

SYNTHESIS OF THE PARISH SYNOD CONSULTATION SESSION

PARISH NAME: Holy Trinity Catholic Church **PARISH CITY:** Aurora, MO

How many consultation sessions were held at the parish? 1

On what date(s) was the session held? April 27, 2022

About how many participants attended? 41 signed in. Includes Synodal Team, Parish Council et. el.

How were invitations issued?

Mailed 16 invitations to submitted names by our Parishioners
The number reached by the following is undetermined: Mass Announcements, FlockNote, Emails, FaceBook, Bulletin, Information Flyers distributed at Mass.

How did you invite and connect with those at risk of being excluded or those on the peripheries? Were there any groups of people whose participation was especially noteworthy and why?

*A survey of our Parishioners netted us 17 names, 12 of which we mailed "Miss you" Cards prior to the 16 Synod Invitations. The 17th person, no address was given, but she was contacted personally by her sister, who said no need to mail.

**Not aware of any group whose participation was especially noteworthy.

***We had 6 small groups in our session

Were there specific groups of people who did not participate and why (if known) did they not participate?

One family that wished to participate had to leave town for a family funeral the day of the Synod.

Not aware of any specific groups not attending.

Parish Coordinator notes that there was limited younger participants, 5 of the 41 attending are estimated under 40 years of age and estimated the remainder to be over 40. No teens attended the event.

Through the consultation session, what were some of the positive descriptions of how the Church is journeying with people to "grow in holiness"?

Praying the Rosary prior to Mass (need for better organization noted), Live streaming of the Mass is appreciated even though fewer are watching, Mailing of Card Ministry, Greeters and Welcoming of People attending, Adult PSR, Bible Studies at Church and organizing Home Group Bible Studies, e.g. Why Catholic? & Renew, Charitable Ministries (e.g Dawgie Bag, Food drive), Patriotic Rosary, Trips sponsored by the Church, Group Meetings, e.g. Women's Retreat, Daily Masses (encourage participation) Choir, Stations of the Cross (Soup for the Soul), Confession is offered with many opportunities to participate.

What were some of the challenges, disappointments, or frustrations conveyed, in describing how the Church journeys together to "grow in holiness"?

Document that gives examples of actions that encourage becoming more Christ-like with examples. Encourage Teaching of Bible Studies at Church and in Homes. Bulletin needs to be updated e.g. Billings. Electronic delivery (it is emailed to Parishioners who provide email addresses) via Webpage. Flocknote. Utilize Instagram and Facebook, use media to reach young adults. Even if participation in an activity is small or wains over time continue offering the opportunities to participate. Encourage parents to bring children to Mass. More Family Day activities. Potlucks. Adult Education after High School graduation. When Father quotes Chapter and Verses from the Bible in the Homily, post them on Facebook or through Flocknote due to difficulty in translation, sometimes it is hard to understand his dialect. Evening prayers. Vespers. Rosary and Wednesday Evening Mass 6 pm. Young Families - Daycare More Children's Masses. Children's Choir.

What were some of the positive descriptions of how the Church is **“forming intentional disciples”**?

Allison's Adult Bible Study. Flyers or inserts in Bulletin with Devotions/Spiritual Guidance. Welcoming Survey asking people to share their gifts. Welcome Retreat. Personal Invitation. Who does not feel welcome? Guilt? Scaredness to come back? New to the Church? Understanding the worship of God. Outline of Mass for Non-Catholics and new Visitors. Resources e.g The Word Among Us and other resources, e.g. Bishop Robert Barron. Tuesday a.m. Mass with Breakfast after. We pray for each other and to the Holy Spirit and look to Him for guidance. We pray for each other and the Holy Spirit for guidance. Setting good examples in how we act and try to be good role models.

What were some of the challenges, disappointments, or frustrations conveyed, in describing how the Church journeys together to **“form intentional disciples”**?

More kid activities to keep them involved. Youth Church. Time and Talent surveys to encourage participation. Maybe if the Priest would ask parents to get more involved in altar serving and PSR more would engage. Target youth, encourage Parents to bring Children to Mass. Divorced couples that are remarried are not able to participate fully in the Mass so they do not come. More education after high school to attain knowledge to defend your Faith. Mini Lessons prior to Mass, or after, on a topic related to the Gospel or the Sacraments. Be more welcoming to new members, Parishioners responsibility to reach out first to make a more welcoming place to new people. Ask them to join in groups or participate in activities. Have a Welcoming Committee. A welcoming meal for new people. Lack of spontaneous prayer. Find a way to teach how to & reach out to different groups: Singles, Divorced. Widowers. Mixed marriages. Gays. non-Catholic Spouses....

What were some of the positive descriptions of how the Church is responding to the commission of: **“being sent forth to witness”**?

Our Community Services, e.g. Dawgie Bag, Come & Dine, Tri-County Pregnancy Resources, Angel Tree at Christmas, Funeral Dinners, Fish Fries, Garage Sale/Bake Sales, Christian Service Center, Coat Drive. Lenten Lunches with the Ministerial Alliance. Father Paul as Chaplain to the hospitals. Taking communion to the Home Bound. Assist with homeless and utilities. Other area churches have projects and the need for Community Awareness and Coordination needs to be organized so people who need them are aware.

What were some of the challenges, disappointments, or frustrations conveyed, in describing how the Church is responding to the commission of: **“being sent forth to witness”**?

Publish and Coordinate with other Parishes the Daily Mass Schedules so people who wish to attend know where Mass is available. Disciple Group to have ideas and activities for the Church and to reach out to involve people. We need Priest consistency in our Parish. We feel fortunate that we have had Fr. Paul, but parishioners are anticipating and anxious how much longer he will remain with us. Please Bishop keep Fr. Paul here for as long as possible. Sharing of Faith/Religion needs to be back in Public Schools. Catholic School, Home schooling programs for Catholic Children. How does the Church help out in these areas? Have forms for the new people to complete available. ReachOut to the Fallen Away...(go back through old directories and try to identify and locate people to whom we need to reach out) Communion to shut in needs to return. Coordination of Catholic churches for booths at public events.

During the overall consultation process, what dispositions, attitudes, or feelings were notable? What tensions or disagreements emerged from the listening process? What was significant, surprising or unexpected during the consultation session? What new perspectives or horizons opened up? What were the fruits that the Holy Spirit brought about through this experience?

Disappointed more did not attend. Many times it is the same people who do it all. How can we get the others more involved? How do we reach out to them to find out what is holding them back.

Adults are struggling with the Catechesis and understanding the Sacraments. If they don't know, how can they teach or lead a good example. People are looking to encounter Christ and are frustrated by the Church. We cannot just tell people to be a good Disciple, they must be taught.

If we stop Live Streaming, would people return to Mass in person? (This is for the Church as a whole, not necessarily Aurora, as we have around 4 -6 faithful live streaming because of being shut ins and as long as we have a need we should continue the live streaming for them.)

What did participants have to say about areas where the Church or your parish is in need of healing and conversion in its spiritual life, culture, attitudes, structures, pastoral practices, relationships, and missionary outreach?

Make it easier for the Divorced person to practice his Faith. Help invalids come to Mass. Nursing home outreach.
More adult education to teach how to evangelize. Mentors for new members.
Child care alternatives for parents - not sure when and what was being asked.
Fear of sharing and saying the wrong thing to others about the Faith.
Mention people who have specific needs at Church.
All are invited - very few show up.
Mixed Faith Marriages - how to help the Catholic Spouse cope.
Provide transportation
How to carry the sermon once we leave Church.
Hosting a Web page (Billings was used as example)

What dreams, desires, and aspirations for the church were expressed by participants?

The Pope needs to condemn the Ukranian War.
Overlapping of Parishes in programs and meals.
Allow for priest to Marry. Allow Gay people. Make easier for the Divorced. (One group made these notes without expanding on them.)
Commitment and consistency of a Parish priest for more then just a few years.
Millinials lack education on WHAT Catholics believe. The beliefs and the reasons behind them should be presented in a simple format. They have skewed opinions of the Catholic Church.

Final Note:

The event was on a Wednesday evening and there were outside conflicts for some that I had hoped would attend. In hindsight, I do feel we should have used more promotion of the event. I do feel the input we got was very beneficial and our Parish Council will be able to make some good recommendations for our Parish. The note taking was pretty good and I hope I was able to translate the true meanings of what our participants wanted to convey. I was asked if the report to the diocese would be shared with them. I said "I think so. I hope so."
May God Bless all our participants abundantly for their inputs and help us all on our Journey of Faith.
Julie Fairchild, Synod Coordinator, Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Aurora Missouri

This report is prayerfully submitted by
Fr. Paul Laskaris pndhote
as on 05.10.2022