

SYNTHESIS OF THE PARISH SYNOD CONSULTATION SESSION

PARISH NAME: St. John the Baptist PARISH CITY: Licking

How many consultation sessions were held at the parish? 1

On what date(s) was the session held? May 1, 2022

About how many participants attended? 20

How were invitations issued?

Through Church Bulletin and announcement during Mass announcements.

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?

No groups were specifically singled out for invitation.

All the groups at the Synod were diverse in age, marital status, Male and female and years as a member of the Catholic Church. No particular individual was especially noteworthy since every attendee provided good discussion and input regarding what was important or could be better pursued regarding their development in Holiness, Discipleship and being a Witness of the Catholic Faith and sharing Jesus with those that don't enter the door of the church..

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

No. However, there is a small population in the Licking community that may be Catholic or interested in the Church that were not reached out to. These individuals are not readily known who they are. There are some that are hispanic, however they typically attend the church in Salem (a neighboring city) that does offer a Mass said in Spanish.

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

People are very friendly and welcoming to people attending. The atmosphere entering Church is very homey. Several special services are offered by parishoners and Pastor such as Rosary each Wed. evening, Rosary said before Mass on Sundays, Adoration and Benediction each month, First Saturday Mass held each month.

There is a "peace" while attending Mass.

Inviting more parishoners to attend and participate in the RCIA class. Comment made the class helped the encounter Christ and journey to Holiness.

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

General feeling and comment was there should be more teaching (lectures, movies, discussions) on the Sacraments and the teachings of the Catholic Faith.

Help parishoners understand why we are here on Sundays and other days attending Mass and observing and receiving Sacraments of Confession and Holy Eucharist.

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

Participating in the meals after Sunday Mass.

Inviting the whole community to meals at the church such as fish fries, spaghetti dinners, and putting up information up during meals to encourage questions about the Catholic Faith.

Enjoy attending programs such as the Crissios, woman and men retreats.

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

Limited number of parishoners attend events when planned except after Mass when they are already at Church for mass.

Not a lot of classes that help parishoners learn about the Saints, Church teachings and religious movies that help people to learn about dicipleship of the past and what ways it may apply to today.

Study groups to read scripture and other topics, then dicuss the messages they give for developing dicipleship.

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

Reaching out to the community help centers, food banks, senior centers, nursing homes, prisons and pregnancy resource center providing support and help as needed.

Church maintains a health relationship with the community by providing meals and inviting the whole community to attend.

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"**?

Not a specific group that plan and reach out to members of the Church or community members during hard times. Group of parishoners to study and understand the "Catholics Come Home" information and put practices in place to help Catholics COme Home.

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?

Several participants felt there was less understanding of the church by the Parishoners due to the "Baltimore Catechism beng less used after Vatican II.

Several comments regarding the change in society in general than expresses that Christian religion isn't a high priority in their lives because it contradicts with their life style and wants in the world.

There was a comment made about not attending a family members wedding because it was not in the Catholic Church. If the decision was made today they said they would attend because of the hard feelings it caused in the family, even though they knew it was wrong. The discussion lead to the reference of Jesus visiting the tax collectors and other "sinners" and how he purposely did so because they we the ones in need of healing. Discussion lead to a reflection of recognizing people are in in different places in life and we should help then get to a better place and not judge them.

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?

Nothing was really mentioned in these areas. The comments about the Church and the Parish were basically good and positive. Comments regarding improvement was mainly focused on the teaching of the Catholic Faith, Sacraments, Catholic Church history and traditions. These areas of the Church Parish needed more emphasis to help parishioners know more about the Church and teachings.

Was comment if there was a nursery then maybe more younger families with children might attend the Catholic Church, but instead, they attend other denominations because their children feel more comfortable spending time with children their age. This lead to the dicussion that children were welcome and should come to church and attend Mass with their family. It was thought that having their children participate in a child oriented setting to learn about God was "easier" on the parents and didn't cause interuptions or commotions during Mass. Everyone understood this "feeling," but agreed that children had the opportunity to learn about the church in PSR and children belong in Mass with their family.

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

The only desire mentioned was that we all participate in loving, helping, caring, praying and working to make sure everyone, all of Gods people, not just Catholic, get to Heaven and celebrate with the Holy Trinity.