

Synthesis of the Parish Synod Consultation Sessions

PARISH NAME: STE MARIE DU LAC PARISH CITY: IRONTON

How many consultation sessions were held at the parish? 2

On what date(s) were the sessions held? Sunday, March 13, and April 28, 2022.

About how many participants attended? 25

How were invitations issued? Announcements at Mass and in the weekly bulletin

How did you invite and connect with those at risk of being excluded or those on the peripheries? All were invited. Were there any groups of people whose participation was especially noteworthy and why? No

Were there specific groups of people who did not participate and why (if known) did they not participate? No

Through the consultation session, what were some of the positive descriptions of how the church is journeying with people to “grow in holiness”? We are encouraged to go to Mass, daily Mass, Bible Study, Stations of the Cross, Adoration every 1st Tuesday, fellowship after Sunday Mass, Ladies Sodality and all their activities that serve the Lord, Penance Services

What were some of the challenges, disappointments, or frustrations conveyed, in describing how the Church journeys together to “grow in holiness”? More activities for the parish and kids in CCD, spend more time educating kids on why we believe what we believe. Refresh CCD curriculum because they are our future. Have confession available again before Mass. More reverence in church. More visiting of the sick.

What were some of the positive descriptions of how the Church is “forming intentional disciples”? Bible Study, organizations such as Knights of Columbus and Ladies Sodality., EWTN. We are welcoming and invite everyone to fellowship in the hall after Mass and talk to new families.

What were some of the challenges, disappointments, or frustrations conveyed, in describing how the Church journeys together to “form intentional disciples”? We could invite new people to church, have more community welcoming activities and functions, combine dinner with a service, Pray Rosary or Divine Chaplet before Sunday Mass. If somebody comes in for fellowship after Mass and sits by themselves

invite them to move and sit with others. Encourage and announce that more people need to come to Parish Council and bring suggestions. Have a suggestion box by the front door. Bring back the Sign of Peace.

What were some of the positive descriptions of how the Church is responding to the commission of: “being sent forth to witness”? Providing a rummage sale, Veterans’ Breakfast, Participating in the Ecumenical Service, Ministerial Alliance, St. Vincent DePaul, Church Open House Christmas Tours.

Christmas Parade, Food Pantry, Mass on Facebook, Extraordinary Ministers and Father taking communion to the sick,

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”? We could put the Rosary on Facebook. Reach more people through Facebook, online, etc. Invite non-Catholics to functions. Hold functions that non-Catholics feel welcome to, Bring back bigger picnic/events. Bring back the Sign of Peace. Keep the Priest at the Parish longer than a year or 2.

During the overall consultation process, what dispositions, attitudes, or feeling were notable? The participants were very willing to share opinions displayed positive attitudes toward the process and potential outcomes. What tensions or disagreements emerged from the listening process? No disagreements were noted. The dialogue was open and free. What was significant, surprising or unexpected during the consultation session? It was significant that all participants were willing to participate freely. What new perspectives or horizons opened up? It seems to be a general feeling that the Church needs to continue to be a welcoming environment. What were the fruits that the Holy Spirit brought about through this experience? The process of opinion sharing strengthened participant relationships.

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? We need to include more youth programs and activities.

What dreams, desires, and aspirations for the Church were expressed by participants? To grow Ste Marie Du Lac into an all-inclusive faith community. More so, some expressed her concern for the Church to stand firm in her orthodoxy of doctrine and the Pope, the Bishops to speak in clarity of terms. That there are a lot of confusion today in the Church and many Catholics do not know whom to listen to and whom to believe. For instance, on the issues of Abortion, Contraceptives, Politics, Marriage Annulments, Communion to the Divorced and Remarried, Women Ordinations and

Same Sex unions, there are diverse teachings and opinions coming from the hierarchy of the Church and this is bringing confusion to Catholic. There should be uniformity of teaching.

Also, the next and last meeting of our parish community on the Synodality was scheduled April 28 at 7pm another opportunity for those who did not attend the first meeting to come and air their views, concerns and aspirations on how the Church can improve on her missionary work of bringing back fallen away Catholics, forming intentional disciples and growing in personal and communal holiness. Unfortunately, only two people (mainly the Synodality facilitator and the secretary) showed up and not much were talked about, instead a review of some of the issues already pointed out.

Our Lady Of Sorrows Mission Church, Lesterville, Mo

This Mission Church held a synodal consultation on May 7, 2022, with only 8 (eight) parishioners present. On this meeting, the attended members discussed some of the possible questions and challenges the Church may face in the nearby future, such as:

- 1) Same Sex unions, Abortion, Communion to the Divorced and Remarried.

- 2) Allowing priests to marry. Few members voiced out their opinion that if priests are allowed to marry, it will reduce the priests abuse scandals that have tremendously ravaged the Church. While some others decline to opt for this.

- 3) Reasons why many people fall away and lapsed Catholics such as: widespread scandals, birth control policy, accountability in the Church, lack of uniformity and orthodoxy of doctrine and teaching from Church ministers etc.

- 4) Ways to improve our Catholic experience such as: inviting known absentee members to attain again, paying attention to guests who come only occasionally, following up on members who come once in a while etc.