ST. EDMOND

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Lafayette, LA

Discovery Sessions Report & Analysis

Parish Vitality Process

October 9, 2026

CATHOLIC Vitality360
Full-Circle Development Solutions

337.412.9110 | CatholicVitality360.com | P.O Box 81521 | Lafayette, LA 70598

Our Mission, Your Vitality

Executive Snapshot

As a key component in the St. Edmond Catholic Church Discovery Feasibility Study, from Friday, September 11th, through Tuesday, September 22nd of 2026, the Parish Vitality Steering Committee conducted six (6) Discovery Sessions to gather feedback and input on the Master Plan.

With guidance being provided by the consulting group, Catholic Vitality 360, a Lafayette, LA based partnership firm who specializes in resource development, leadership and sustainable vitality issues facing parishes, schools and dioceses, the following steps are being executed to determine the feasibility of a proposed Capital Campaign:

DISCOVERY FEASIBILITY STUDY Key Steps
○ **Formation of a Steering Committee – the leadership team that is managing the Discovery Feasibility Study.**
○ **Confirmation of the components of the Vision and Master Plan.**
○ **Creation of key process documents and presentation materials.**
○ **Execution of marketing and communication strategies.**
○ **Presentation of the Master Plan to the parish community for input.**
○ **Conducting personal interviews with parish stakeholders to determine level of support for the Master Plan.**
○ **Strategic analysis of all data and input by Catholic Vitality 360.**
○ **Presentation of the Discovery Feasibility Study Report to St. Edmond Parish Administration and Steering Committee.**
○ **The Steering Committee makes formal recommendation to Parish Administration on the future of a Capital Campaign.**

The Discovery Feasibility Study process runs through December of 2026 and a decision on a Capital Campaign to address the Master Plan will be made based on the results of this comprehensive discovery and input process.

Key Data – The Discovery Sessions

The following data points represent the feedback and input provided through the six (6) Discovery Sessions held from Friday, September 11th, through Tuesday, September 22nd of 2026. The information below was compiled from flip chart paper documenting the responses to each question and the feedback on the returned input forms:

DISCOVERY SESSIONS – DATES & TIMES
The Discovery Feasibility Study Steering Committee conducted six (6) Discovery Sessions on:



All sessions included handouts, committee facilitators, meeting agenda and input forms

NUMBER OF ATTENDEES	**100+**
NUMBER OF INPUT FORMS RETURNED	**83**
OVERALL RATING OF DISCOVERY SESSIONS (Scale of 1-10)	**9.4**

The Steering Committee provided the organization, facilitation and logistical requirements for the Discovery Sessions. Following the presentation of the Master Plan, which included explanatory handouts, the following questions were presented to the assembled group, with feedback and responses captured and recorded.

Question #1:
Now that you have learned more about the Master Plan for St. Edmond Catholic Church, what are your thoughts about the Master Plan Proposal?

RESPONSE	FREQUENCY
In Favor of Master Plan Proposal	46
Prioritize Projects – in Phases	37
Concern over Age of Parishioners	37
Cost of Master Plan is High	32
Like the Design of Adoration Chapel	21
Improve Sound System in Church	19
Need Young Families	19
Community Center is a Good Idea	17
Utilize Prayer Gardens	15
Share Final Plan with Information Sessions	14
Design all Projects with Property (Space) in Mind	12
Create New Maintenance Plan for New Projects	11
Utilize Building Fund and Parish Savings	9
Look at Size of Chapel and Number of Adorers	7
Consider Renting New Hall for Income	6
Consider One Project at a Time	5
Need More Storage Space and Parking	4
Share the Need for More Space - Unknown	3
Current Chapel is Fine	2

Question #2:
If St. Edmond Catholic Church were to engage in a capital campaign to raise the necessary funding to achieve the three Master Plan Proposal initiatives, do you think the parish will support the campaign and why?

RESPONSE	FREQUENCY
Yes – Parish will Support Campaign	39
Proceed in Phases	26
Concerned About Cost of Living (Fixed Income)	25
New to Increase Parish Giving	23
Need New and Active Families (Age of Families)	19
Sound System and AC are top priorities	17
Consolidate Giving Invitations in Church	13
Launch Campaign Process – Thermometer/Visual	12
Get Input from Other Parishes (Holy Cross)	10
Offer In-kind Donations (projects)	9
Not Supportive – Too Costly	9
Determine Campaign Process/Management	5
Church Repairs First – then Adoration Chapel	3
Concerned about Diocesan Campaign Process	3
Is it an "All or Nothing" Proposal	2
Repurpose Existing Facilities	2
$4,500 per Family is too much (suggested)	1
Eliminate the Number of Fundraisers/Ask	1
Update Security and Campus Lighting	1

Question #3:
Are there any additional needs facing the parish at this time that have not been addressed in the Master Plan Proposal?

RESPONSE	FREQUENCY
Expand the Kitchen in the Family Center	17
Clear Out and Clean Meeting Rooms	15
Need Storage Space – Now and w/Campaign	14
Repair Parking Lot	13
Offer Novena Mass	9
Offer Choir Practice Space	7
Analyze Use of Meeting Space	7
Activate ACTS Retreatants as Volunteers	6
Address Lighting in the Church	6
Revitalize Prayer Gardens	5
Concerned About Neighborhood Rezoning	4
Build Stewardship Process at St. Edmond	3
Can we Maintain 24-hour Adoration Schedule?	3
Add More Stained-Glass	3
Consider Fence Around Property for Security	3
Clarify Role of the Diocese of Lafayette in CC	3
Consider Outside Use of Facilities - Revenue	2
Offer Bingo as Ongoing Fundraiser	2
Need White Fan on Altar	1

Overall Rating of Session: Ineffective 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Highly Effective	
RESPONSE	**FREQUENCY**
10	55
9	14
8	9
7	4
6	1
5	0
4	0
3	0
2	0
1	0
Composite Score: 83 Responses	**9.4**

GENERAL COMMENTS

Comments from Evaluation Input Forms:

- Excellent Process. Well-done with parish staff, leaders and committee.
- Well-done – a good way to move forward.
- Need to create new ministries.
- Supportive of the Adoration Chapel.
- Conduct informational meeting following Discovery Sessions.
- Feels like this will happen regardless of what they say.
- Continue Parish Vitality Process – engages people.
- Consider a facility usage study as we look at current and future projects.
- People will support this if they understand the purpose and value.
- We need to be forward-thinking.
- Offer Mother's Day Out and other ministries for young families.
- Yes, these improvements are important, and if presented well, will find support.

Analysis

Having reviewed, analyzed and evaluated all input, documents and process data points of the six (6) Discovery Sessions and evaluation input forms, the following are key observations as we continue the Parish Vitality Process:

Continue the Pursuit of Parish Vitality

Based the exclusive methodology of Catholic Vitality 360, and successfully utilized by numerous partnership churches, St. Edmond Parish is being viewed through the framework of the ***Seven Circles of Catholic Parish Vitality***. Parish Vitality refers to the strategic implementation of best practices and proven strategies that contribute to the overall and sustaining viability of the parish. All activities support this effort, and continuous innovation is an unwavering cultural value**.** Parish renewal and growth become positioned as desirable outcomes.

As illustrated and referenced throughout this discovery process, the ***Seven Circles of Catholic Parish Vitality*** are:

1) Visionary Leadership
2) Vibrant Liturgy
3) Financial Stability
4) True Stewardship
5) Strong Faith Formation
6) Active Outreach & Service
7) Effective Marketing & Communication

As a system of best practices, operating principles and strategic action items, the seven areas serve as the framework and building blocks for Catholic parish success. In terms of this effort, the focus remains on all aspects of the above seven areas that will advance the vitality of the parish, most notably, leadership, finances, facilities, fundraising, people involvement and Stewardship efforts. A primary area of focus will be mission effectiveness through facilities and the feasibility of a future Capital Campaign.

In working closely with St. Edmond Parish, we are proud of the progress being made in pursuing and achieving parish vitality, which is inclusive of the establishment of the Master Plan/Discovery Feasibility Study and moving on the creation of a Pastoral Strategic Vision.

A consideration moving forward is the establishment of a formal Stewardship and Discipleship Process. In working closely with Catholic parishes, Catholic Vitality 360 can share a proven process entitled, ***Clear Path to Discipleship,*** which creates a spiritual discernment and discovery process, in which parishioners' journey in small groups toward being Missionary Disciples – moving from a focus on programs or ministries to a path of faith development, generosity and service to the Church. A truly transformational approach.

Parish Administration and Staff

With a strong commitment to the growth and vitality of the church, the administration and staff of St. Edmond Parish have demonstrated a strong desire to properly create the components of a future Pastoral Strategic Vision and Capital Campaign. From process logistics to being active in this Discovery Feasibility Study, these parish leaders must be commended on their fine display of support and commitment to the Master Plan. Visionary leadership makes all the difference.

The Steering Committee

From the first meeting of the Steering Committee in August of 2026, it became clear that this is a special group of people that love and care deeply for St. Edmond Parish. With no trepidation, they have embraced the Discovery Feasibility Study process and the subsequent Discovery Sessions. Demonstrating quality leadership and teamwork in the three subcommittees: 1) Vision and Master Plan Proposal 2) Communications and 3) Event Logistics, the committee members created key process documents, executed a comprehensive communications strategy, organized and participated in the Discovery Sessions and served as discussion leaders and facilitators. This is greatly appreciated.

Overall Rating of the Discovery Sessions

With the overall rating of the Discovery Sessions at a 9.4 on a scale of 1-10, this is a very high rating and quite impressive. In reviewing hundreds of overall ratings from various Catholic parishes and schools, the comparative benchmark for successful Discovery Sessions is a 7.0 or higher.

As the feedback reveals, attendees enjoyed the presentation on the Vision and Master Plan and appreciate the opportunity to provide input. Meeting organization, the opportunity to learn about this vision and the one-hour time frame were also noted as impressive remarks on the input forms.

Response to the Master Plan

As the input illustrates, the response to the Master Plan is very positive, however there is some concern about the costs of these projects/ Many comments suggest that the vision is well-organized and addresses an identified and immediate set of needs – from critical maintenance and repairs to campus buildings. The Discovery Sessions reveal an abiding love for the parish and that families are willing to support the vision presented in the Master Plan.

These proposed projects have generated much excitement and serve to build trust and momentum as the Master Plan are implemented. This attitudinal data will be analyzed along with the financial input from the upcoming interviews to produce a credible and informed picture of the ability of the parish to launch a successful Capital Campaign. We are conducting the Discovery Feasibility Study Interviews on October 28-29-30 and November 5-6 of 2026.

Financial Support

The future of the Master Plan is dictated by the ability of the St. Edmond stakeholder community to financially support this dynamic vision. While the scope of the plan may seem ambitious (based on input), there is a recognition of the need to proceed in phases. While we heard much about the economy and cost of living (fixed income), these same people are supportive of the Master Plan. The input suggest that a Capital Campaign can be successful with proven strategies, sound leadership, personal invitation, a compelling narrative and a comprehensive family and community outreach effort.

Digital Marketing Strategies

As a companion strategy to the Discovery Sessions, please compile and disseminate the results of the website survey. Also effective here is the utilization of digital marketing strategies to share the message of the Master Plan and the results of the Discovery Sessions. Consider the use of social medial platforms (Facebook), videos, e-mails, and text messages that can build an awareness of the process and share the vision.

The Discovery Feasibility Study Interviews

Having secured the attitudinal data from the Discovery Sessions, it is now time to turn our attention to gathering the financial data needed to make an informed decision regarding a future St. Edmond Capital Campaign. Thus, the Discovery Feasibility Study interviews, conducted on October 28-29-30 and November 5-6 of 2026, will invite key parish stakeholders to indicate specific levels of support for the funding of the Master Plan.

While this is not a financial solicitation or Campaign pledge, these responses from a quantitative sample of gifts, along with analysis of fundraising and Stewardship activities, provide for the probability of financial support regarding the Master Plan.

Appreciation

From all of us at Catholic Vitality 360, we would like to thank the Steering Committee of St. Edmond Catholic Church for their leadership and tireless commitment to this vision and discovery process.

Special recognition goes to Fr. Joe Campion and the parish staff in making the Discovery Sessions such a success. Let's keep the positive momentum going as we complete the Discovery Feasibility Study.

Bernard Dumond, CFRE - President & CEO
Maria Inzerella, Partnership Associate
Catholic Vitality 360
October 9, 2026

About Catholic Vitality 360:

Catholic Vitality 360 is an innovative consulting group committed to providing full-circle strategic partnerships that build capacity and meaningful relationships, ensuring vitality and viability for parishes, schools and dioceses.

Based in Lafayette, LA and serving Catholic vitality partners across the United States, the Catholic Vitality 360 team is led by Bernard Dumond, President & CEO, a Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE) with over 30 years of experience in church governance, strategic visioning, leadership coaching, marketing, enrollment growth, parish discipleship and resource development.

A sought-after keynote speaker, leadership coach, writer, product of Catholic schools and creator of the success framework, *The Seven Circles of Catholic Vitality*, Mr. Dumond has demonstrated that his work is indeed a ministry and that every parish and school is capable of building capacity and sustainable vitality.

Personally, Mr. Dumond has been married to Joleah, an educator, for 35 years. Together they are the parents of two daughters, Maeve and Sarah. As parishioners at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Lafayette, LA, they remain active on parish and school (Cathedral-Carmel) committees.