



St. Boniface Parish, Erie
Initial Results of Synodality Listening Sessions

Thank you to all who participated in the recent Synodality Listening Sessions. We had a total of 66 parishioners attend the various discussion groups. Below is a summary of the themes (either frequent or of agreed significance) that emerged from the sessions. The full report with themes and “suggested opportunities” is available in the back of the church. Fr. Marc and our Parish’s Pastoral Council are in the process of reviewing the summary and expanding the “opportunities/actions” as they relate to our Parish Pastoral Plan (Yes, we do have a Parish Plan!). However, your voice does not end here. We will continue to provide small group discussion sessions designed to obtain continuous feedback from all parishioners, enhance our parish community, and promote personal faith development within our Parish! We welcome individuals, especially those involved in current ministries to contact Pastoral Council President, Gene Conn or Fr. Marc Stockton to assist in implementing action plans to enhance St. Boniface Parish and create an even more vibrant faith community!

Key Themes from the recent Parish Listening Sessions:

- Improve communication of goals/plans, activities, and various ministries.
- Work together better—develop the spirit of true collaboration by merging paths of all ministries/groups.
- Parishioners do not fully understand our parish vision/mission/values; most are not aware that we have a Parish Pastoral Plan (goals).
- Improve parish community-building. In many ways, we do well, but we can do better with welcoming new/visiting parishioners. Some longer-term parishioners feel their ideas don’t always feel welcome. The same people do most of the work.
- Faith Formation: Small group sharing, Cursillo, family-oriented, and family-involved methods all lead to a more vibrant parish. We need to help people get away from the idea that practicing our faith is an obligation, and view it as a desire to know Jesus.
- Evangelizing: Build/strengthen relationships with marginalized parishioners, neighbors, and beyond. We offer a lot at the parish level and to our Greene Township community, but we can do more, and go beyond.
- How do we deal with trust issues due to COVID, history of clergy sex abuse, and perceived abuse of power by church hierarchy (clericalism)? Impacts our parish and evangelization.
- Liturgy: Mass and Eucharist are most important to all. Sacraments strengthen faith. Music and quiet times during Mass are personal tastes and preferences.
- The pastor is the heart of the parish; he sets the tone. Fr. Marc is very much appreciated.