

SYNOD ON SYNODALITY SEAS APRIL 2, 2022

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish

Springfield, MO

9:30 AM Session

Group 1

Growing in Holiness

1. Encounter Christ on path to holiness/deepening relationship
SEAS opportunities are abundant-something every day/evening ... Group for multiple interests ... People need to step up and out to join
2. Foster & encourage growth
Sometimes hard to break into some of the groups ... Some people have been in the groups a long time – territoriality ... Takes awhile to get comfortable (Ministry list-how do you get involved) ... Groups be more inviting to new members
Things every group does prayer/introductions/
Adopt a new family
Ministry catalog-follow through
Regular meetings among parish groups' leaders (quarterly)

Intentional Disciples

Journey on the path/parish community ... FORMED/fulfilled, parish missions/Marriage encounter/Cursillo ... Primary obligation-Mass ... Secondary obligation-Stations ... Third level-Missions-Rosary, Adorations-More! ... Youth: The kids have faith in them ... Carry that to regular Sunday Mass ... Form a welcoming community ... Cliques in some groups ... Parents of young children ... Youth Mass/Children's Mass – Monthly ... Nursery available get young parents ... Wednesday Mass coincides with PSR time to... Serve the people now-kids aren't the future church, they are the church now ... Nurture the needs of parents to participants with concurrent children's activities ... Keep the fire burning
All Catholic Youth Mass-City ... Mimic the Catholic sports (mimic CCM) ... Mentoring the younger generation to step in the leadership roles (some leaders are very defined by their leader roles) ... Ministry highlight each month

Sent to witness

Parish fosters relationships
Food pantry/OFH, WIC, Harvest Home, AA/Scouts, MOU with Ridgecrest very
Welcoming, blood drive, Rare Breed, Catholic Charities
Hands-Feet-Eyes-Ears-Heart
We need a SEAS store with shirts, jackets, other than Harvest Home
Represent/invite
Teach us how to evangelize
Partner with neighbor church
Lit sign
Reach those who don't enter the church
Be openly Catholic/openly SEAS

Group 2

Growing in Holiness

Harvest Home
Prayer Groups
Community events-when people of like minds gather, you learn and grow
Friends made in the parish through events
How to bring more people to events
Invite people, encourage them to come, nurturing and safe environment
Social media, Flock Note, etc. for funerals, meetings, etc.

Online ways to learn, like FORMED
Expand angels to visit homebound to every couple of months, not just once or twice a year
Do some events after Mass, while people are already here to build community
Lots of social events in our parish-need some faith built into these more than just a prayer before meals
Have the nativity present at Christmas events
Small groups are good
Come together and dive deeper into our faith and share faith experiences
Give information and do Q&As about faith
Activity to benefit the community
Food distribution has grown
Some cheat sheets on how to access FORMED, etc.
Need day activities and evening
More prayer and Bible study opportunities
Decision makers
Be conscious of making the explanations for changes and things going on

Forming Intentional Disciples

RCIA, it's great, have a refresher for current Catholics
Parish School of Religion
Small groups
Bulletin item-a scripture passage from this week with questions
Show the passion in a group setting for reflection, discussion and sharing
New parishioners-need some ongoing attention
We need to do more now than ever to overcome the seclusion from COVID
Scavenger hunt/mixer at Christmas dinner or other events find people from other Masses and learn something about them
Those who make noises, due to mental situations or disability, talk out, exhibit very different culture. Families with young children making noise
Pray for these things
Continue Rosaries-not just during Lent
Weekly Parish intention for personal and family Rosary
Someone to go out to homebound to teach them how to access our Masses online.
Youth-be involved in community events.
Service hours all year round for more grades

Being Sent to Witness

Harvest Home
Stephen Ministry
Have an Open House at a Catholic Church for the community to come see and hear about our faith
Council of Churches
St Vincent de Paul, Ozarks Food Harvest
Fellowship with Assemblies of God
Discretionary funds go beyond Catholic boundaries
Life House
AA, etc. group meet here
Rare Breed-Fall and Christmas tree, St Vincent de Paul helping them too
Quilting group
Newborns in need
Offer service to help people in community at their home on a year-round basis, youth and adults, week of rosaries coinciding with Ecumenical revival, Parish mission, Ministry fair, with more detail
Pastoral internships for college students and even high school junior and seniors help at the Parish level
Grocery list for St Vincent de Paul
Backpacks for school kids in Fall
Mission trips-our community, neighboring, other states, countries

Call on parishioners who are not coming-what can we do better?

Activities for singles-don't feel they fit in with family events, divorced and single parents

Group 3

Growing in Holiness

1. Blessed to have PSR and adult ed class. Many topics help members get deeper understanding of their faith. Able to build community. Small groups over the years have helped develop relationship. Worship, work, pray together, Harvest Home. Praise and Worship group is wonderful. Fosters getting to know the people. Available times for Mass. Eucharist-feeling the sense of complete, blessed.
2. Wants the tabernacle back in the main church. Foster 1st Friday and 1st Saturday devotion. Friday night Rosary-Friday night confessions. Not just consider personal devotions-wants it community. Promote more these opportunities to our Lord and His Mary. Catholic routines-sharing the depth of the church. Wants the wine returned. Start-begin it again.

Forming Intentional Disciples

1. The opportunity for daily Mass at all parishes so people can go to Mass at different times daily. Being asked to be involved. Opportunities of societies Springfield offers.
2. Very important to invite others. Concerns of that the money controls-and goes to a certain group who it goes back to. The church needs to promote more to values and social justices.
1. More teaching of Catholicism addressing the people global
2. SEAS is welcoming. Opening the door is wonderful. All welcome Fr Reidy even not of Catholic faith. RCIA is wonderful at SEAS. Staff is welcoming. Meeting people where they are at.
3. Youth minister is important. People making relationship then socializing. Try to offer more opportunities for parents. Parents and home are the key.

Being Sent to Witness

1. Involvement in the Council of Churches. Ozark Food Harvest involvement is great. Laity involvement. Bishop L and Bishops oculte. Augustine Steubenville use their youth program
2. Having Mass online has been the best. Keep Mass online. SEAS brings eucharist to many...
3. More evangelist.

Group 4

Growing in Holiness

1A. Bible studies. Lent and Advent study groups. That Man is You. Rosary Groups. Men's Club. The Word Among Us books. Penance Services. Daily Masses. Welcoming/friendly parish. Adoration.

1B. Strengthen/encourage social faith groups. SEAS supper club. Bells at consecration. Need to grow parishioner participation and encourage joiners in our current activities and groups. Bring in speakers that show how to grow our various charities. Grow community awareness of SEAS faith activities. Offer more religious and devotional brochures in the Gathering area. Offer retreats, seminars, activities that are more inclusive for 20-35 years-old unmarried/childless parishioners. Offer worship/social/religious education activities that would attract young people to church.

Forming Intentional Disciples

2A. Bible studies. Renew program. Clearer information on programs. Catechesis for adults. Offer free catechisms to the RCIA participants. The Word Among Us. St. Vincent de Paul volunteer opportunities.

2B. St. Vincent de Paul. Need to advertise/offer more information/brochures describing SEAS groups to make them more attractive. Hold the Ministry Fair again. Have we lost Families/individuals to other denominations? Why? Losing young people---why? Men's Club's opportunities to the men of the parish to participate in Parish activities. SEAS school. Parish meals. Harvest Home. Crosslines.

2C. Be welcoming, be a greeter. Offer more weekly times for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Promote the Divine Mercy devotion. Pray the St. Michael the Archangel prayer before the Recessional hymn at Masses. Involve youth/young people in the Mass and Parish life, reading and bringing up gifts. Display faith in public, sign ourselves and pray before meals in restaurants. Improve our pamphlets display in the Gathering area. Move the Tabernacle to the Sanctuary. Offer video catechesis for parents while their children are attending PSR classes at SEAS. Offer Totus Tuus. Offer free catechisms to all who need one. Remind parishioners of the Church's precepts and obligations. Promote the pro-life message all year long—not just during January. Bring back Day Chapel Masses.

Being Sent to Witness

3A. SEAS school. Crosslines and Rancho House charity work. St. Vincent de Paul Pantry and charitable giving. Showing our faith to the public via Men's Club Christmas Tree and Fireworks stands, Harvest Home, Trunk or Treat. Men's Club's charitable works and donations. Christmas giving tree. Rice Bowls.

3B. St. Vincent de Paul, Rancho House, and Crossline volunteers. Support of Birthright and Lifehouse. SEAS School. Mission collections. St Francis' Guild's support of Rare Breed.

3C. Update SEAS website and Directory with thorough information on SEAS groups and activities. Get the Parish groups to work together on projects and activities. Advertise/communicate RCIA and the Catholic faith to the public. Need a modern sign along Republic Road. Live our faith in public. Pray with other faiths to bring people back to God. Start Totus Tuus for our young people. Year-around public Pro-Life displays and messages on our sign. Sponsor mission trips for our youth, young adults, and parents. Offer free catechisms and Why Catholic? informational brochures in the Gather area.

Group 5

Holiness

Matthew Kelly, Holy Moments. Holiness and generosity. Have examples and ideas in the bulletin, simple ways.

Being a witness when we're out in the community; spreading seeds, rippling effect. One idea from the pulpit each week.

Build a community; hard to be holy alone.

Praise and worship on Thursdays are great, and Adoration.

Pockets of groups but not an overall community. Coming to church with fear of not knowing anyone. Joy is missing.

Priest be more direct on what the congregation needs to do; tell them directly where they need to participate.

Don't worry about hurting people's feeling; it's OK to offend. Is fear of offending because of fear of losing money from bigger donors.

Greeters are loud while people come in early to pray. Greeters too busy talking to each other; not acknowledging you when you come in. Not making people feel welcome. No reverence. Organist comes in and starts practicing. Close doors to church; time of reverence. Ushers taking people to front who are late disruptive. Too much moving around during eucharist. Greeters and ushers need training. Rules of reverence etiquette need to be taught from pulpit. Have different groups take turns greeting; they can share what activities they have going on as people come in. Have someone open the sanctuary door.

Bulletin helps with the journey. Institution of Flock Notes; only get funeral information, would like to get the other announcements too. Get more people to sign up to Flock Notes from the pulpit.

Christ Among Us-Groups every 5 months. Rotate people in the groups to meet others and get different perspectives on living Holy.

Why Catholic

Love the homilies.

Group facilitators don't have to be experts; take group questions to Priest or Denise.

Give announcements first, greet each other first.

Intentional Disciples

People must decide themselves to be disciples.

Divine Mercy.org

Flyer of all organization's contacts, information. Signed up for groups and never received a contact.

Retreat to understand our gifts and how to use them. Pick one. More involvement/those who have overseen certain groups be willing to let go, share blessings. Share gifts.

Sacred Heart opening the church to homeless is great.

Not enough awareness.

St. Vincent de Paul program great.

Groups should go out to give food. Gathering Friends, Crosslines, more awareness. Parishioners are generous but lack awareness. Flock Notes.

Need better understanding of the eucharist, what people are missing. Do not realize and believe the real presence of Christ, true presence. John Carpenters book on eucharist.

People need to get out and vote for new Springfield School board members.

Better follow up with newlyweds. Every two years through different stages. Small community group for couples.

That Man is You.
Children are important.
Need more involved with Ozark Food Bank.

12:30PM Session

Group 1

Growing in Holiness

Encounter Christ and Journey on path
Sunday Mass joined together with others
Adult study-broadened to all year
Over pandemic, connecting with livestream
Praying for those who are not yet back in person.
We help reach each other by example and expand our experiences
Engaging in broader community; beyond the mindset of only Catholic activity (Ecumenical mindset)
Daily Mass-6:30 Mass community is influential. Totus Tuus/Camp Re-NEW-all. (Vacation Bible School-the content gets lost in the games, etc.)
Council of Churches link to larger faith community. Catholics are Christian.
Foster individual; families with children.
How do we make faith life as attractive (or more so) as secular life? People make time for the lake and sports; make time for Christ.

Forming Intentional Disciples

Church journey to discipleship
PSR-kids lessons go home to help parents learn more and teach their kids
Youth can teach the adults-witnessing to others
Parish guides by providing opportunities for individual to grow. Promote more. Calls to action from the pulpit.
Parish has great programs. Be more assertive to call the parents to participate. Parents bring your kids to...
Emphasize the values of faith engagement.
Mindful of needs at different life stages. Middle age, single, 20s, 30s, single, married, without kids
New programs/outreach to touch people to bring them in?
Ministry Fair; follow up to encourage joining
Welcoming community. Activate the parents to engage the kids. Introductions after opening prayers.
Connecting parishioners with new parishioners. New parish orientation.
Positive suggestions: greet new parishioners, encourage introductions. What does discipleship look like so people are aware of what they do/can do better. What are your talents that you could bring to the parish? (Gardening, theatre, art skills) talent fair.
Youth group-lessons of faith to help youth know their faith, apologetics.
Study the catechism

Being Sent to Witness

Community and with Christian churches; do a tour of church.
Harvest Home, Bizarre, Catholic Charities, Rare Breed/Crosslines/Kitchen, Food Pantry, OFH
Opportunities to understand that we do through
Hands/Feet/Eyes, etc. of Christ
Food Pantry, Crosslines, Christmas boxes, coats, Ronald McDonald House?
Do we still have the list of people who can help with home repair, etc.
Prayer line/email
Prompts for ways to be charitable donations for food pantry
Reminder about Flock Note participation
Ministry Fair
How can we reach out more? Use the technology, Works of Mercy, Bishop on the radio.
Apologetics to answer questions and dispel myths
Religious women more visible
Evangelize through actions and deeds

Youth, 16-18 years old, represent on Parish Council, and young adults 19-25.

Group 3

Holiness

Teaching PSR, working women's group, Lenten classes, PCCW, Praise and Worship/Prayer Group, retreats, community day of prayer, Catholic schools.

Need a bus to help parishioners get to Mass and group events

Get involved in the different groups. Ways to get involved in the community. Learn more, meet people, deepen relationships.

Great Pastors over the years at SEAS

Prayer warriors to pray for people to get the Lord in their hearts, doing good for God, asking God for the right words, take time for others.

Confession every day; before morning Mass. Mid-day Saturday is difficult; competing to get there early, people leave due to long wait times; get help from retired priests. No comfortable seating while waiting

PSR told only must go to confession once a year; instill in children now; family.

Adoration-educating the kids, promoting it more. Holy Trinity too far; like it to be at SEAS too.

Need Parish School of Religion help; parents need to be better examples to kids.

Server training needed; don't understand the importance of doing it right. Reverence: give God more room to come in; outside noise. Take the Lord out with you.

Rosary before every Mass; more reverence in the sanctuary. Too much chatting. Play Gregorian music to set the tone. Social time needs to stay outside of the sanctuary. Have different groups take turns leading the Rosary.

Put out informational pamphlets for confession, Rosary, becoming Catholic, etc.

Intentional Disciples

Welcome diversity/nationalities. Show compassion, not judgement

Not enough directional signs in the church; greeters need to do better job of showing newcomers where to go.

School Mass reserved seating needs to be clearer.

Not friendly at the welcoming. Must join a group to learn more about the church.

Have separately trained ushers and greeters.

Missal books are confusing. Have one set of instructions instead of having to flip around. Order of the Mass.

Rite of Christian Initiation refresher for cradle Catholics.

Promote 6:30AM Mass.

Have more diverse and multigenerational event. Father/son greeters. Parent and child serving together.

Help multi-culture feel more welcome.

Life groups; get together for potlucks, each other's homes, outreach together, prayer requests, talk about the day's teachings. Alpha.

There is a divide between older and younger.

Go out and share the gospel. Work on outreach outside the church.

More awareness of what each group is doing.

Young people help us grow. Get them involved. Parents set the example.

Share your faith with strangers

Parents would stay if we had better community, instead of dropping kids off, adult classes during PSR. Force parent involvement.

Lifeteen Mass

Don't do enough for disabled kids going through Parish School of Religion

Witness

World Day of Prayer

Stations of the Cross

Bringing kids in, including non-Catholic and get them involved/serving

Parish School of Religion is sending out birthday cards, cards to those on prayer list, sympathy cards.

St. Vincent de Paul is great.

Parish Council of Catholic Women-get the word out to younger; have a come and see

Rite of Christian Initiation is successful

Parishioners don't hear from the church

Invite

Registering to parish? Get all their information, have them sign up for Flock Note

Market that all are welcome

9:30 AM Session:

Growing in Holiness:

1. How does the parish community help you to encounter Christ and journey with you on the path to holiness and a deepening relationship with Christ?
 - a. Many groups to participate in, resources available (Formed subscription, etc.)
 - b. Harvest Home is great event to bring many different groups
 - c. Mass offerings each day
 - d. Good liturgy and homily
 - e. Music
 - f. Adoration
 - g. Sacraments
 - h. Cornerstone – bible study
 - i. All opportunities to see and know Jesus through the people that participate in the groups
2. What could the parish community do better to foster and encourage your growth in holiness?
 - a. Draw-in young people – find ways to integrate younger and more experienced people
 - b. More opportunities for Adoration
 - c. Spirit of Vatican II – local language and modern society
 - d. Add to worship services
 - i. Bells
 - ii. Incorporate traditional Latin/Greek prayers
 - iii. Tabernacle back into the sanctuary
 - e. Communicate symbolism of the sanctuary and grounds – create plaques or signage that explains
 - f. More welcoming to new parishioners – especially seniors
 - g. Share Church teachings on social justice – based on the teachings of Jesus, not political affiliation

Forming intentional disciples:

1. In what ways does the Church journey with individuals on the path of intentional discipleship? How does the parish community help one another to grow in fuller knowledge of, understanding of, and daily practice of, life in Christ?
 - a. Youth Minister focusing on current events and mission trips
 - b. St. Vincent de Paul – food pantry, rental assistance, etc. ... not restricted to Catholic
 - i. volunteers who field calls and support
2. How does the parish form a welcoming community where ALL are invited to participate and given opportunities to discover and use their gifts? Who, in your experience, does not feel welcome or is not part of the active parish community and why (if the reason is known)?
 - a. Low-income & poverty people/families don't feel welcome b/c more middle-income parish
 - b. Avenues of care – ministry to assist/support (????)
 - c. Almost all activities are offered free of cost (donations welcomed)
 - d. Feel we are welcome to all
3. What positive suggestions would you make for how the Church could more effectively form intentional disciples?
 - a. Engage all human senses in liturgy and worship (smells, bells, Word of God).
 - b. Promote service projects and the spiritual benefits of sharing our gifts and helping the needy
 - c. Recruit young members to join Parish Council of Catholic Women, Men's Club – invite young people to participate
 - d. Totus Tuus – youth program

- e. Set expectations that all parish and school members volunteer and participate in ministries or stewardship activities so more new members engage more and spread the workload amongst more members
 - i. Rotating list of monthly volunteers

Being sent to witness

1. How does the parish community foster healthy relationships within the larger surrounding community and with other Christian churches within that community?
 - a. Crosslines, Rare Breed/The Kitchen, and other cross-denomination groups.
 - i. Have Faith Initiative – all faiths, shared values (advocate for the poor, respect for life)
 - ii. Council of Churches – must be Christian
 - b. Member of Council of Churches – Crosslines (food pantry, Christmas presents), Ozarks Food Harvest, St Vincent de Paul,
 - c. Ridgecrest Baptist – share parking
2. How does the parish community specifically serve as the hands, feet, eyes, ears, and heart of Jesus: How do we reach out to help those most in need (physically and spiritually)? How do we intentionally welcome and minister to those considered to be marginalized or left out?
 - a. homeless shelters, food pantries – (St. Vincent de Paul Society)
 - b. Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri
 - c. ministry reaches out to homebound
3. What more can we, as the parish community, do to reach out and bring Christ to those who do not enter the doors of the Church?
 - a. continuing education for faith and apologetics, serve the needs of the local community, combine groups with other parishes to have greater impact
 - b. Don't try to compete with pop culture, differentiate or stand out from secular society or other Christian denominations
 - c. Masses at nursing homes
 - d. Personal invitation from members
 - e. Add more faith sharing to Harvest Home when we have entire community on the property