

TOGETHER

a monthly bulletin insert from the archdiocese



ARCHDIOCESE
of DUBUQUE

Comments regarding this insert may be sent to communications staff by emailing contactus@dbqarch.org or by calling (800) 876-3546 and asking for the director of communications.

May, 2022 Vol. 2 | No. 5

This document is available as a PDF at www.dbqarch.org/together

MESSAGES FROM ARCHBISHOP JACKELS



9 May 2022

ARCHBISHOP GIVES UPDATE ON SYNOD SURVEY

The Synod surveys have been collected, recorded, analyzed, and are being written up for a report to the Vatican and to the people in the Archdiocese.

By way of a sneak peek, the laity, religious and clergy who responded were in agreement when it came to which markers of parish vitality are most important.

The top five vote-getters include service of others, living stewardship, faith formation programming, Mass every weekend, and a sense of belonging.

Other contenders include parish financial stability, and good preaching (which received much attention by laity and religious, but not clergy... hmm).

These results confirm the importance of our 4 ministry priorities: enhance Sunday Mass, strengthen faith formation, teach stewardship, and promote vocation.

They also endorse what the Vatican says about what's needed for parish vitality: serve the poor, learn and teach the Gospel, prayer and worship.

It's worth repeating: the purpose of the survey is to identify markers of a vital parish community, not to signal parish closings.

And that there is such strong agreement about those markers indicates that we are of one mind about parish vitality, and

so can/should own the survey results.

And as a consequence of that, we know where we need to up our game as individual parishioners, and as parish communities.

I hope it won't happen, but if any parish closes, it'll essentially be the decision of the parishioners, if they don't rise to the challenge of meeting those parish vitality markers.

Some people think their parish is doomed to close because they don't have enough money or people. While numbers aren't key indicators, it is important to have...

A large enough amount of money to cover the bills, and a large enough number of people for an appropriate sense of community, and to carry out ministry roles.

And others think that if they don't have Mass in their parish on weekdays, or on every weekend, then it's on the chopping block; not so...

As long as parishioners are open to gathering on weekdays for prayer, even though a priest isn't present, and on Sundays for SCAP when a priest isn't available.

The Mass is of primary importance for Catholics, and we need Holy Communion; nevertheless, it's not feasible for priests here to say Mass every day in every parish.

We need more priests, so please pray for

vocations to priesthood in the Archdiocese, especially praying in Eucharistic Adoration.

There are often numerous priestly vocations in places where Eucharistic Adoration is practiced. That isn't magic, but is the consequence of...

Contemplating Jesus, which fuels the desire to participate in Mass and Communion, which leads us to imitate Jesus in humble and loving service of others, and in wanting to do the will of God.

Serra Club, Knights of Columbus, and the ACCW can be enlisted to help promote and organize Eucharistic Adoration for this intention in all our parishes.

Michael O. Jackels
Archbishop of Dubuque

ORDINATIONS TO BE HELD AT CATHEDRAL LATER THIS MONTH

Benjamin P. Valentine will enter the priesthood May 28. Casey J. Flack and Jeffrey I. Frieden will become transitional deacons May 27. The events at the Cathedral of St. Raphael will be livestreamed at www.dbqarch.org/live-broadcasts. More on the men being ordained will be in the June issue of Together.



Casey J. Flack



Jeffrey I. Frieden



Benjamin P. Valentine

ORDINATION
TO THE TRANSITIONAL
DIACONATE

STREAMING LIVE FROM THE
CATHEDRAL OF ST. RAPHAEL

MAY 27, 2022 | 7:00 P.M.

ORDINATION
TO THE
PRIESTHOOD

STREAMING LIVE FROM THE
CATHEDRAL OF ST. RAPHAEL

MAY 28, 2022 | 10:00 A.M.