

SYNTHESIS OF THE PARISH SYNOD CONSULTATION SESSION

PARISH NAME: St. Edward's **PARISH CITY:** Cassville, Missouri

How many consultation sessions were held at the parish? 1

On what date(s) was the session held? April 30, 2022

About how many participants attended? 8

How were invitations issued? By bulletin announcements, pulpit, prayer for synod at every Mass

How did you invite and connect with those at risk of being excluded or those on the peripheries?

This was very limited. We had limited interest among parishioners themselves to participate. It would be difficult to invite others to something we scarcely attend ourselves.

Were there any groups of people whose participation was especially noteworthy and why?

Our participants consisted of PSR teachers, Staff, Note-takers, table leaders and one other person who had expressed interest. We formed one single table.

Were there specific groups of people who did not participate and why (if known) did they not participate? Mainly those on the peripheries, because we were unable to generate interest among the active parishioners. (Please see note at end.)

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

Opportunity for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament once a week.

Teaching PSR deepens our understanding.

Excitement among the youth for attending PSR

Opportunities for teenagers to help PSR younger students.

PCCW meetings and involvement.

Daily Mass

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

Need Bible study groups for adults

Focus on Jesus more and less on the outside influences / reliance on audio visuals

Praying the Bible, connection to passages.

Need to foster meditation

More participation in Camp Re-New-All.

Need to get out of our "safe place" in the church and the community.

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

We need to encourage Church activities and involvement.

We are Christians, we need to mingle with others.

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

We need to form a welcoming community where all are invited.

We need to announce church activities more during the Mass.

To form the habit of sharing coffee and donuts after Mass.

Some Positive Suggestions that emerged in the discussion of intentional disciples.

Encourage attendance at PSR for all the years and not just “sacrament” years.

Inform parents of what is involved in PSR’s gradual approach. Supply a syllabus.

Provision for PSR children to attend Mass.

(PSR teachers’ meeting subsequently decided for children to attend (and serve in liturgical ministries) the last Wednesday of the month during PSR.

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

We collect and donate monthly to the community food pantry.

Recognized the need for organized leadership for cooperation and coordination among churches and other helping organizations in the community.

Our KC’s have organized “coats for kids” in previous years. (The current program is done together with area councils with which our previous council has joined.)

We recognized the need to encourage our members to join community organizations.

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”?

To serve as the hands, feet, eyes, ears, and heart of Jesus

We see a challenge in the distrust of people in organizations and being organized

We have a continuing effort to step forward when needed and equip our youth with knowledge.

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?

In the period during and after Covid pandemic, we noted the reaching out took the form of having Mass on TV and the live streaming of the Mass on our parish web page / Facebook account.

(End note regarding the effort to get participants. This was a difficult process. An obstacle in both parishes was the influence of social media giving mixed reviews to the Synodal process as such. Media had presented it as “going door to door,” an attitude already in a lot of people's minds. Other sources presented it as an attempt to make the American church go the way of the German Bishops. A number of parishioners have been following the breakaway (Traditionalist) groups and subgroups on social media as well and are associating the synod with negative press that these groups are giving to Pope Francis. We have fielded a lot of questions in this vein.