

## **Sixth Synodal Discernment Session**

*Assumption Catholic Church*

*February 24, 2022*

### Summation of group responses to the questions guiding the discernment process

*The following are the similarities and common themes found throughout the responses to each question.*

#### **I. Listening:**

- There are not many programs outside of Religious Education to get the youth involved
- Young adults tend to fall away from the faith because there are not enough opportunities for guidance and formation
- There needs to be more catechesis on the Catholic faith and what it means to be Catholic
- There is a significant gap between the different generations
- Young people are not being able to find the answers they are looking for
- We need to check-in and follow-up on those who have left the church
- The divorced, those living together outside of marriage are often pushed away
- Most people would like to see more involvement from the consecrated
- Differences in viewpoints keep us from listening to each other. Some people like to impose their own ideas and find it difficult to place themselves in the other person's shoes.
- We need to be open to other perspectives
- We need to create a space to make different communities feel more welcome and connected to each other
- Young people seem to like Mass in Latin
- There is a fear of losing the younger generations
- Truth cannot be watered down
- We must develop empathy towards what others are saying
- There is a lack of catechesis, especially for adults, which leads to not knowing our faith
- Young people want to be heard. They sometimes feel like they don't have a voice.
- There is a difference in the way we worship ever since Vatican II. Some people feel a loss for tradition. There is a lot of division around this.
- There is a lack of understanding about the Mass, particularly in children and youth.
- We need to bring the minorities and marginalized into the conversation.
- Pride and reacting to emotions inhibits listening while humility and prayer facilitates it.
- People sometimes struggle with approaching the impoverished and those on the periphery
- The involvement of priest and religious life is welcomed among the laity
- Religious life for women is not promoted as much as it should be
- The church needs to cultivate tolerance of others and embrace the cultural diversity of the Church
- Younger generations are sometimes dismissed by the older generations

## II. Sharing Responsibility for Our Common Mission:

- Personality inviting people to participate in ministries is very important
- The church needs to offer more ministries and make them accessible
- The presence of consecrated men and women inspires others to participate more fully in their faith but we don't often see them around
- Media and technology are a big distraction today. They diminish our ability to focus, particularly in children and youth.
- Our participation in the church should not be limited to going to Mass on Sundays
- We need more opportunities for interaction and providing support
- We often see the same small group of people being involved and making commitments
- We must be specific when asking others for help
- Our common baptism should sustain us in unity. We must recognize that we are all united in Christ.
- Fellowship is necessary and must be fostered inside and outside the walls of the Church.
- We must fuel a contagious joy and desire for mission
- Education in the faith must start with the family
- There seems to be a consensus on youth feeling lost after Confirmation
- Some Catholics do not believe in the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist
- Other churches seem to be offering alternatives to youth that draw them in
- We need to reinforce knowledge of Catholicism through continuous educational opportunities
- Feelings of inadequacy keep people from getting involved
- By living our mission we can draw others to the Lord
- A lack of understanding of the faith and not being catechized hinders the baptism from being active in mission
- There is a desire for more meaningful roles for women in the church
- Continuing faith education for adults and families is not readily available
- There needs to be more focus on Adoration
- A culture of inclusion is needed
- The secular culture of the world seems to be in conflict with the Catholic culture
- Small groups can help in facilitating evangelization
- We are all called to evangelize but we must recognize that we all have unique gifts and perspectives
- We must ask ourselves what is the Lord asking of us and what he is calling us to do
- We have to be more inviting and less critical and judgemental
- We should spend more time developing empathy and friendships
- Having classes for parents during the CCD classes might help in learning the faith

### **III. Forming Ourselves in Synodality:**

- Holding the synod is a good step to open dialogue
- Forming ourselves in synodality is a process of walking and sharing with the bishops and clergy
- We need more unity, preaching, information
- Parish priests are often burdened with the responsibility of running the parish. It is the responsibility of the laity to teach the faith.
- We need to find what the truth is and share it
- We need humility
- We need to understand the reason why we are making changes and who they are for
- We need to ask ourselves how we can show the good in the church
- We must follow the way of accompaniment. We must meet people where they are at and walk with them.
- We must ask ourselves what is the meaning and substance of our faith
- We should emphasize the lives of the saints
- We need to foster the desire to spread God's will
- We need to work against status perceptions (from the top to the bottom) and think in reverse
- Communication within the Church is necessary
- We need a willingness to encounter and to engage
- We need openness and foster opportunities to ask questions
- We must invite people to come to the church and build friendly relationships with them. We must let them know that we care.
- The synod is a great way to start bringing people together from parishes all over the diocese
- We need to listen to each other and we need more cross-parish unification
- We need to provide more resources for gaining knowledge of the faith
- We must follow Jesus's example (Road to Emmaus)
- There needs to be a more structured program for young adults after college
- Formation on what is discernment and how and when to apply it is needed
- It is necessary to form the conscience on what the mission really is
- Prayer must be done with an awareness of service and mission
- We need to create ministries that are dedicated to vocations