

YOUTH GROUP LISTENING SESSION Mt. Vernon & Surrounding Parishes 6/1/25

DISCOVERY - What excites you and motivates you? What is going well?

- Having Jesus present in the Eucharist
- Positive connections with peers
- Good youth group, no judgement, safe space
- Being able to connect and share with others of the same faith
- Youth Masses
- VBS at St. Barbara
- We have a wonderful and caring community. Everyone helps out with anything when just one person needs help.
- I learn so much from the PSR teachers
- Making it to heaven
- How we make a big effort to keep our church, and the church grounds beautiful
- We always have servers
- The priests and deacons who have to travel
- The music (piano & handbells) is very engaging
- When the church is full
- Fr. Oliver N. messages and Fr. Steve's preaching style
- The amount of conversions we have seen in people
- All the ways you can get involved
- Events that bring people together in the parish
- Seeing kids in church and middle aged people with families
- Believing your presence has an impact on other people in the parish
- The desire to get and stay close to God

DREAM - What is possible? What big ideas do you have? What opportunities can we build on?

- Diocese or Vicariate Youth Days like this, only bigger
- All youth in the parish attending youth group
- All seats during Mass are full every Sunday
- More kids at VBS
- Better Catholic schools
- More of a welcoming fellowship
- For everyone to believe in God
- Seminary is full, every parish would have a priest
- Better attitudes of Protestants towards Catholics
- More activities for little kids to get them more interested and keep them interested in their faith

- Christian rock concert
- Bible studies and game nights
- Take trips to iconic religious places
- Bring back fallen away Catholics
- Everyone who gets married gets married in church
- Allow priests to marry
- More opportunities for people to become priests
- Convert non-believers
- Every soul going to heaven
- Modern praise and worship balanced in with traditional
- More cry rooms with visibility to still be able to watch Mass

GROWTH – What are we willing to change and grow in?

- Becoming more accepting to others
- Changing the “scary catholic” stigmas
- Less judgement
- Invite more people to Mass
- More livestream
- Screens/ways for people to follow along easier
- Newer, improved fundraisers
- Church open house
- Forming yourself to form others
- Bigger youth events
- Personal invitation to church – evangelization
- Reading your bible – focusing your own life more on God
- Better use of the resources we have
- Get more involved
- Discern what we are called to do/be in the Church
- Show up to Mass
- Do not be scared to talk about Jesus
- Outreach to the poor
- Help raise awareness about Catholicism
- Social media
- Merging/combining Masses
- Encouraging parents
- More ministries in churches
- Visit seminaries/convents
- Encourage those who are in charge to let more people ‘have a say’