

St. Bavo Parish Summary Report from Synod Consultations

A. Most pressing needs

1. Evangelization

Attracting new people to the parish:

- Outreach to people in the neighborhood.
- Outreach to former parishioners who are no longer coming to church.
- Activities to attract & welcome new parishioners.
- Current parishioners need to invite friends to join us.

Increasing participation of current parishioners:

- More opportunities to work together on service projects.
- More social events.
- Faith-sharing groups.
- Offer or require service hours for older children, to encourage participation.
- Find ways to encourage new members to get involved.

Communication:

- Advertise upcoming events to people outside the parish.
- Better use of the bulletin to keep parishioners informed.
- Assign a contact person/liaison to new members.

2. Catechesis

More adult faith formation presentations from Pastor and DRE.

Small group book studies.

Retreats and parish missions.

Make the "Formed" app available to parishioners.

Need to recruit, train & support volunteers to assist with faith formation.

3. Spiritual & Liturgical Life

More people to volunteer for liturgical ministries.

Annual ongoing training for liturgical ministers.

Greeters to welcome people to Mass.

Want the celebrant to greet parishioners after Mass.

Nursery child care and/or children's liturgy of the word at one of the Sunday masses.

Youth Masses with pizza afterwards.

Coffee & donuts after Mass.

4. Vocations

Ministry geared toward young married couples.

Parish Youth Group and ministry geared toward young people.

Encourage younger parishioners to serve in parish ministries and take leadership positions.

Restart Pastoral Council and Liturgical Committee.

Concern about lack of priests in the Diocese.

5. Outreach

Need to provide friendship for the elderly who are alone & isolated.

More outreach to parishioners in need.

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B. Where we are excelling

1. Evangelization

Very welcoming to visitors.

Initiated several new converts to the faith in recent years.

2. Catechesis

Pastor has offered many adult faith formation presentations on various topics.

DRE also has offered presentations and led book studies for faith development.

Many parishioners are open to learning more about their faith.

Mini-retreat format for K-8 Religious Ed is excellent.

Solid OCIA program.

3. Spiritual & Liturgical Life

History of liturgical excellence here.

- Homilies and music are excellent.
- Joyful, vibrant liturgies, which invite participation.
- Liturgical ministers are well-trained.
- Intimate worshipping environment feels welcoming.

Livestreaming of 11:00 Mass and some special liturgies. Many homebound parishioners depend on this every Sunday.

Weekly Rosary and First Friday Adoration.

October Rosary Challenge with the school children.

Weekly Stations of the Cross during Lent.

Daily meditations booklets for Advent & Lent are very helpful.

4. Vocations

5. Outreach

Generous monthly support of MAC Food Pantry and Hope Rescue Mission.

Giving Tree — providing Christmas presents to needy children through SVDP.

Band of Brothers (Men's group) assists anyone in need with household projects that do not require a professional.

WINGS (Women's group) does monthly service projects to benefit the local community and invites parishioners to participate.

Prayer Line offers spiritual support to those who are hurting and in need of intercession.

Active ministry to the sick and homebound, even providing meals in some cases.

Extra notes:

- Parishioners offer generous financial support for the parish, the Diocese, and other special needs. They are confident that the parish is responsible with their donations.
- Parishioners respond generously when volunteers are needed for a special event or service project.

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C. Where we need to grow

1. Evangelization

Outreach to people who have not returned to church since COVID.

Targeted outreach to people who have become alienated from the Church. Activities in which they can become involved.

Outreach to the local neighborhood community, including non-Catholics.

Find ways to attract new young families.

Monthly Family/Youth Mass and other ways to reach out to the youth.

More community building activities and social events.

- Lenten soup suppers after Stations of the Cross.
- Movie Nights.
- Coffee & donuts after Masses.
- Service projects.

Use social media and other marketing techniques besides the bulletin.

Seek more collaboration with the school (Mishawaka Catholic).

Seek more collaboration with the other Mishawaka parishes, especially on joint ministries.

2. Catechesis

Retreats, mini-retreats and/or parish missions for adults and youth.

Book clubs, Bible studies, and seasonal small groups for Advent & Lent.

Other faith sharing opportunities and ongoing faith formation.

Provide volunteers with more training and development.

3. Spiritual & Liturgical Life

Need for more volunteers for all liturgical ministries.

- Find ways to boost recruitment efforts and to do them more than once a year.
- Personal invitations from fellow parishioners to get involved.

Greeters to welcome people as they arrive for Mass.

Resume a children's liturgy of the word at one of the Sunday masses.

4. Vocations

More support for married life and young couples, not necessarily limited to parishioners.

More encouragement of vocations to priesthood and diaconate, in the parish and school.

Prayer for vocations could be included at Mass.

5. Outreach

More daytime activities for the elderly who are isolated and need fellowship.

Grief/bereavement group.

Offer transportation for parishioners who have difficulty getting to Mass or events.

Find ways to communicate regularly with the homebound.

Extra note:

Reinstate and/or grow Pastoral Council, Liturgy Committee & Social Committee.