

Synthesis of the Parish Synod Consultation Session

St. Augustine Parish
Kelso, Missouri

There was one consultation session held at the parish. The session was held on April 28, 2022. There were 28 people in attendance. Invitations to the session came from the parish bulletin, from the pastor at Mass and at various parish meetings. After the consultation session, an email was sent with the discussion questions to all on the parish list with another invitation and medium to participate in the consultation.

All were invited to participate in person and online. No group was excluded. There are people who did not participate, the reasons at this time would be speculative. There are people who do not come to Mass. There are people who do not receive bulletins. There are people who do not use social/electronic media.

GROWTH IN HOLINESS

Through the consultation session, some of the positive description of "how the Church is journeying with people to grow in holiness" are as follows:

- Offering the Sacraments,
- Offering Youth Group,
- Support the School,
- We have a strong Body of Believers,
- Offer Vacation Bible School,
- We have Exposition and Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament for 24 continuous hours Each week, on Fridays during Lent, and 40 Hours preceding Corpus Christi Procession,
- We pray the Rosary before each Mass,
- The Pastor,
- We encourage participation in Curcillo,
- We have Parish Missions and Guest Presenters: Vincentian Parish MIssion, with Rev. William Rhinehart C.M. 12/8-12/13, 2018. Tim Francis 5/27/21. A Guy in the Pew, John Edwards 4/1&2/2022.
- Confessions are offered frequently,
- We us Social Media,
- We have a prayer line,
- We promote and have book available for group and individual study,
- We involve the First Communion Class in Holy Thursday Celebration,
- We encourage and enable participation in the March for Life,
- Our Youth Group participated in the March for Life,
- We participated in the Consecration to Mary's Mantle and to St. Joseph.

Some of the challenges, disappointments, or frustrations conveyed in how the Church journeys together to “grow in holiness” are as follows:

- We need better Catholic education for adults,
- We need formation in Catholic Apologetics,
- We need to invite a neighbor to attend Mass,
- We need “traditional Mass” for old and “modern Mass” for the young,
- We need to set better examples,
- The “Latin Mass” would help in holiness,
- Educate with Brochures,
- Use Act 29 Program by Fr. Ricardo, free online mission,
- Use Bible Study Groups,
- Have Adult Formation Classes
- Have Parish School of Religion,
- Update Website, Formed Subscription, Have Parish Library,
- Need more “Fellowship” activities,
- Have a parish “Movie” night,
- Have Welcoming Committee,
- Schedule families to bring up Offertory on weekends.

FORMING INTENTIONAL DISCIPLES

Some of the positive descriptions of how the Church is “forming intentional disciples” are as follows:

- We encourage with retreat options, i.e.; Camp-Re-New-All, Totus Tuus, DYC, Steubenville, Curcillo, Parish Missions,
- Clergy involvement in retreats helps us to learn more detailed information,
- We are One Church East to West, we have unity and do not cater to cultural trends and retain Catholic Teachings,
- We have education and retreats,
- We have daily participation in Mass and Adoration
- Bible Studies, Mary’s Mantle, Consecration to St. Joseph, Book provided by parish, e.g., Matthew Kelly’s books,
- We have had speakers like Tim Francis, and John Edwards,
- Catholic Men’s Night,
- Rosary Monday through Thursday mornings at 5:15am, on Fridays at 5am,
- Men’s Ultrea at 6am on Saturdays
- Women’s Ultrea at 5am on Fridays,
- Rosary before all Masses,
- Confirmation Retreats.

Some of the challenges, disappointments, or frustrations conveyed in describing how the Church journeys together to "form intentional disciple" are as follows:

- We need Welcoming Committee with packets of information,
- Need to update Parish Directory,
- Young people do not participate enough, as in a Young People's Choir,
- Youth do not take advantage of the opportunities,
- Offer more opportunities to participate. I.e., Bible Discussions, more Rosary Leaders,
- We are not a very warm, welcoming parish,
- Need those involved to draw uninvolved to participate,
- Need to have the equivalent of "Theology on Tap" for the entire family
- Need to improve the way we add people to Stewardship of Time, Talent, and Treasure,
- Need mentoring program for new people,
- Need ushers to get different people to carry up gifts at Mass,
- Have personal invitations to Cursillo, and White House Retreats,
- Need Men's Group, and Women's Group with emphasis on growth in holiness,
- Need PSR,
- Need to improve communication with the parish regarding events.

BEING SENT FORTH TO WITNESS

Some of the positive descriptions of how the Church is responding to the commission of "being sent forth to witness" are as follows:

- We use each other as resources,
- We help with food pantries,
- Knights of Columbus offers free breakfast one Sunday a month to people served at Scott City Food Pantry, and Jesus in Disguise Food Pantry,
- We fill a trailer at Christmas time for Southern Missouri Catholic Charities in Hayti,
- We help with the Angel Tree at Christmas time to help the needy with Christmas gifts, Coordinated by Catholic Charities,
- VBS
- Totus Tuus,
- Live-stream Sunday 8:30am Mass
- E.O.M. takes Communion to Homebound and to nursing home residents,
- We invite people to attend Retreats,
- We communicate to our parish regarding many events,
- Communicate DCCW events,
- We partner with the Knights of Columbus on projects for community
- We collect things and host events for Birthright, and Options for Women,
- We have Spring and Fall dinners,
- we transport people with need to Mass.

Some of the challenges, disappointments, or frustrations conveyed in describing how the Church is corresponding to the commission of "being sent forth to witness" are as follows:

- Need to get kids and their parents to Mass,
- Need to pray more,
- Need to be intentional about reaching out to neighbors and ask them to come to Mass,
- Need to be genuine,
- Need to engage in simple acts of Charity,
- Need to help our priest,
- Need to offer to help clean house and help with yards for elderly,
- Need intentional outreach to parishioners dealing with grief, divorce, depression, and anxiety,
- Need to help support young parents, journey with them in a "fellowship way,"
- Need Mass for people with special needs,
- Need to reach out to people who no longer attend and/or have switched parishes to find out "Why."

During the overall consultation process there seemed to be nothing notable about the dispositions, attitudes, or feelings of the participants. There were no tensions or disagreements that emerged from the listening process. There was nothing significant, surprising, or unexpected during the consultation session. No new perspectives or horizons opened up. We will be open to see what fruits the Holy Spirit brought about through the experience.

The participants overall, were quite positive throughout. They seemed conscious of the challenges we as God's people face in our time, i.e., media bias, moral decline, increasing "nones." They can tend to see the many opportunities the Church presents for the young, while they voice concern that parents do not come or get involved, so the young suffer.

The groups seemed hopeful because of all the different opportunities for spiritual growth, yet they are not sure how to get people to engage and care. There was a concern among the people of God about the "how to" when it comes to witnessing to the faith. We speak a great deal about "sharing the faith," but forming and preparing people to do so is lacking.

One said, "How has going door to door gone for Mormons and Jehova's witnesses worked out?" To say "living the faith" is how we witness is a "nice" sentiment, but is that really the answer, if so "how?" and "why?"

By and large, the participants believe God's people and His Church are a powerful and positive force in our world. They do not seem hurt, angry, or disappointed by the Church. They believe God's grace is working in, among, and through God's people. They believe what we have must be shared and so they do the best they can with what they have.