

SYNTHESIS OF THE PARISH SYNOD CONSULTATION SESSION

PARISH NAME: _Our Lady of the Ozarks__ **PARISH CITY:** Forsyth__

How many consultation sessions were held at the parish? _1 in Forsyth
(but there were additional opportunities in Branson (4) and available online.

On what date(s) was the session held? May 19, 2022__
About how many participants attended? Six (6) _____

How were invitations issued? From the pulpit, the bulletin, after Mass handout and emails

How did you invite and connect with those at risk of being excluded or those on the peripheries?
I reached out personally from the pulpit along with reminders using electronic media. There were probably some parishioners that do not come to Mass or use email that missed the invitation. However, from a practical standpoint, we did reach out the best we could.

Were there any groups of people whose participation was especially noteworthy and why?
Not particularly. Most of the parishioners either participated online or decided not to participate.

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”?

- With a smaller parish, I feel that I have a better relationship with parishioners.
- On a diocesan level: Due to the small percentage of Catholics in the diocese, active Catholics feel there is a challenge to evangelize to non-Catholics and easier to lose non active Catholics on the margins.
- Parishioners feel welcomed in smaller community setting due to the parish’s smaller size.
- Would like more community type prayer, such as, praying the rosary more on before on Sunday. Also, encourage communal prayer.
- Offer Bible study classes and more options for small group study group.
- As a smaller parish having just one Mass on Sunday enables everyone to know one another, if they choose to do so.
- I like the calm, serene, reverence of the Mass.
- Parishioners are thoughtful and helpful, especially during struggles and help each other.
- Despite the size of the parish being small, members appreciate having access to daily mass twice a week and adoration.

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

- Would like more community type prayer, such as, praying the rosary more on before on Sunday. Also, encourage communal prayer.
- Offer Bible study classes and more options for small group study group.
- Continue to offer adult faith formation, but possibly evening sessions
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- My parishioners are my family. I look to them for love, prayer and support.

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

- The parish faith grows with prayer groups.
- Being supportive of the beliefs and practices and group discussions.
- We do a good job in communicating with the homebound by sending cards, phone calls, and praying for each other.
- Our parish has an opportunity to serve and welcome others with a spirit of inclusiveness.

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

- Possibly having one Friday a month we pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet.
- We should foster our parish family through relationships and connections. Possibly have a prayer chain through text messages.
- Identifying groups that may not feel welcome, such as, the low number of young adults in our community.
- Having more youth group (junior high and high school) programs.
- Identifying what are we missing to attract the youth
- Identifying the challenges in getting people to choose to attend church again.
- How do we deal with the humanity aspect of relationships?
- How do we, as an imperfect church, deal with people and still be church?
- Maybe continue to ask people to participate more.
- How do we try to be more nurturing?
- Communal prayer when someone needs prayers for health or other issues.
- Reestablishing the Greeter/Welcome committee at the door.
- Maybe holding discussions after masses to explain reasons behind parish actions and parish life decisions

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

- Working with and fostering relationships with the larger surrounding community. Good examples are: Forsyth Community Outreach, Project Connect / Thanksgiving / Fishing for Christ , CAM, Options Pregnancy Clinic-Forsyth
- Making sure that Individual outreach is ongoing.
- Remaining active and connected to community activities. Good examples are: Rummage sale, PCCW and KofC donations, the Elks (blood drive), Friends and Neighbors

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”?

- Listening to others; caring, speaking with positive presence; being a good example; volunteering, praying, and simply being present for someone.
- Be attentive. Watch for troubled people. Ask if you can help. Let our presence be known.
- Addressing the needs of: the marginalized ; the divorced and remarried;
- Finding ways to be more inviting; possibly having an open house to welcome the neighbors; having a neighborhood picnic
- Bringing a joyful noise, a presence in the neighborhood by having a church bell that rings

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?

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?

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

The in-person participants felt that they pretty much covered / expressed their views in answering the discipleships and being sent to witness questions.

Respectfully submitted,
Deacon Dan Vaughn
Parish Administrator
Our Lady of the Ozarks Parish – Forsyth, MO