

Parish Synodality Listening Session Summary 2022

BLACK: individual and group input RED: 3 responses for diocesan report

What are some things you are facing in your life right now that you hope the Church will accompany you in?

- Welcoming back and reaching out to those who have been rejected and hurt by our parish community
 - The challenges of being women who have jobs outside of the home and are also mothers
 - Support in our parish for parents and married couples, especially parents of school age and high school children - need support in passing on the faith
 - Social media challenges and impact, navigating current topics of our world
 - Welcoming all to share their wisdom and vocational call, especially women in diaconate roles
 - Networking across the diocese
 - Homelessness, aging, caretaking the elderly and disabled
 - Personal and helpful grief-support within our parish community
 - Aging-issues and needing support and guidance with end-of-life issues
 - Need support and guidance in preparing for the 4th quarter of our lives
 - Need for emotional support as each of us try to bring peace to our communities and world, remembering that we are called to love and serve unconditionally, and letting the Spirit strengthen us, especially in our challenges
 - Need for connection and conversation within our parish community
 - Support in answering the questions of the young people who are leaving the Church, especially due to the sex-abuse crisis
 - Those who feel marginalized need to be welcomed and included without judgement
 - Missing those who have left, fallen away from the Church and our community
 - Supporting and bringing back our young adult children who are disinterested and raising a generation of children that are missing Church and faith in their lives
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- *Desire to connect with and welcome back those who have left the church due to hurt, rejection, and disagreements - (i.e. sex abuse crisis, LGBTQ, conflicts with clergy/staff), especially our parishioners who were once so engaged, as well as our youth*
 - *Need for support of the faithful in the many challenging phases of life- parents juggling employment and raising children and teenagers (helping them find relevance in the church), couples in marriages and separations, those caring for elderly and disabled family members/friends, those living alone (especially during the pandemic), the elderly navigating the aging process, and those of all ages grieving the loss of a loved one*
 - *Being welcoming, inclusive, and supportive of all, especially those desiring a vocation; healing divisions in our community and society at large; and being open to faith leaders no matter their gender or title*

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How do you see yourself sharing in the church work of being Christ's life and love for the whole world?

- We hurt for the marginalized and disenfranchised
- Assisting and helping victims of human-trafficking and sex-trafficking
- Working effectively with ethnic groups and immigrants
- Need for ministry that supports parishioners in times of distress (i.e. Stephen's Ministry, continue check-in calls, etc.)
- Need for mental health wellness and support
- Supporting and connecting with those who are isolated
- Welcoming and supporting those who have been rejected by hurt by the Church, need to welcome ALL people
- Celebrating who people are and loving them no-matter-what just as Jesus would, we are expected to do the same
- Desire to live the Gospel radically as Jesus did, we need to be okay with being uncomfortable and offending hierarchy so that we can do this

- Outreach and ministry to the marginalized by exercising kinship and radically living the Gospel, which includes challenging ourselves and those who limit us, accepting all people- just as Jesus did, no matter how uncomfortable it makes us

- Being in the trenches, serving those in need in our community in desperate need (i.e. victims of trafficking, immigrants, ethnic groups)

- Connecting with and supporting those who are struggling with isolation and loneliness, grief, and mental/emotional issues

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What are the joys in carrying out and journeying together? What helps or hinders us in this?

- **Joys:**

- Opportunities to celebrate the Eucharist and Devotions which strengthen our faith and help us realize their importance and life-giving effects
- Allowing the Spirit to move in us as individuals as we exercise our faith in our lives and in our ministries and as a community supporting each other and those in need
- Sense of community, especially in small faith groups that are focussed on specific needs and filling the need for connection, as we support and are open with one another

- **Hinders:**

- Not being together physically during the pandemic has kept us from moving forward
- Attitudes of complacency and disinterest in not only the thoughts of others, but also in open dialogue contribute to the lack of a sense of community and support
- Lack of reverence for Jesus, the Holy Eucharist, and Devotions

How is the Holy Spirit calling the Church to grow in journeying with youth?

- Need to meet the youth where they are and not expect them to meet us where we are; the Church and adults need to transition from “talking at” our young people to “talking with” them
- Our youth are trying to find their way and are concerned with/turned off by what they perceive as hypocrisy in the Church- They need connection and transparency and are seeking truth and honesty
- Our youth seek relevancy from the Church. They are thirsty, but plenty of what they see expects conformity instead of understanding them and the world in which they live

Notes:

- The Church needs to be well informed about the health and welfare of its parishioners
- Significant age gap in our parish