



BLESSED TRINITY + SPIRIT OF CHRIST WHOLE PARISH FAITH FORMATION

DO THIS

Small Group Discussion Questions from Sunday October 18 Session

Icebreaker

1. What did you miss the most during the stay at home order in March and April?
2. What do you find difficult at this time?
3. What has been a positive for you during these times?

Things We Are Missing About the Mass and Faith Community

Missing so many people	Learning from each other
Seeing faces and smiles	Ministry together outside the parish
Coffee and donuts	Sports
Celebrating funerals and supporting families	Altar servers, other ministries at liturgy
Sign of peace	Children's Liturgy of the Word
Sharing the cup	Choir singing as an ensemble

1. Of the list we came up with during faith formation, what do you miss the most?
2. What do you think has the greatest impact on our community?
3. Is there anything that you would add to this list?

Principles of Worship

Fr. Ed mentioned several principles of worship:

- Full, active and conscious participation in the Mass – all of the assembly worship together and have an important part in the liturgy. This is realized in the gestures, song, responses, prayers, movement etc. of the assembly throughout the liturgy.

- Diversity of ministry – the lay ministers are to reflect the congregation in its diversity, male and female, young and mature, etc.
- Great commands – in his life and ministry, Jesus left us with several commands. The most familiar is the great commandment to love God and neighbor. However at the Last Supper, Jesus also commanded his disciples to “take and eat... take and drink... and do this in memory of me.”
- Fullness of the Sign – everything about the Mass and the environment is real and reflects what it is. For example, we receive both the body and blood of Christ, we have live music rather than a recording, the altar is substantial, the plants are live (a real part of creation)
- The Eucharist is the source and summit of our faith – the Eucharist is Christ, whom we receive and by receiving we are transformed into the Body of Christ

1. Which of these principles of worship have been impacted by the current pandemic? In what ways?

What happens when we fail to live out the principles of worship?

Several suggestions were made:

- Minimalism – the “Irish rite” in which Mass becomes something to get through quickly, with only the essential elements.
- Clericalism – the priest is the most important person and focus of the liturgy. The congregation is just there to see the Mass and is not essential. This can also mean only the “professionals” are involved in ministry and expected to be holy.
- Virtual Mass – many only show the priest or do not have a diversity of ministers. Encourage the practice of seeing rather than doing Mass.
- Cafeteria Catholic/Sheilaism – each individual prays and believes as he/she decides. Each person has their own individual faith which sees no need for conversion. Without the challenge of community, people become focused inward.

1. Which of these issues do you see at work in the church today?

2. Can you think of other things that happen when we fail to live out the principles of worship?

