

SYNTHESIS OF THE PARISH SYNOD CONSULTATION SESSION

PARISH NAME: **Holy Trinity** PARISH CITY: **Springfield, MO**

How many consultation sessions were held at the parish? **2**

On what date(s) was the session held? **Saturday, 3/12/22, Tuesday, 3/22/22**

About how many participants attended? **30**

How were invitations issued? **Yes, in our bulletins, social media and announced by the priest at Mass.**

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? **In our bulletin announcement we encouraged our members to invite “fallen away” Catholics. Those that did come to our meetings are very active within the parish.**

Were there specific groups of people who did not participate and why (if known) did they not participate? **We did not have any younger adults or youth at our meetings likely because of schedule conflicts or lack of wanting to participate or understanding what these meetings were about.**

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

Our discussions determined we are all on this road together within our church to support each towards our growth in holiness. Our Springfield Area Perpetual Adoration at our parish helps all members and our area Catholic community to grow in holiness. Members expressed having daily Mass helps them on their journey of growth in holiness. The level of reverence for the Holy Eucharist at Mass by our priests is positively valued in our parish and set the example for our members to encourage their growth of holiness. Positively our parish priests homilies help encourage all members to grow and mature in holiness in our community and in our homes. Our parish community grows in holiness in the following areas: faith formation classes, small groups, special speakers, parish missions, stations of the cross, a parish library, penance services, recitation of the holy rosary before Mass, small group studies, RCIA programs, Cornerstone bible study and in our service works of corporal mercy. Our church offers many educational conferences that help our community and us individually grow in our holiness. The amount of effort of Liturgical planning with our ministers and musicians is highly regarded by our members in their growth of holiness.

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

Members expressed that many people have not made it back to the level of participation since Covid and our normalcy has not completely returned since the pandemic. Many still view that Covid in the church has impacted their social connections and meaningful relationships therefore impacting their personal growth to move forward. Members expressed they need more social connections and this negatively has impacted them.

At times we are not welcoming as we should be to “All God’s children”. It is disappointment and frustration that the church members are not so accepting and welcoming of different sexual orientation and social backgrounds or how somehow appear different.

Many Catholics go through the motions and do not engage in the spiritual level of believing the holy Eucharist is the body of Christ.

A disappointment is not placing enough emphasis in the meaning of the Creed and various church doctrines it embodies. Many Catholics recite the words but do not have ongoing education to help them grow with understanding to promote their holiness.

What were some of the positive descriptions of how the Church is “forming intentional disciples”?

Many expressed the importance of dignity and respect of life all stages is very positive in forming intentional disciples and hearing this from our priests on going helps form intentional disciples. Faith formation for youth is very good and helps all the families grow in forming intentional disciples. Our RCIA program greatly helps our church to grow.

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

There is a lack of ongoing adult educational training that is consistent for many Catholics. RCIA students once they come into the church need to continue classes. The young people in the church are not experiencing enough connections to help them develop the skills and social support to become “intentional disciples”. Our church needs to offer and encourage young adults to volunteer and be liturgical ministers. . Many expressed they miss having servers at our church since the Covid pandemic and feel these are vital ways to help form intentional disciples. More emphasis on vocations of marriage, religious life and priesthood needs to emphasize. We need to emphasis marriages be blessed by the church.

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

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul and other parish groups are doing what they can to support and bring hope and be witnesses of Christ’s never ending love with their acts of service and support. The various special collections the USCCB participates in allows the people to help support these various ministries and missions.

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”**?

Many expressed the need for meaningful integration in our community. Many expressed they would like more “neighborly” community connection with various groups including non-profit organizations that serve the community.

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?

Many expressed the need for greater pastoral connections with our priests and would like to see them engaged at more events. We acknowledge the need for greater feminine engagement within our church.

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?

The Covid pandemic has caused many in our parish not to feel welcomed and have felt a certain sense of disconnection and isolation. Some participants have expressed the wish for greater connections with our priests.

What dreams, desires, and aspirations for the church were expressed by participants?
We would like to see the clergy be more visible at Adoration and vocally supportive of Adoration. We would like continued religious education for RCIA members and for all members of the church so we may continue to grow.



Sr. Pauline Nugent CCVI, Moderator



Patricia Liermann, Office Manager