

# Holy Trinity-Marshfield Synod Report

**Parish Name-** Holy Trinity

**Parish City-**Marshfield

**Consultation Sessions-**2

**Dates-** 3-23-22 & 3-27-22

**Approximate Attendance-** 50 for both dates

**How were invitations issued?** Invitations were sent out in the church bulletin, word-of-mouth and announced by clergy at Mass and church events, meetings, etc.

**What specific groups participating were especially noteworthy?** The youth that participated in the synod discussed how they felt disconnected at times with parish activities. They also stated that they receive criticism at times when they try to share their faith with other non-Catholic youths.

**Were there specific groups of people who did not participate and why (if known) did they not participate?** It did not appear that those who wanted to attend were unable to attend.

**The positives/frustrations/challenges with “Growing in Holiness,” “Forming Intentional Disciples,” and “Being Sent to Witness” can be found in the separate attachment**

**During the overall consultation process, what dispositions, attitudes or feelings were notable?** Overall attitude seemed positive. No one seemed to get upset about the synod or any other issues that were brought up in the small group discussions.

**What was significant, surprising, or unexpected?** Some surprises were that the youth still face criticism at school for being Catholic. Also it was surprising that there are still some non-Catholic members of our community that don't view Catholics as Christians.

**What fruits of the Holy Spirit brought through this experience?** Through this synod various parish organizations and people that don't normally conglomerate were brought together to find ways to encounter Jesus Christ more fully in our parish.

**What did participants have to say about areas where the Church or our parish is in need of healing and conversion in its spiritual life, culture, attitudes, structures, pastoral practices, relationships and missionary outreach?** Some participants brought up that we need to be more visible in our community. Our parish is involved in many activities in our parish but we don't do a very good job sometimes showing others, including those in our parish, that we are active in charitable activities in our community. Also, it was noted in our synod that there was very little missionary outreach training opportunities for those who felt called to more vocal evangelization. It was brought up several times that our parish should do a parish retreat every year or every other year. More outreach to some of the marginalized groups as those listed in the “Forming Intentional Disciple” challenges.

## **Growing In Holiness**

### *Positive Experiences:*

Appreciation for several opportunities for the Sacraments and Mass, Adoration, The Rosary before Mass, AFF, Praise and Worship, After Glow, Stations of the Cross, Coffee and Questions with Deacon Mike, PSR, Youth Group, "Why Do We Do That" article, Healing Masses, Fish Fries, Rummage Sales, RCIA, Knights of Columbus

Opportunity to become a catechist and learn more about the Faith.

Reaching out to people.

Greeting people before and after Mass.

Reminders to read scripture and pray, especially the rosary.

Being in a small parish is helpful and appreciation for those who are willing to get out there and really be there for us.

Seeing people passionate about their faith, seeing adults getting together with each other, and seeing full families come to church together is inspiring to the youth.

Having church feel like a family.

Parishioners listen and reach out to each one another.

Active members who encourage the youth to be and to stay active.

Sharing a wheelchair.

### *Frustrations/Challenges:*

No evening Bible Study, Classes, or AFF. Lack of opportunities to learn about our Faith/catechist training.

There are different translations of the Bible, which one should we use?

Used to hold hands during the Our Father and give the Sign of Peace during the Mass.

Lack of participation from parishioners in outside programs.

Not very open to new families and/or non-Catholics.

Low number are a concern for the youth, and they feel isolated from the adults, and like they are forced to participate in events but then looked down upon. They also stated they feel like when they try to share their faith at school, they receive a lot of criticism. Not enough Bible Study or Fellowship for Youth

Not knowing who is new to the Parish. Wanting to have more than a welcome kit for new members.

## **Forming intentional Disciples**

### *Positive Experiences*

Greeters asking if people are new or visiting.

Face to face persons to help each other and encouraging each other.

Adoration, Mass, Confession, Stations of the Cross, RCIA

Improvements on Facebook and the church's website. Masses on YouTube or streaming. EWTN radio

"Why Do We Do That?" article, AFF classes, Coffee and Questions with Deacon Mike. The Parish Library. Franciscan University?

The kids putting together the play of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Resources from our Diocese for youth. Steubenville and DYC.

Fellowship after Mass.

### *Frustrations and Challenges*

Need greeters at ALL Masses

We are teaching the kids about the sacraments, but they are not falling in love with Jesus. Youth is lacking in knowledge of scripture.

Since Covid, youth numbers and participation has decreased. No one went to DYC this year.

Fellowship has decreased since the move of PSR time. Biscuits and Gravy?

There is not much offered in the evenings. This is challenging because interest waxes and wanes.

People are not being asked to contribute their gifts and talents.

Marginalized who have expressed feeling of disconnection or unrelatability:

Those who Cannot come to Mass or activities because either they are care givers or they themselves are ill or have not yet returned since Covid 19, including many of the elderly.

Those who are divorced and do not know they can come back to church

Those who are widowed and grieving

Single Parents

Those who are married to a non-Catholic or a non-practicing Catholic

Families who have a child with special needs

Youth

Encourage more reverence during and after Mass as people are praying. Dress more appropriately for Mass.

Sign on the Highway or Interstate saying that we are here.

Publish more about the Parish Council Members so parishioners know who they are.

Have more fun events like Bazaar or Craft Fair or Group Excursions. Also maybe offer Pilgrimage or a Mission.

Have an Open House. Invite the public to see inside the church. Station people in different areas to give information and point out what things are in the church.

During events and fellowship, do not just sit with your circle of friends, get up and talk to everyone or introduce yourself to others who are not from our church.

### **Being Sent to Witness**

#### *Positive Experiences*

Fish Fry, Chili Cook-off, Coats for kids, Food Pantry, Angel Tree, Ministerial Alliance, Baby Bottle Drive, Rice Bowls, 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection, Prison Visits from Deacon Mike, St Vincent de Paul, Meals on Wheels, Raising money for Choices Pregnancy Center, Article in the Marshfield Mail, Rosary Rally, Adopt a Family at Christmas, Knights of Columbus building ramps, PCCW rummage sales and donations to the community, Youth Group. One of our Fish Fries had 3300 views when posted on Facebook.

#### *Frustrations and Challenges*

Lack of training for those with a gift for evangelization.

Speaking about our faith is out of the comfort zone for many cradle Catholics

Community events with other churches?

Not helping in the community enough, like at the food pantry.

Parents who drop off kids at PSR and do not go to church.

Feeling like we isolate ourselves by not reaching out to non-Catholics or the fallen away.

Prejudices against Catholics in our community

Many in our community do not see Catholics as Christians. There are misunderstandings about Catholicism. Being scared to talk about our faith for fear of the reaction.

When the youth invite others to youth group, our youth are often are told no simply because they are Catholic.

Have hyperlinks available for questions about our Faith.

Coordinate more public prayer like the Rosary Rally on the Square.

Have more engaging Youth Group and VBS so others want to come.

Start a simplified apologetics class for the Youth. Let the Youth join with other groups in the Diocese to get more resources and ideas for new activities.