

SYNTHESIS OF THE PARISH SYNOD CONSULTATION SESSION

PARISH NAME: Our Lady of the Cove Paish PARISH CITY: Kimberling City

How many consultation sessions were held at the parish? 6 sessions

On what date(s) was the session held? April 6, April 23, April 24, April 26 (2), May 5

About how many participants attended? 73 (61 adults, 12 teens)

How were invitations issued?

The parish bulletin, Facebook, Flocknote text messages, Flocknote online signups, announcements at Mass, announcements and invitations at parish groups and organizations meetings.

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?

We met with post-Confirmation youth during their PSR sessions and had a wonderful dialogue with 12 teens. We made six synodal listening session opportunities available for as many people to attend, each one at different times to best meet parishioners' schedules.

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

All groups of people came to partipate in the synodal listening sessions, from young to old, from parents to grandparents, from single to married, from new parishioners and those who have been part of our parish for many years. We also included our youth, which 12 teens participated.

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

At Our Lady of the Cove, parishioners are journeying with each other in the growth of holiness by the evangelization of the Catholic faith though our PSR, RCIA, Bible studies, Eucharisitic adoration, Cenacle, Corpus Christi procession, retreats and parish missions.

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

A challenge for us in growing in holiness, we need to do more to bridge the intergenerational gaps and with people who go to specific Mass times (5:00 pm, 8:00 am, 10:00 am) and incorporate activates between those groups. Our concentration is needed on people who are not as connected in these oportinities to grow in holiness by being more intentional and inviting.

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

We have a lot of parish groups and organizations and those outside our parish community who support to help form intentional disciples. This includes the Knights of Columbus, the Parish Council of Catholic Women, Kimberling City senior center, Pregnancy Life Line of Stone County, Chances for developmentally challenged and special needs children, the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), and Eagles.

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

People seem to be busier than ever, and while there are always events and programs for growing in holiness, as an older parish with more and more younger people joining, we have to help bring in younger families to participate in the life of the faith and also form more young people to lead these opportunities to grow in holiness.

To form more intentional disciples, we want to be more creative in our approach to get young people to be more active in serving in the Church and participate in liturgies and Mass, the parish faith activities, and social activities. The parish is always evolving, and we must respond with new approaches to helping young people grow in the faith,

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

Overall, the responses that parishioners in the listening sessions conveyed to us were that people feel very satisfied in the offerings and opportunities provided at Our Lady of the Cove to grow and live out their Catholic faith. Parishioners recognize and appreciate that many volunteers are helping to organize and plan countless activities and opportunities throughout the year to be involved in their parish and witness that faith to others.

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”**?

A challenge we need to undertake in being sent forth to witness is to work to bring people back into the practice of their faith, especially those who have been away during the pandemic, and some who have been alienated from the Catholic Church due to divorce or misunderstanding between past parishioners, past priests, or certain teachings of the faith that were not well explained. This will involve witnessing the faith with compassion, healing, and love.

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?

Several people thought the synodal listening sessions would be one large group, not individual break-outs, that while some were not initially prepared to give a response, it actually contributed to many people sharing their thoughts and ideas on the Church without having to come prepared beforehand to give a response. This gave the participants a more organic approach, with the support of others around them contributing, and the Holy Spirit, in sharing their perspectives and adding new ones as they listened to each other.

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?

In our listening session responses, the younger people asked that the Church do more to explain annulments and people who have been alienated from the Church because they married outside the Church, in an effort to help bring understanding and healing to those who have been away from the Church.

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

In our pastoral plan, we will address specific strategies to these areas of how we want to grow in holiness, forming intentional disciples, and being sent to witness the faith:

1. Providing a kiosk with information on people needing help with annulments, marriages outside church, how to bring your adult children back to church, as well as information in presentations given by the pastor
2. Youth activities, with other youth from Branson and Forsyth, youth Mass every 3 months July, October, January, April on the last Sunday
3. Going out to witness the faith to people who have not been practicing their faith for a very long time and helping them to come back to a relationship with God and the Church.