

SYNTHESIS OF THE PARISH SYNOD CONSULTATION SESSION

PARISH NAME: St. Mary Catholic Church PARISH CITY: West Plains

How many consultation sessions were held at the parish? 1

On what date(s) was the session held? May 12, 2022

About how many participants attended? 14

How were invitations issued?

People were invited to participate via email, bulletin inserts, bulletin board flyers and personal pulpit requests on our livestreamed/in-person Masses.

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?

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

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

The Church is journeying with people to "grow in holiness" through organizations such as Knights of Columbus, PCCW, PSR, offering all-day adoration, saying the rosary, having retreats, doing Mass intentions, offering up prayer intercessions, having stations of the cross, witnessing the faithful in their worship, having great homilies.

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

Some voiced their disappointment of the disappearance of Latin Masses. Some were frustrated that hot topics like mortal sin, abortion, gay marriage, and politicians who called themselves "Catholic", but did not practice were not addressed from the pulpit. The isolation created by the pandemic highlighted our need for social activities such as bible studies or fellowship to help us grow in holiness. Mass and event times that are suitable for all is a challenge as some work and have to wait until later while others are retired and cannot drive if it gets too late.

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

Programs that teach the faith like RCIA, PSR, bible studies and serving in various ministries help people to learn more and be more confident in their faith in order to evangelize.

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

The lack of training opportunities, marriage encounters, and mission work were a few of the disappointments conveyed. There was also a cry to remove liberal and homosexual influences from seminaries.

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

People enjoy supporting community and worldwide endeavors that help the most needy. They are energized to give voice and protection of the unborn.

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"**?

The challenge to meet people where they are invite them to a personal encounter with Christ is tough indeed. We need to help people to change from their old ways and not enable them to continue to make poor choices that steer them away from God.

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?

There was a consensus that the Faith was being watered down until further discussion revealed that the media did not correct misconceptions and the issues were not discussed from the vatican or the pulpit. The Faith however, was not being changed, only this perception that it was not being upheld. We all realized that we must keep struggling against the grain, but do it joyfully so others will see our joy and our hope comes from the Lord.

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?

Participants want to see the tough issues clarified and handled head-on with strong leadership and faithful examples. Participants also voiced the struggle of the culture of success through sports and material gain instead of virtues and character.

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

Participants wanted the old, traditional ways brought back. They want the Faith as exemplified by their grandparents and great-grandparents. Youth are hungry for encounters with Jesus, not catechism lesson plans.