

Assumption Synod Discernment Notes

- Listening
 - What facilitates/hinders listening?
 - We can find ways to learn even when we don't agree x5
 - Listening doesn't mean giving in to everything x3
 - We can't listen when we don't ask others to speak. X3
 - Especially people on the margins who feel voiceless
 - Need for more outreach to people rather than waiting for them to come to us x2
 - Being too busy inhibits listening x3
 - Need for more catechesis for adults – lack of knowledge hinders conversation x2
 - People don't feel comfortable talking about things they don't know
 - Lack of patience inhibits listening x2
 - Adoration should be a focus, helps people listen to God x2
 - Personal opinions can hinder listening x2
 - Shouldn't ignore people if we don't agree with them
 - We too often put people into categories x2
 - Lack of love inhibits listening x2
 - Sometimes we ignore people who talk too much
 - There are groups we don't hear from because they are not present.
 - Money seems to draw more attention from the Church, those who can't donate aren't heard
 - Listen to hear, not to respond
 - Hypocrisy inhibits listening
 - It's hard for people to listen when they're hurting.
 - Listening can't happen when we are closed off
 - We need to see Christ and the image of God in others x2
 - Listening begins with the individual
 - Create opportunities for encounter
 - Cliques and fear of stepping out inhibit listening
 - Lack of training in faith inhibits listening
 - Sometimes Pastors can inhibit listening
 - Lack of virtue of hope inhibits listening
 - Lack of listening skills inhibits listening
 - Lack of spiritual direction inhibits listening.
 - Organization and structure facilitates listening
 - Relationship facilitates listening
 - Prayer facilitates listening
 - Noise in church inhibits prayer
 - Bad homilies can be a deterrent to listening
 - "Many people want to impose their own cultural ideas on others instead of listening to their ideas and needs."
 - Pride inhibits listening
 - Empathy is important

- We are all wounded, especially from times we were not listened to.
 - Many gifts, one Spirit – listen to all parts of the Body
 - Knowledge of God’s love allows us to hear God’s voice
- General Thoughts
 - Everyone has a mission and purpose
 - People are attracted by sensationalism and negativity in the media
 - Synod is opportunity for listening, but often misunderstood
 - Church isn’t listening and making changes
 - Church should anticipate questions before they’re asked
 - Charities help those on the margins
 - We assume people will follow without asking them
 - Parish should check in on those who have not been attending or donating
 - No “exit interview” when someone leaves a parish.
 - People feel isolated with COVID
 - Many ways to find Christ
 - Crisis in leadership in the Church
 - Presence of consecrated inspires others to participate more fully x2
 - Children appreciate presence of religious
 - Ministry fairs are a way to communicate
 - Vatican II is misinterpreted
 - God puts listening on our hearts, even though we don’t always listen
 - Need to look for unity
 - Need opportunities for babysitters during Mass
- Who is not listened to? Who is on the margins?
 - Children and young adults are not engaged x9
 - Kids and young adults don’t understand sin
 - Older adults ignore or reject younger voices
 - Single young adults fall into a programming gap
 - Faith is not talked about in homes x3
 - Catechists not well equipped, can’t/don’t answer questions x4
 - Religion class more about history instead of catechesis
 - Young people disagree with the Church
 - College culture is difficult
 - Young people like tradition, use of Latin x2
 - Young people communicate in a different way
 - Media and technology can be harmful x3
 - Young people interested in the pro-life movement
 - Young women in particular don’t feel listened to or like they have resources
 - Homeschool families struggle to get support
 - Retired men and women
 - People of all cultures need to be ministered to. X8
 - Communities flourish separately but not together
 - Churches and schools don’t have the resources to minister effectively

- People excluded “because they have an accent.”
 - Black Catholics in particular don’t feel like they belong
 - Lack of openness leads us to miss richness of other cultures
 - Poor and vulnerable x2
 - Poor feel uncomfortable in church because of dress
 - Charities help people, but don’t necessarily give them a voice
 - People struggle with approaching the impoverished
 - People want to be listened to
 - People with disabilities
 - People who are divorced/in irregular marriages
- Sharing Responsibility for the Common Mission
 - People feel uncatechized and like they can’t participate x6
 - Order of Mass is not known well
 - “Baptized should not be allowed to vote on how the Mass is celebrated”
 - Add continuing education for adults and families
 - Catholics don’t believe in the real presence
 - Communities lack resources to form their laity – esp. Haitian community
 - Invitation can draw people in x6
 - A few people see to do most of the work. X2
 - We are tempted to sit back and let others do the work
 - Evangelization through invitation
 - Can convert non-Catholics attending Catholic school
 - Invitation should be less critical
 - Be specific in asking others for help
 - People don’t know what ministries are available
 - People feel inadequate or like they may do something wrong
 - Need more ways to participate, encourage active participation
 - People should feel welcomed and not criticized
 - Talking about faith can be difficult at first, but gets easier
 - Mission begins with the family x5
 - Marriage as example of Christ-centered relationship for children
 - Create opportunities for parents during religious education x2
 - More opportunities for families to learn faith
 - We’re neglecting children and education
 - Gender roles are important – men lead, women organize
 - We need more meaningful roles for women – deacons?
 - Parish should be a community x3
 - People don’t feel like there is a home for them in the church
 - Need like-minded people to share faith with
 - Church should provide more opportunities to listen to the needs of the community x3
 - Pastors need to exercise authentic leadership x2
 - Culture influences us to treat decisions as business transactions rather than friendship
 - Church staff/clergy make decisions without knowing the needs of the people

- Formators at seminaries should be involved in church life
 - Statistics should be used in decision-making
- Church structures should be friendly
- We need to evaluate our ministries and structures and see if they're working x2
- Transition between pastors is difficult.
- Priests are busy and can't do everything
- Job of the priest is to administer sacraments
- It's the job of the laity to hold the church accountable
- Need for humility in using gifts x3
 - Mission is for God's glory, not ours
 - Share your gifts and talents to honor God.
- People don't have time to participate in ministries x2
 - Especially working parents
- Universal vocation to holiness x2
 - First priority in mission is living vocation and "gearing your heart to heaven and holiness"
 - Common baptism means shared responsibility
 - We are called to live the Gospel, which looks different for different people x2
 - We all have unique gifts and perspectives x2
 - Mission requires prayer x2
 - Mission is given to us by Jesus
 - Missionary discipleship
 - Church's main mission is to get people to heaven
- Need more emphasis on women's vocations x2
- Need more emphasis on single life
 - Vocation is taught as only binary – either lay or religious
- We can offer an alternative for the youth and young people x2
 - Reach out to young people coming out of college
 - Provide service opportunities
- Openness is contrary to opinions – all are united in Christ x2
- Sin hinders mission x2
- We are called to be stewards of the earth and of people x2
- We are anointed to preach good news to the poor – poor in heart, poor in spirit
- Culture seems to dictate conscience
- Sense of feeling lost after confirmation
- Priest sets culture of parish
- We need to manifest the relationship seen in the Eucharist
- Truth is communicated by living it
- Church is sustained in unity
- Freedom for, more so than freedom from
- Lives of the saints can be a point of connection with others
- Scientists are looked down upon by many in the Church, Church doesn't seem to accept scientific research.
- Church can support non-diocesan ministries

- Church doesn't know how to minister to people who struggle with sexual orientation
- Forming Ourselves in Synodality
 - Road to Emmaus is the example for synodality x3
 - Jesus walked with the people
 - Resistance to Vatican II x2
 - Go back to the documents.
 - Diocese or parish should take initiative on forming people in Vat II theo
 - Media is a great resource to learn more
 - There is a gap between those who accept Vatican II and those who are more traditional x2
 - Groups are not being unified/formed together
 - We need to step out of our comfort zones on change x2
 - We have a reluctance to change – “this is how we've always done it”
 - There is a possibility of too much change, too fast
 - We are afraid of offending each others
 - This synod process is a great start on implementing synodality
 - We need to make more effort to learn from each other
 - People don't speak because they are afraid they won't be heard
 - Challenge hierarchical structure and work from the bottom up.
 - We have lost sight of God's will
 - The mission of the synod and the Church are to serve and help
 - Church is about sharing
 - Prayer must include an awareness of service and mission
 - How do we support working professionals?
 - We have to know ourselves
 - We must nurture friendship and forgiveness
 - Leaders should be trained in synodality
 - Need formation in what/how of discernment
 - Leaders take center stage and don't seem open to discussing
 - Lack of social connection – young people want a refuge from hopelessness of world
 - Let young people know you care
 - We need to rethink the way we educate in Catholic schools
 - Learning more in campus ministry – community and in-depth teaching
 - Need specific effort to reach young adults
 - Must be good communication among priests and with the bishop.
 - Need “joyful shepherds for our flock”
 - Must be communication among people in the church
 - Union in Mass builds union in community
 - Walking with people doesn't mean changing truth
 - Formation in synodality never stops
 - Start by being nice to people
 - People want to have a way to contribute to the community
 - People need encouragement to be involved x2
 - Feel alienated because of preference for Latin Mass

- Christ asked questions
- Need for confidence and ownership of faith
- Faith should shape our lives
- Invite and reach out to others – we want to share what we have
- Final Words
 - Hope/Hopeful x14
 - Encouraged x6
 - Unity/United/Unifying x4
 - Enlightened x3
 - Enthusiastic x3
 - Grateful/Thankful x3
 - Informed/Informational x3
 - Optimistic x3
 - Blessed x2
 - Communion x2
 - Energized x2
 - Excited x2
 - Good x2
 - Heard x2
 - Honesty/Honest x2
 - Joyous/Joyful x2
 - Satisfied x2
 - Appreciative
 - At Peace
 - Charity
 - Collective
 - Commissioned
 - Communication
 - Community
 - Content
 - Discombobulated
 - Diversity
 - Dynamic
 - Expanded
 - Faithful
 - Fruitful
 - Grace-filled
 - Historical
 - Humility
 - Hungry
 - Important
 - Interesting
 - Intrigued
 - Invigorated
 - Learning
 - Listening
 - Loving
 - On fire
 - Openness
 - Opportunity
 - Outreach
 - Positive
 - Prayerful
 - Relieved
 - Respectful
 - Smarter
 - Solidarity
 - Surprise
 - Uplifted