

## **STM SYNOD 2022 - Listening and Acting in Synodality**

### **Follow-up of issues heard, and actions taken from STM Synod held in March of 2022**

**Issue Heard: Increased Decision-Making Transparency** - Parishioners requested increased transparency of parish decision-making process and governance.

**Action Taken:** Using the STM solar panel project and the bell project as examples, Fr. Scott addressed the process of a typical parish decision moving from proposal to committee to approval to funding and to reality. Parish Council minutes are also being posted on the STM website.

**Issue Heard: Committee Member Access** - Parishioners did not feel they had easy access to Parish Council and Finance Council members. Who to contact if they had a question.

**Action Taken:** Council contacts have been published on the STM website

**Issue Heard: Mental Health Outreach** - Increase awareness of mental health challenges, develop a cohesive response by STM

**Action Taken:** The STM Mental Health Ministry was formed, and now has over 20 active members as well as mental health events and education

**Issue Heard: Teaching Mass** - There was an expression of the need to know more about the liturgy, about what happens at Mass.

**Action Taken:** Several Teaching Masses were conducted over the summer of 2023

**Issue Heard: LGBTQ+ Acceptance** - Call to increase welcome and acceptance of LGBTQ+ community and families

**Action Taken:** Fr. Scott formed the Accepted, Welcomed, Blessed (AWB) prayer group, which is active in study, book reading and discernment in assisting parish families with LBTQ+ members.

**Issue Heard: Need for Nursery**

**Action Taken:** The nursery was restarted after Covid closure, and remains a busy and noisy place on Sunday mornings.

**Issue Heard: More "Town Hall" meetings** - We heard many requests for more "Town Hall" style meetings like the Synod

**Action Taken:** "More of Us" Town Hall listening session featuring a Q&A with Fr. Scott was held in November, 2023 (see below). There may be a possibility of scheduling Bishop Zarama for a similar Q&A session/"An Evening with the Bishop" next year.

**Follow-up of issues heard and actions taken from STM "More of Us" Q&A with Fr. Scott held in November of 2023**

**Issue Heard: Increase parishioner involvement** - What are we doing as a parish to encourage involvement and participation in the church?

**Action Taken:** A position of Parish Engagement Coordinator was created, filled and has become active in this specific role.

**Issue Heard: Improve our evangelization** - A need was felt for assistance with improving our parish community's ability to evangelize internally and externally

**Action Taken:** STM faith development activities as well as our numerous outreach programs will be examined in light of improving publicity and awareness

**Issue Heard: What happens after RCIA?** - There was a concern about a lack of ongoing formation after RCIA completion.

**Action Taken:** A formalized mystagogy program has been developed and will be implemented to deepen and mature the faith of our newest Catholics.

**Issue Heard: Church position on blessing members of LGBTQ community.**

Questions were heard regarding blessing of LGBTQ people and blessing of same sex couples.

**Action Taken:** Fr. Scott addressed the catechetical intent and meaning of a blessing. One month later, the Vatican issued Fiducia Supplicans, Supplicating Trust, "On the Pastoral Meaning of Blessings." Further questions from the parish community at that time were clarified by Fr. Scott in the STM parish bulletin.

**Issue Heard: What is left undone from our Synod?** - Does STM have a formal post-Synodal process to track open items from our listening sessions?

**Action Taken:** There have been ongoing updates to STM post-Synodal activities. Perhaps the only open item is how to encourage even greater participation at our subsequent town hall meetings.