

Synthesis of the Parish Synod Consultation Session

PARISH NAME: **St Peter the Apostle**

PARISH CITY: **Stockton, MO**

1. How many consultation sessions were held at the Parish: One 1
2. On what date was the session held: Sunday March 13, 2022, @11:15 - 12:30
3. About how many participants attended: 20 people

4. How were invitations issued:

We distributed it after Mass on the previous Sunday and hand-delivered some on the weekdays before that.

The Coordinator - Phyllis Rogers -shared a six (6) page Invitation and the Synod Information Sheet (Info Sheet), which included the Prayer, and two (2) pages of the Questionnaire. The Info Sheet explained the Purpose of the Synod and the Goals of the Diocese, based on the process guide, the PowerPoint, and the various articles linked, as well as the Mirror articles on the Synod. *The diocese has not produced the handout at this time.* The information made Parishioners aware of what is going on and provided an alternative way as well, to participate via questionnaire, in case they can not physically be at the Open Table.

It was also announced and explained by a designated member-Ms.Costelo- and Fr Gregory Tran Vi, after Communion the weekend before. The Coordinator also invited everyone again on the day of the Open Table, just before Bishop's Video was played. *It was just released that week.*

5. 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?

Invitations were hand-delivered to those who do not come to church regularly.

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

The people who did not attend are the same ones who seldom go to Mass or interact at church

gatherings after Mass. Some though had family members come for a visit and could not attend.

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

We enjoy the Sunday Mass and the Weekday Mass, which is Wednesdays and First Fridays, which is an opportunity to worship with like-minded people.

We are thankful for the Sacraments available, especially Communion and Penance.

We like to participate in Adoration and Rosaries

We like sharing the online opportunities in the media, to grow in our knowledge of the faith, ex. Ascension Press, Bible in a Year

We are a small community of mostly retirees and we are thankful for honest mentors and true disciples in our Parish. Our Knights of Columbus, Women's Council, Religion teachers, Office and church workers, are all active movers in the Parish.

We enjoy the Fellowship in our parish dinners, Coffee & Donuts, and in other fundraising projects, parish work

We are thankful for the availability of our Catholic Library where people can access books and magazines

We are thankful for the Choir and Organist who volunteer their time so that we can enjoy singing songs of worship for our Lord.

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

We wish to have Bible study made available as a group

Maybe a Parish Mission, locally or somewhere

An evening of Reflection or days for Motivational Speaker, small retreats

Homilies that apply to personal lives, practical

Encourage retirees to come to weekday masses, pre-Covid, to deepen in fellowship

Homilies can be personally presented, not at just the podium

At the higher level, the hindrance in their growth in holiness is how they see the leadership/ certain "'group' of our Bishops and Priests who choose to lead hypocritical lives". "In reality, their lack of action and conviction and continual sidestepping of moral issues leave the faithful in total confusion". Politicians who support abortion openly still receive Communion.

Some have lost faith and respect in general

Some feel that they can not understand the speech/ accent of the foreign priests. Some are okay with it though. It may be the hearing capabilities or the volume of the sound system that needs adjusting.

They watch Mass on TV if they are home-bound or sick. It is a good service of the Church. However, it can be a hindrance to actual attendance when they are capable to do so.

We hear the same readings over and over in our 3-year cycle. Would like to hear from other stories in the Bible.

Why can't we have married Pastors who can relate to our married lives? (needs to be addressed on the subject via Catechism)

Why can't women be Priests, when we are all called to be disciples, and women are very capable? (Coordinator had respectfully explained the Catechism on that subject since we're at the same table)

Would like to have votive candles as a way of the traditional expression of prayers

Need for a buddy system where we check on some members - how are you, what can we do for you; to feel connected

The Homilies should also speak on the Catechism; we need continuous education

"Open Door Policy" pertaining to being less judgemental towards others

It is sad that it is not possible for a staff to be present for the Church to be open more often.

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

The living example shown by fellow parishioners in Church projects that need hands and feet definitely helps form intentional disciples. They are inspired to want to be good Catholics, in

service of others.

The ladies group and Knights continually show their conviction in building up the church through projects, working by example to others

The PSR and RCIA leaders through the years have shared their time and effort in teaching the youth and new adults.

"We continually reach out and encourage others to return to the practice of faith. We explain the Church's laws and teach about Jesus".

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

"Unfortunately, it is impossible to explain to my son the seriousness of missing Mass on Sunday, receiving Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament while in the state of mortal sin, or showing compassion to a friend who is denied communion because of a remarriage, while some bishops in the Catholic Church stand silent, while politicians who openly promote abortion receive Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament"

..."when bishops at the national level do not have the courage to sign a document preventing scandal concerning politicians receiving the Blessed Sacrament while in the state of mortal sin." (Locally) "Most stay away from the church because of issues much larger than those that can be solved at the parish level."

Thereafter, their frustrations with the church hierarchy affect their willingness to contribute funds

To be "Non-judgmental" about others

People who are disillusioned with the church in the past because of some misunderstanding with a Pastor

Newcomers sit at their own table for coffee and donuts after Mass. Members need to leave their comfort zone and welcome them. Maybe recognize them in the bulletin; make them feel welcome more

Provide an opportunity every year or two to volunteer for duties in the Parish and wider community

Deacons in our Parish to assist

Priest to be more active among members, visit more with others

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

Church members volunteer at the SAMA thrift store but feel that the Pastor should be a participant in the Ministerial Alliance

We are a Senior citizen parish, therefore we can minister to senior citizens, such as meals, nursing homes

Faithful members have worked in every available charity event through the years. This is a blessing.

Another blessing is we can offer facilities/ our hall with kitchen for local organizations to meet. This can be a way to open to others.

12. 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"?

We could participate more in the SAMA community

We can cooperate more with the American Legion and Auxiliary

Rosary on the Square can be done

Fellowship of Christian Athletes can be good for local participation and with bigger communities

Meet people where they are- in their homes

Need quarterly gatherings of our mission church (St Peter) with the main church (St. Elizabeth), also community churches to have dinners with us

Make it easier for divorced people to come back to church, fewer restrictions on the ability to receive the Sacraments after divorce, especially if the marriage was to a non-catholic. Should not need an annulment to get married in the church.

Extend our presence in the local newspapers and speak on our moral issues, announce Mass times

Misinformation from the media " The problem with those who do not attend church is with the information they are receiving. It is confusing and paints our church as a group of naive and ignorant individuals who are led by pedophiles"

"USCCB needs to have the courage to discuss Canon 915-916 and act on it through a written document with signatures. In this way, the media is limited in their ability to misinform and manipulate"

"Those of us that are still here are exhausted" "We paid and continue to pay the price of continual background checks and excessive training due to the clergy abuse scandals"

".....we need to be very concerned about how many more we will lose if significant changes aren't made.

13. During the overall consultation process, what dispositions, attitudes, or feelings were notable? What new perspectives or horizons opened up? What were the fruits that the Holy Spirit brought about through this experience?

What tensions or disagreements emerged from the listening process?

No visible tensions were among attendees.

Notable sentiment was the frustrations with the Church hierarchy due mainly in their lack of stand on moral issues.

What was significant, surprising, or unexpected during the consultation session?

Unexpected opinion was about why women can not be Priests when the women in the Bible held great positions and responsibilities. Women are very much capable. Also significant was the opinion of why can't we have married Pastors. I believe it stems from the need to have good counsel at times of marriage turmoil; someone who can understand real life marriage.

A visiting couple joined the Open Table and their comments were more on the RCIA and PSR reaching out to invite outsiders in.

What were the fruits that the Holy Spirit brought about through this experience?

The Fruits of the Holy Spirit brought from this experience was Faithfulness to the Church, Patience, and Generosity.

We are still in the Parish despite the Pandemic fears, and the shortcomings of the Church hierarchy.

Patience in continuing to seek out those who are lost and do not attend anymore.

Generosity, in committing ourselves to share our time and resources to keep the Parish going and to minister to those who left, and those outside the Parish.

14. What did the 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?

"Brand ourselves Catholic and participate more in the community"

Extend our presence in the local newspapers and speak out on our moral issues

Prayers for the conversion for those who left and encourage them to come back.

Change in the attitudes to be more welcoming to visitors. Who knows, they may join the Parish!

For our Pastor to be more at ease and interact more with other members .

15. What dreams, desires, and aspirations for the Church were expressed by participants?

We hope and pray that the Bishops will be stronger and address the moral issues. We hope that they can become the inspiration for fallen Catholics to come back; an inspiration for those who remain not to be discouraged.

We desire for our ex-members to come back to Church and answer God's call to fellowship.

We desire to retain and not lose any more of our members.

We aspire to better our missionary outreach in the community and encourage others to experience the Catholic Faith

Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam,

Phyllis Rogers - Synod Coordinator
St Elizabeth of Hungary and St Peter the Apostle
April 9, 2022

