

## SYNTHESIS OF THE PARISH SYNOD CONSULTATION SESSION

PARISH NAME: Sacred Heart Catholic Church

PARISH CITY: Caruthersville

How many consultation sessions were held at the parish? 3

On what date(s) was the session held? 2/20, 2/27, 3/7/2022

About how many participants attended? 85

How were invitations issued? Pulpit Announcement

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? Discussions/ One on one Engagements.

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

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

- 1) More time with Adoration
- 2) Education – Perhaps 2 classes a year, one during the Lenten Season and one during the Advent Season. Proposed classes – Lectio Divina & Rosary & Mary. I think I would like to study the book of James.

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

- 1) Be there for you in difficult times, the Church is your family too.
- 2) Offering groups that meet at varying times so all can be included.

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

- 1) Continue to have classes and bible studies so that we understand our faith better and become more confident in sharing our faith.
- 2) Add to bulletin activities such as Rosary times – things we need – things we get done.

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

- 1) Add more people to the prayer chain/ let them know about it. (Many have no idea.)
- 2) Leave people better than you found them. Share love, joy and hope. Standing invitations of sharing spiritual involvement in faith. Maybe sharing a faith book. Sharing real concerns for each other – more open and loving.

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

- 1) Try once again to unite them in a gathering by those who have a personal connection with them.
- 2) Love them – Pray for them, understanding of reasons for leaving Church. Inclusion is vital. Let them see that a transformation back to the Church is possible without judgement or condemnation. Sincerity in an invitation by showing real caring about them. “Thinking of you” cards etc. Don’t let it be said “No one ever asked me!” No intimidation as to showing up for a particular event, time, study etc.

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”**?

- 1) Letters, cards – often – repeat. Welcome old/ young/ fat/ skinny/ rich/ poor, Not a clique! Include EVERYONE in EVERYTHING. We are not a private club.
- 2) Make them feel welcomed. Make sure they know God is all-forgiving. Don’t ask them questions, just have open arms.

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?

- 1) Have all Parishioners involved in a charity of the Church.

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?

- 1) One person gave a list of specific inactive Catholics to be engaged.
- 2) Public invitations, public notices in newspaper, radio and social media of gatherings at our church.

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

- 1) Continue to offer opportunities for Adoration and prayer outside of Mass.
- 2) Offer online classes, prayers, meditation times for those of us unable to attend physical classes.