

## Synthesis of the Parish Synod Consultation Session

St. Teresa Parish, Glennonville

Two consultation sessions were held at the parish.

The sessions were held on April 27 and April 28<sup>th</sup>.

Approximately a total of 38 parishioners attended the synod.

Invitations were mailed out, announcements were made at the weekend masses, flocknote was sent out, as well as personal texts and calls were made to the parishioners.

Personal calls and texts were sent out to those at risk of being excluded and those on the peripheries.

### **Were there specific groups of people who did not participate and why did they not participate?**

The young adults through around 30 years of age did 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 common message was that having weekday Mass, the sacraments, adoration and working with community members in different activities helps our community to grow in holiness. Our faith and fellowship goes beyond church. We have a strong community that gives comfort and support to each other and we reach out to others in need.

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

It was brought up by several members that we need to find a way to be more welcoming to newcomers, and to those who have just entered the church. Some members tend to fall away after coming into the church. Many members mentioned that they would like to see a Bible study maybe once or twice a year, as well as motivational speakers, occasionally. Several members mentioned being hurt and feeling rejected after the church was locked during Covid. Many members are wanting to see the Sign of Peace returned to mass. Members mentioned that we need to promote and encourage our youth to attend TEC and young married couples to attend Cursillo, to deepen their faith and help them open up to the Holy Spirit. We need to get our youth to volunteer for different ministries. We can send cards to those having surgery,

those in nursing homes, and the homebound. Many members mentioned that having a bigger choir would be great. If we could have a phone group to organize for emergencies to help those in need, (fire, tornado, accidents, etc.)

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

Many of the discussions among the church members overlap the three different themes. Members mentioned that Fr. Victor’s homilies help them become intentional disciples. He encourages members to begin charity at home and in our daily actions. Having the sacraments offered and encouraged helps us to grow. The parish gives out books occasionally to help us grow in our faith. Our school is an outstanding way that forms intentional disciples, through our children and then through our surrounding communities.

**What were some of the challenges, etc. in describing how the Church journeys together to form intentional disciples?**

Members mentioned that they would like to see a “greeter” at church. We need to greet strangers when they come. We have a very “clicky” community, since there are so many family members there. We need to reach out to those who do not have family there. Members would like to see study groups formed. Members would like to see the “sign of peace” brought back to mass. We need to reach out to our RCIA members after they join the church to make them feel needed and wanted. We can provide meals for those coming home from the hospital, new parents, or those who have emergencies. We need to invite the marginalized and those who do not attend mass to parish events and fundraisers. We need to talk to people about coming back to church. We need to apologize when a wrong has been done. Some people hang onto hurts and an apology can go a long way.

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

Our school helps us reach out to the surrounding area. The Christmas Tour at Malden reached out to other Christians. Maybe we can do that. Our Annual Picnic, our Dinner Auction, the Lenten Fish Frys, Dancing With the Stars, the Giving Tree, and our Lenten offering are all ways that we witness to others. Flocknote helps us pray for each other.

What were some of the challenges, etc. conveyed, in describing how the Church is responding to the commission of: “being sent forth to witness”?

Members asked if we could revamp “40 Hours” to get more people to participate. We could send cards to parishioners who are in the hospital, nursing homes, or shut-ins. We can give out

more religious material. We could have a Healing Mass and have the opportunity to have the sacrament of the Anointing more frequently at the end of mass. We need to increase awareness of the benefits of making sacrifices throughout the day, for the poor souls, non-believers, and other intentions. We need to draw in the high school students and youth with fun activities. It was suggested to have a children's church on Wednesday evenings. Members suggested that Fr. Victor could ask more people to do different ministries, or lead different activities, because he will get more people to do things than if you wait for them to sign up or volunteer.

**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?**

Many of those answers will be found in the previous answers. Some members in our parish are still feeling hurt and angry over the way the Church handled Covid. It was discussed and Fr. Victor assured the group that it would not be repeated, and that the Church regrets its decision. The group wants the whole assembly to know, so Fr. Victor said he would discuss it at Mass.

The rest of the questions are answered in the above questions.