

## SYNTHESIS OF THE PARISH SYNOD CONSULTATION SESSION

PARISH NAME: St. John - Leopold PARISH CITY: Leopold/Glenora

How many consultation sessions were held at the parish? One  
*St. Anthony - Glenora*

On what date(s) was the session held? April 9<sup>th</sup>

About how many participants attended? 125 ish

How were invitations issued?

- Personal mailers sent to each address on parish roster

- Personal phone calls made to each parish member/family

- Announcement in bulletin + at end of each mass for 4 weeks prior to event

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?

- Put announcement of event on Facebook local community group + in local paper

- Called each member of parish regardless of how active they were

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

Unknown

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

- Good resources available online or at back of church

- Opportunities to attend mission talks or faith formation events

- Plenty of opportunity to receive sacraments

- Groups like "Arise"

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

- Not feeling like they belong to parish - missing family type connection <sup>or community</sup>

- Lack of parents taking kids to mass to give them opportunity to grow in holiness

- Lack of reverence @ times in church + with sacraments

What were some of the positive descriptions of how the Church is "forming intentional disciples"?

- Plenty of groups to be involved to be formed
- Technology increases ease of access to materials to grow

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

- Difficulty conveying Church's deep truths to other denominations' believers and non believers
- Some don't feel welcome enough to develop friendships in parish outside of family.

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

- Do a lot of good work in community - particularly the KC's
- Various events that different groups within parish go to assist with in community ~~with~~ other faith groups.

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"?

- Not doing enough to bring back fallen away Catholics
- Could do more with other faith denominations specifically instead of just community events
- Nervousness about talking to others about our faith

During the overall consultation process, what dispositions, attitudes, or feeling 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?

- Realizing we weren't being welcoming enough to new parishioners or curious visitors
- People are hungry for deeper sense of community & many mentioned need for more small group activity
  - but also realizing the difficulty of managing additional/new activities in families' already busy schedules is a challenge
- Seeing how most parishioners don't feel confident in sharing their faith with others

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?

- Need more reverence for Mass & sacraments
- For our parish in particular - many have been troubled by lack of transparency with church funds.
- Lack of knowledge and/or confidence in how to share faith or defend faith

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

- Be more welcoming
- Stop losing members
- Increase sense of community
- Be more able to adequately defend faith