

## Process for Facilitating Synodal Consultations

PARISH NAME: **Sacred Heart**      PARISH CITY: **Dexter**

How many consultation sessions were held at the parish? **Three**

On what date(s) was the session held? **March 13, 2022, March 28, 2022, May 5, 2022.**

About how many participants attended? **Approximately 35 to 40.**

How were invitations issued? How did you invite and connect with those at risk of being excluded or those on the peripheries? **Personal Invitations, posted in Church bulletins, direct appeal to parishioners by announcement before weekend Masses, and placed in Mirror calendar.**

Were there any groups of people whose participation was especially noteworthy and why? **None noted.**

Were there specific groups of people who did not participate and why (if known) did they not participate? **We did not have any non-practicing Catholics, reasons for not attending not known.**

Through the consultation session, what were some of the positive descriptions of how the Church is journeying with people to "grow in holiness"? **We recently were assigned a full time Priest. His presence has increased the opportunity for Mass, Eucharistic Devotions, availability for personal spiritual direction, and a person that is invested in the parish. This inspires us to step up our participation and focus on the Gospel.**

**Bible studies, family days, coffee and donuts, and increased use of Flock note and messaging all increased to help keep parishioners informed and more involved in building their relationship with Christ! It was noted from those attending the sessions that the Parish is warm, welcoming and have experienced personal invitations. The structure of Catholicism with its universality of worship was also noted during the sessions.**

What were some of the challenges, disappointments, or frustrations conveyed, in describing how the Church journeys together to "grow in holiness"? **Many challenges such as how to handle outreach to the community, welcome and identify new parishioners or visitors, how to encourage others to grow in holiness, and most importantly how to attend to the youth of the parish and help them grow in holiness.**

What were some of the positive descriptions of how the Church is "forming intentional disciples"? **The initiation and participation in Bible Studies, Adoration, daily Mass, weekly Sunday Rosary, and prayers for special appeals encourage parishioners to develop into intentional disciples.**

What were some of the challenges, disappointments, or frustrations conveyed, in describing how the Church journeys together to "form intentional disciples"? **Having a Priest available for spiritual direction, and regular times for Reconciliation is a challenge and a frustration to encourage parishioners to continue forming into intentional disciples. How to revitalize the youth to become or stay involved in the Catholic Church. There are many distractions placed in front of the youth and it is becoming difficult to compete for the attention of the youth. Getting parents to lead by example, they need to be in classes or involved in activities that build discipleship at the same time as the youth to inspire and lead the youth to become intentional disciples.**

What were some of the positive descriptions of how the Church is responding to the commission of: "being sent forth to witness" **Having Community dinners and working together with other churches, it helps us be in touch with others and to show how we are "being sent forth to witness" by sharing our abilities and faith. The Parish Priest participates in the local Ministerial Alliance and the parishioners also participate in seasonal community prayer events, Life Chain activities, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, host the Foster Parents at Christmas Appreciation, and other events.**

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"? **The challenge to take our faith past**

**the doors of the Church and frustration that change takes place slowly.**

During the overall consultation process, what dispositions, attitudes, or feeling were notable? **The Church should accept responsibility for the sexual abuse scandals.**

What tensions or disagreements emerged from the listening process? **None noted.**

What was significant, surprising or unexpected during the consultation session? **It is significant that our youth need attention and a way to be part of the Faith that is exciting and fulfilling to them.**

What new perspectives or horizons opened up? **A commitment to work on getting a youth minister and renew the dedication to help the youth become better Disciples.**

What were the fruits that the Holy Spirit brought about through this experience? **The need for us to be more welcoming and helpful to those that are new to the parish and to those learning about Catholicism, or just interested in what our Catholic faith is.**

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? **Those not feeling welcome are often divorced or fallen away Catholics, unmarried, or in a different economic and or social place in life. They may even be individuals in lifestyles not accepted by our Catholic teachings.**

What dreams, desires, and aspirations for the Church were expressed by participants? **The desire to build a good youth involvement program in the Parish. To welcome visitors and those that are parishioners that we just don't know.**