

Parish Name: Immaculate Conception Parish City: Jackson

How many consultation sessions were held at the parish? 1

On what date was the session held? Wednesday, February 16, 2022

About how many participants attended? 45

How were invitations issued?

Invitations were issued through the weekly bulletin, Mirror publication, Parish App, and announced at the end of mass per Father Tochtrop.

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?

As a Parish Council, we did not exclude a group of people, however, those fallen away from the church may not have been aware of the meetings or other happenings of the parish. Most participants were active Parish members who regularly show up to events.

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

There were very few young people and/or single persons of the parish at the meeting. The reason is unknown why this demographic did not participate.

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

- Marian conference and other retreats have been offered
- Tim Francis presentation
- Daily Rosary
- Providing booklets in the back of church and online with the parish app. The app helps us think about prayer.
- Adoration has a more regular schedule
- Divine Mercy Sunday
- Bible Studies with Deacon Al
- Kitchen Ministry
- Bereavement dinners
- St. Anns
- Access to mass, sacraments and council with Priest/Deacons
- Formed is a great resource
- Access to a school to build holiness in our kids
- Access to adoration has improved
- Consecrations

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

It would be good if the parish could somehow improve engagement with what is offered. The parish needs to find a way to improve participation of parishioners.

- Few participants in church functions (has increased slightly in last year)
- Get back to basics
- Only vocation is showing up for mass
- Share items in church not just in bulletin
  - Different groups events
  - IC School update to parish
- Church isn't as welcoming to non-Catholics
  - Protestants do this well
- Personal Invitations to come back for people that have left the Church
- Reach out to widows and widowers
- K of C events lack support from parish
- More timely communication from the diocese.
  - Mirror is showing up after events listed in it have occurred
- Need more Bible study/small groups – miss the community of this coming from protestant background
- We are big and lack social interaction – have communion but not community
- Small groups needed versus just a large group
- Small groups create relationships and community
- Need more adoration
- Need to make the real presence real for people
- We need adult Catholic formation/fundamental for Catholics
- How to help adult children after they move out – not just bringing them back to the faith but how to help continue in their faith life.

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

- Offering Cursillo is great.
- The parish provides a school which is a great way to meet others through that community.
- The Knights of Columbus fish fry and other events
- The school Spring Fling
- SRE classes
- RCIA
- Kaboom, youth group 6-8th graders
- Having a daily mass is nice/accessible in our parish

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

- Sunday School - Needs to be more than just kids classes though
- Do not know opportunities are available
- It would be nice to visit before and after mass – Reverence is good but community gets left out. Our parish needs a gathering place/area.
- After passing the door greeter a stranger may not feel welcomed or acknowledged
- Those new to the community do not feel welcomed or only those whose kids go to IC School
- New people need to jump in – introverts may struggle, a better way to reach out to new Catholics in our area.
- Used to have a meet and greet
- Specifically talking about Single adults – need a better way to know of new people, we need to reach out. May need cards in church for new people
- We stopped junior/kids church during liturgy of word. Many parishes do a short time where kids can come up and get a brief message for them in the front – could we do that? Make kids feel involved or give them “their time”
- Even if we are welcoming parents are self-conscious about kids acting up
- Specifically talking about persons of color –Other ethnicities might not feel welcomed
- LGBT, Divorced –Probably feel uncomfortable – but should feel some discomfort
- Specifically Disabled –Bad parking
- Hearing impaired assistance – offer sign language support?
- It was mentioned by someone else that we’re better at this than some other areas where they have lived.
- Encourage reading of the Bible and Prayer Books.
- Encourage RCIA for current Catholics to learn more about their faith.
- Make information on parish resources easier to find.
- Somehow make the Church more central to people’s lives.
- People need a better understanding of the Sacraments.
- Encourage Cursillo or others not participating in it already. Give more information on it in the bulletin several times a year.

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

- Local Food Pantry/Ministerial alliance in our community
- We do pay bills for people
- Our parish participates with other churches to celebrate certain events, for example, the Live Nativity Scene in December.
- We offer a bus service to pick up parishioners that have difficulty with transportation to Mass.

- We also offer a Communion Ministry.
- We support options for women and birthright
- We support the SEMO District Fair Catholic booth.
- The Kitchen Ministry (through St. Ann's)

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”**?

The parishioners in our meeting gave challenges and ideas for improvement together in this area so some of our bullets are challenges, but others are suggestions or ideas to help the issues they saw.

- As a parish we can do better supporting Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri
- Need help connecting with other resources in the area
- Send bulletins to shut ins and those who haven't attended in awhile
- Catholics 101 about ministries in the parish – get updates
- Mix more with non-christians
- Used to if somebody died, Msgr Eftink would do a brief prayer for that person as a whole parish and also a prayer for the next to die in the parish. – This seemed popular and maybe bringing it back to mass.
- Do once a month community dinners like other churches (St Vincents vittles, and others) or a community day like Leopold picnic
- Make it shorter/easier to become Catholic, RCIA for those that have been around is too long.
- Listening to others (in silence).
- 3<sup>rd</sup> parties (other than their parents) reach out to young people who are wandering from their Catholic faith.
- Personal Outreach

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?

We felt there was good participation and engagement from those that attended the session. Many were engaged in conversations being held in their small group. A notable group was made up of 6-7 older women of the parish; they had a strong feeling that the Church needed to go back to the basics of the Church teachings, ie: roles of Church positions needed to return to pre-1990s.

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?

Our parish needs to be more welcoming of existing and/or new members as a general consensus. There is a desire to build a community and to know more people in the parish.

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

A new larger church building is one thing we heard from several people. More bible studies and small groups. Attendees felt that small groups would build better relationships than large groups. Higher participation from all members of the parish, as a larger parish in numbers, our participation by many is lower.