

## Synthesis of the Parish Synod Consultation Session

St. Joseph Parish  
Scott City, Missouri

There was one consultation session held at the parish. The session was held on April 27, 2022. There were 18 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:

- We have tremendous community support,
- We are a close knit parish, the parish is a family,
- We are very welcoming—at the door people are welcomed, if they do not know a stranger they introduce themselves to others,
- When someone's spouse dies, the parish family reaches out and lifts him/her up with love and support,
- Offering the Sacraments,
- Holy Water is distributed at Easter
- Offering Youth Group,
- Support the School which is the heart of the parish,
- Offer Vacation Bible School,
- We have Exposition and Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament for 12 continuous hours Each week, on Fridays during Lent, and 40 Hours preceding Corpus Christi Procession,
- We pray the Rosary before most Mass,
- 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 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,
- 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 not to take for granted the converts know enough, they need to know that the Rosary is a Treasure Chest of Tools,
- We need better explanations of why we do the things we do,
- We need Father to explain more, more often to students at Mass,
- We need Father to explain Gospel readings and Mass parts, Eg. "Triduum,"
- We need to reach out to those who have not been to Mass in a while,
- Use Bible Study Groups,
- Have Adult Formation Classes with Question and Answer sessions,
- We need good speakers and better music,
- We need to pool resources with other parishes since priests can only do so much,
- Need and men's group,
- Need more CCW activities
- Lay people need to talk to others about faith,
- We need to make all people feel welcome.

#### 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, VBS, Curcillo, Parish Missions,
- We have the Sacrament,
- Parish bulletin provides opportunities for "Intentional Disciples,"
- We openly pray,
- We are willing to stand up for our faith,
- We have door greeters,
- The teachers and students at our school are examples of "Intentional Disciples," The students In our school step up to the plate,
- The students in our Your Group at proactive in helping others,
- We have education and retreats,
- We have daily participation in Mass and Adoration,
- Sometimes Father's homily lead us to Intentional Discipleship,
- 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,
- Rosary before most 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,
- Need to update Parish Directory,
- Need to recognize elderly with birthdays and anniversaries,
- Need to make 30-45 age group more welcome,
- Need people to feel welcome by lay people and priest,
- Need to help widowed feel welcome without the spouse,
- Need leaders who will help others to be "Intentional Disciples,"
- Need activities like Bible Study for Young, Middle Aged, and Elderly,
- Need VBS
- Need Confirmation Classes to include help to elderly in service hours,
- 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.

#### 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 have service projects,
- We help with Meals on Wheels. Our School children write notes to put in the meals,
- We involve the school children in important roles, teaching them to become leaders,
- 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 help Ministerial Alliance help others in times of need,
- Our Youth Group takes it upon itself to help people like victims of the tornado in Kentucky,
- VBS
- Totus Tuus,
- We help with the Food Pantry
- We help with KC's coat drive,
- We help with the Cemetery of Innocence,
- 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,
- We collect things and host events for Birthright, and Options for Women,
- We have Spring and Fall dinners.

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 better identify homebound who need a visit and Holy Communion,
- Need to be intentional about reaching out to neighbors and ask them to come to Mass,
- Need to explain Confession,
- Need to engage in simple acts of Charity,
- Need to help our priest,
- Need to reach out to someone who comes to Mass alone,
- Need a Men's club,
- Need to call people to see if they need a ride to Mass,
- Need to have formal and informal gatherings to talk about Church,
- Need to provide a real perspective of living Christ by our actions,
- Need always to welcome people to come back to Church,
- Need to inspire more people to step up to leadership roles,
- Need to bring in more dynamic speakers.

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.