

Appendix 3 - Synthesis of the Parish Synod Consultation Session

PARISH NAME: St. Canera PARISH CITY: Neosho

How many consultation sessions were held at the parish? 2

On what date(s) was the session held? May 14<sup>th</sup> and May 15<sup>th</sup>

About how many participants attended? 44

How were invitations issued? **Put advertising in the local newspaper, invited pastors of local Protestant churches directly, put advertisements at local businesses, invited people who came to Mass.**

How did you invite and connect with those at risk of being excluded or those on the peripheries? **Tried to impress upon the pastors of local Protestant churches to invite their congregations.**

Were there any groups of people whose participation was especially noteworthy and why? **A couple that the pastor personally invited who were formerly Catholic and had left when the man was a young teenager so that we could at least get ideas from those who had been Catholic and had left the parish.**

Were there specific groups of people who did not participate and why (if known) did they not participate? **Our Micronesian parishioners did not participate but it is unknown as to why they did not. The pastor has a working relationship with a few of the couples in that population. Our youth didn't come as well but also it is unknown as to why they did not come.**

Through the consultation session, what were some of the positive descriptions of how the Church is journeying with people to "grow in holiness"? **There are a variety of devotional activities that are available to the people at the parish: Adoration, Stations of the Cross, Bilingual Activities, In addition, we were told that we do Sacramental Preparation well. Opportunities were offered to participate in liturgical service like lecturing, cantoring, and altar serving at Mass. We do several retreats during the year, especially Advent and Lent.**

What were some of the challenges, disappointments, or frustrations conveyed, in describing how the Church journeys together to "grow in holiness"? **There is a desire for our parish to form small parish groups again in order to help our parishioners grow more comfortable in their faith sharing. There have not been enough things like Bible studies, Levantate/Arise groups, in the recent past to help people grow. Would like more retreats during Ordinary Time.**

What were some of the positive descriptions of how the Church is "forming intentional disciples"? **The parish is growing more open to different groups of people in how we work together for doing liturgies together for our larger celebrations and our different parish activities, especially compared to fifteen years ago. We need to grow our Parish School of Religion in order to build them into places of encountering the depth of Christ's love for us in classes. Additionally, educating the youth and adults in the beauty of the different vocations in our life.**

What were some of the challenges, disappointments, or frustrations conveyed, in describing how the Church journeys together to "form intentional disciples"? **We need to continue to grow closer together as a community in order to put the strengths of each culture to work to build a stronger parish overall. Don't do a great job of recognizing talent in our parishioners and then inviting them to step up**

**individually to become leaders in our parish. People have been isolated or stopped coming due to COVID and have not come back, our weakness has been in reaching out to them and invited them back.**

What were some of the positive descriptions of how the Church is responding to the commission of: “being sent forth to witness”? **Food Basket Brigade to provide a Thanksgiving meal, Christmas Angel Tree to bring presents to poor families in the parish and community, Laymen’s League (participating in large group speeches centered on Christmas-related homilies and speeches with pastors of local churches in Neosho and Newton County), providing food for the Pregnancy Care Center banquet, food sales for people to help return the bodies of deceased community members to their home country, giving aid to sick family members of the community. Our youth have participated in the days of service here in Neosho that is organized by the Ministerial Coalition. Efforts to organize homebound ministry. Public witness on big feasts of the Catholic Church such as Good Friday and Corpus Christi.**

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”? **Lack of education in social justice issues: racism, sexuality issues, immigration, care of the earth; the youth especially want more service opportunities within the community at large. Inviting outside preachers, musicians to enrich our parishioners and others.**

During the overall consultation process, what dispositions, attitudes, or feeling were notable? **Overall, people were willing to discuss what the Church needed to grow our parish as they discussed the materials. It was a positive atmosphere overall.**

What tensions or disagreements emerged from the listening process? **Manners within Mass for the children (Parents not disciplining their children, people distracting themselves during Mass with cellphones or chit-chat). Some people took exception to how they were being talked to during the sessions, whether perceived or in reality.**

What was significant, surprising or unexpected during the consultation session? **We were a little surprised that there were more English-speaking people at the sessions than Latinos as there is a large group of Latinos at our parish.**

What new perspectives or horizons opened up? **Wanted more things opened up to the young adult crowd, widows and widowers, and newcomers to the parish.**

What were the fruits that the Holy Spirit brought about through this experience? **Positive energy/zeal to do something new within the parish to grow as evangelizers within the community of Neosho and Newton County.**

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? **Leaders in our groups have at times have treated people meanly whether due to a feeling of impinging on the leaders’ time or a bad attitude. There have been undercurrents against people of different cultures although not said out loud in public – racism or discrimination – towards the international priests or different cultures within our parish.**

What dreams, desires, and aspirations for the Church were expressed by participants? **There are a whole host of things the participants would like to see. An outreach program between the young parents of the parish and the older members to connect the generations together. To start committees that work on building the parish physically and in being more welcoming to the local community at large and within the different cultures of the parish. They would like to build relationships between our seminarians, retired priests, and religious sisters and help them to show forth the beauty of our different vocations.**