

St. Thomas More Synod 2021

Location: Villa Venture Synod

Date: Jan. 21, 2021

Facilitator: Dave Butel

Note Taker/ Timer: Jami Pizzichino and Colleen Teasdale

Number of Participants: 5

Overview:

Opening prayer and explanation was led by Dave Butel. Prayer and reading by Jami Pizzichino and Colleen Teasdale. Dave led the group to select discussion topics from the Ten Themes handout.

The subject of Listening was selected by 4 of the 5 participants. It was then an equal tie between Celebration, Ecumenism, Companions on the Journey and Discerning and Deciding

Participants were a little hesitant to speak and felt a little intimidated by the language used in the materials.

Topic 1: Listening

A member of the group stated that they didn't feel like the church listens to sexual misconduct complaints.

Another member commented that parishioners may not be listening.

The idea of how can the people be more informed about sexual misconduct came up as a theme.

Topic 2: Companions on the Journey

Participant stated that they felt that some people that are left behind by the church but that they choose that path.

The group stated that some people in today's society don't like organized religion.

Organized religion is not what it used to be.

People quite coming to church.

People are distracted.

Residents at Villa Ventura would like more opportunities to attend mass.

A theme emerged that both the church and the people are spread thin.

Older people are left in the margin.

Medicine is extending lives and making it harder for the church to serve all of the people.

One participant felt that STM was doing a good job with outreach and noted our sister parish, Uplift, One City Café volunteers and our monthly food drive.

Topic 3: Celebration

Again, the participants referenced that the wording of the documents was confusing and complicated.

The group felt that the people that attend mass are happy.

The group felt that the people that are not there aren't present because it is too much trouble and that mass is boring.

One member of the group stated that she did not feel comfortable pushing people to come back to the church or asking why they had fallen away.

It was stated that the people that aren't getting anything out of the mass aren't putting anything into it.

Some felt that people feel judged by the church- if they don't fit the mold. People feel rejected and feel that priests push the away when they enforce certain rules. Ex: having a baby out of wedlock would mean that you would not be allowed to get married in the church.

Topic 4: Discerning and Deciding

The group felt that the Pope makes decisions for the church as a whole and that the Bishop makes decisions for the parishes in Kansas City.

At St. Catherine's the Pastor and the Pastoral Council help make decisions.

At St. Thomas More there is no Pastoral Council.

The group felt that having a Pastoral Council is important because the pastor needs impute in order to make the best decisions.

It was also stated that priests need to take the opinions and feelings of the people if they expect money in support of certain projects or appeals.

Overall the group was thankful to have the opportunity to be apart of the discussion.