumenical gathering of Christian communities from all over Bowen Island is a wonderful way to bring those of all denominations to be a part of our celebratory 40th year.
- Suggestion for title to include: St. Gerard's VON IGO (using the postal code expressing the desire to attend the celebrations, St. Gerard's, I GO.)
- I like the idea for the September after-Mass gathering and invite to other churches.
- "An ecumenically focused event, primarily (but not exclusively) for the wide Bowen Island community, could kick off the year of celebratory events." -- I very much support the ecumenical focus of the planned event.
- Involving Bowen Island community.
- Having refreshments at the event.

4. This question is related to the ideas about celebrating in the rest of the 40th anniversary year, mainly in StG-40th-Brainstorm-Results.doc/pdf. What idea do you most wish to support, change, or add?

- I support all the ideas.
- Maybe to organize an ecumenical community picnic following Mass.
- Highlighting the natural calendar liturgical events through the year should work fine and gives time to look at each specific occasion as it arises.
- Maybe have some special event, music or? on the weekend before the rededication if that happens on June 18th.
- The calendar example provided is excellent but ambitious, perhaps overly so. Realistically speaking for instance, weekly Stations of the Cross might not be well attended.
- Try to re-contact past parishioners. We do have some lists.
- Would be great to get the organ back into working condition well before June so that it can be tuned etc. Also there could be time enough to do the paperwork and installation so that we could have a Tabernacle consecration (if that's the right word) by the Archbishop in June. Need to check logistics for that.
- It would be a good idea to open events to the Holy Trinity Parishioners as well.
- Invite the United Church to join in a celebratory lunch. Invite people from Collins Hall to join us and find specific ways to honour them (such as historic photos/ mementos?) in appreciation for all their co-operation over the years, especially during the years of the Word of God Mission / St Gerard's Strawberry Tea. Also, offer to assist Collins with THEIR strawberry teas from now on.
- In the 2012 retreat for St. Gerard's Catholic Christian community, include Bowen Island's other Christian groups in line with the year of gratitude and renewal.
- I like all the ideas.
- Having events in September and June. Could we have flowers for the two celebratory masses? I can organize this.
- Organ recital
- January 18-25 could celebrate the ecumenical Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. See <http://tinyurl.com/3th2ve3> for suggestions that include an Ecumenical Worship Service.

5. This question is related to aims or goals for the anniversary year. Some possible aims are listed on the first page of StG-40th-Brainstorm-Springboard.doc, "Springboard handout," but you may come up with different ones. What do you view as the most important aim to accomplish?

- Raising awareness of St. Gerard's among Bowen Islanders as a warm, vital, "happening" community.
- Share the invigorated spirit of St. Gerard's with all, namely the island and each other.
- I certainly think we should give grateful thanks for all those who made the building of St. Gerard's possible. Especially our very supportive friends from the wider community. It was a very much smaller and cohesive community at that time. We should try in our own way to foster this again.
- To see who are all interested in helping with this project and actually doing the work to prepare for the festivities!
- Welcome lapsed Catholics back to the fold.
- Attract new members.
- This will be another good way to continue to build our sense of St Gerard's as a family. Enable each member of the congregation to have an active part according to their gifts.
- Share the invigorated spirit of St. Gerard's with all who can benefit, including the diocese, the island, and each other.
- Raising St. Gerard's profile on Bowen and broadening our faith community with awareness.
- Getting more people on Bowen Island involved.

6. All constructive responses will be recognized to be well intentioned. What will the St. Gerard's community have to do better in order for this 40th anniversary year of gratefulness and renewal to be very successful for the future of St. Gerard's?

- Increase regular attendance and participation — broaden our reach in the community. Hard to do in our current climate but we could begin by having more visible participation in community events, such as golf sponsorships, etc.
- Participation of all would be a must and it should be joyfully given. This is not as easy as it sounds but can be a fulfilling goal.
- Maybe get a choir worked together for a service once per month during the celebration.
- I expect an active attendance and participation of all the members of St Gerard's community in order to make our activities meaningful and successful.
- We have made considerable progress over the past few years since becoming connected with Holy Trinity parish and having continuous leadership from Fr Comey and the assistant pastors. We now have a bigger sense of "belonging" which shows in our participation and contribution to the Mass. I see that this year will be an opportunity to build on that and to take our faith out into the larger community of Bowen.
- All pitch in and play a role to some extent, not just leave it to 2 or 3 people.
- It might be a good idea for St. Gerard's to offer the "Alpha" program on Bowen — I think this was done once by the community church about 8 years ago.

Bowen is one of the most Christian communities I know of, with 5 Christian places of worship — and where the mayor is not afraid to lead the Our Father or prayers to be read at community events. I think it is a very Christian-oriented island.

- Be more motivated.