

**St. Thomas A Becket Pastoral Council
March 22, 2022**

Attending:

Betsey Coffey
Robert Dunphy
Sean Endsley
Lisa Erhardt
Rev. William Schardt

Jennifer Stroik
Matthew Verghese

Absent:

Gary Beach
Tom Robinson

1. Shawn Endsley convened the meeting at 6:30 PM in the Parish Hall followed by an opening prayer.
2. Minutes of the January meeting were reviewed and approved.]
3. The meeting consisted in considering and discussing Listening Session questions distributed by the Diocese of Arlington in preparation for the General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops to be held in 2023. The questions are:
 - i. How is “journeying together” to announce the Gospel happening today in our parish?
 - ii. Who else do we need to reach out to, listen to and learn from, or to include in synodal consultations and in our faith community? Whose voices are currently not being heard? Who is absent from these discussions?
 - iii. What do you think would make our parish better?
 - iv. What can each of us do and what can we do collectively to make it better?
 - v. What steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our journeying together?
4. How is “journeying together” to announce the Gospel happening today in our parish? Comments included:
 - a. Sacraments of Baptism and First Eucharist
 - b. People with whom we work – Parish Staff, Organizations such as the Parish Pastoral council
 - c. Prayer meetings
 - d. Volunteer dinner – when held
 - e. Workcamp
 - f. Youth Group
5. Who else do we need to reach out to, listen to and learn from, or to include in synodal consultations and in our faith community? Whose voices are currently not being heard? Who is absent from these discussions?
 - a. Voices of criticism that liturgy is too solemn
 - b. Those who like to complain
 - c. No celebrations of traditional liturgies – not held at St. Thomas

6. What do you think would make our parish better?
 - a. Witness comes from participation as part of groups
 - b. In the way you live – doing it “right.”
 - c. Working and volunteering
 - d. Shifting the workcamp to nearby rather than remote destinations – realizing the needs that are present right here.
7. What can each of us do and what can we do collectively to make it better?
 - a. Need new ways to reach out
 - b. More emphasis on scripture
 - c. Find different ways to pass on the faith – current religious education is not successful
8. Schedule for listening sessions
 - a. Tuesday March 29th – evening
 - b. Thursday March 31 – morning
 - c. Tuesday April 5 – evening
 - d. Thursday April 7th – morning
9. Meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM

Note: Evening and morning listening sessions were reversed when held. A different list of questions was used.