



## FOR A SYNODAL CHURCH COMMUNION PARTICIPATION MISSION

### IN OUR OWN WORDS

*Four members of our parish family participated in the gathering at the Public Auditorium on June 11<sup>th</sup>: Charlotte Brown, Margarete Smith, Rosalind Whatley, and Erin Whatley. Each one of them has written a short reflection based on their experience and impression of the day-long gathering. Those reflections will be shared here in our bulletin over the next few weeks. Today's reflection is written by Rosalind Whatley.*

I really didn't expect to get much out of this conference, but I must say I was proved wrong. The conference opened with a panel discussion. These are the items that stuck out to me during it.

- Social media to reach young people
- Outreach – go to them in their homes
- Facilitate, nurture – support
- Welcome and value – does the church provide this now; how are we perceived?
- Mission – “That all may know the tender love, the grace of God Most High” – do we show/live this statement?
- Need to move from program-oriented to one-on-one ministry/mentoring
- Live by Pope Francis' statement of “Style of God is mercy, closeness and tenderness.”



In the breakout sessions at each table:

#### SESSION ONE: COMMUNION

- Sense of family is missing
- Involvement with church – getting to know church family – building bridges
- Need to invest in relationships
- Want the church to thrive
- Connection to someone you see each week in church – leave the comfort zone
- Parish collaboration
- Hospitality and training in hospitality

*continued on other side →*

#### SESSION TWO: PARTICIPATION

- Acknowledge answers to questions asked
- Invite others to do things – build up people to get them to volunteer self and thanking people for volunteering, etc. ...
- Recognizing gifts in both children and adults
- Stewardship (discern one's gift)
- Teaching symbols of the church to children

#### SESSION THREE: MISSION

- Social media and young to evangelize
- “Faith” is a verb
- Engage youth/young adults to help with online evangelization programs/Mass
- Mission of church needs to adapt to changing world

It was very interesting. It ended with me learning that we need to teach people how to be friends again. Teach people how to pray and listen. Let's be curious, not judgmental.