

## Queen of Peace Discernment Notes

- Listening
  - How to Listen/Things that Hinder Listening
    - Church is divided, should work to overcome x3
      - We are brothers and sisters of Christ, shouldn't have division
      - Unity, not uniformity
      - Media wants to divide us x2
    - Society is too busy/too many distractions to listen x3
    - Covid has taught us to be still. Disagreement is okay – listen anyway x3
      - Jesus didn't argue to change people who disagreed
      - We try to change people who don't think like us
      - Called to love everyone, not justify their behavior
    - People aren't looking for solutions but just want to be listened to x2
    - People should feel welcome rather than pushed away x2
      - Develop a welcome committee x2
      - Protestants welcome people better than we do.
      - Parish staff and volunteers can reach out to new parishioners
    - Need to slow down and reprioritize x2
    - Think about what the other person is saying and not about response x2
    - Listening takes place in small groups, not large ones x2
      - Very difficult to meet people in parishes
    - Listening requires us to empty ourselves so God can speak to us x2
      - Opinions get in the way of hearing God
      - We need to listen with an open mind
    - Everyone is a sinner, even those who go to church
      - Pray for high-profile Catholics
      - Can't support people who are high-profile just because they are Catholic
      - "They must stop sinning. God forgave and told them to stop sinning."
    - People don't find anything for them in Church so they leave
    - More focus on tasks than listening
    - Being with others requires giving of ourselves and our time
    - Quieting the mind is difficult
    - We pray for what we want and not what we need, so we hear what we want to hear
    - Parishes can be superficial in listening
    - Focus on similarities more than differences
    - Prejudices block out others – we don't accept people different from ourselves
    - People can be marginalized for a variety of reasons
    - We have to be willing to be uncomfortable
    - Language of the heart is what connects with others
    - Anyone can find themselves on the outside at any time
    - Be kind to others
    - Bad examples inhibit listening

- Dialogue is important
- Generational differences can inhibit listening
- Lots of information can be overwhelming
- Other thoughts
  - Need adult education x3
    - Mass, prayer, “Adoration workshops”
    - Not everyone knows about the Real Presence
  - Church doesn’t hear/see much about consecrated men and women x3
    - They’re starting to be recognized as important
    - Develop ways for people to get to know clergy and religious
    - People should feel like priests have time for them
      - Parish priest is good at welcoming
    - Consecrated women are mostly older
  - Church is big and difficult to steer x2
    - Even at the parish, laity and staff need to be on the same page
  - Lack of spirituality today x2
    - Need more guidance on how to pray
    - Prayer needs to be outside the Mass as well.
  - Lay minister doesn’t feel valued or listened to
  - Multilingual parishes often function as separate parishes
  - Confession times should be around work schedules
  - Emphasis on centrality of the Eucharist
  - Include cultural influence in Mass
    - Used to be ethnic parishes, now they’re combined
  - Since Vatican II Church is more bottom-up
  - Church is only happy if you give money
  - Need to listen to Church rules.
  - Church is not a warm place anymore.
  - Vatican II was implemented poorly
  - Some people want silence on retreats, others want music/emotional exp.
  - “We have gotten too political and trendy”
  - People don’t have a great impression of Catholics
  - Separation between the Pope and laity
  - Need financial help for children in Catholic schools
  - Convert drawn to universality of the Church
  - Listening to the peripheries is a mission of the Church
  - Ministries allow integration
- Who do we need to listen to/do a better job ministering to?
  - Young people x6
    - Young people don’t want laws and rules x2
    - Young people see the Mass as boring x2
    - Make Scripture relatable
    - Kids are having fun at non-Catholic churches
    - Events can draw youth in

- Teenagers “are not impressed with Catholicism”
    - Young people are intelligent – we should meet them where they are x3
    - We don’t have anything for young people after CCD
    - Young people don’t like when things are swept under the rug
    - Young people don’t see authenticity in Church
    - Church should engage youth/young adults in service x2
      - Young people find spaces away from the Church to do service
    - Families should be involved in church activities together x2
      - Lead children by example x3
    - When young people leave the faith, parents feel abandoned/a failure
      - Need support for these families
    - Children’s/Young Adult Masses
  - Minorities x5
    - Parishes are not representative
    - Discernment sessions are not representative
  - Women x5
    - Male leaders are not interested in what women have to say
    - Should have women deacons x2
    - Should have women priests
      - Daughter wanted to become a priest. Treated differently at a Catholic college.
    - Women do most of the work in the Church anyway
  - Women played a bigger role in the early Church
  - Divorced x4
  - LGBTQ+ x3
  - Marginalized and Poor x2
    - We need to admit that we are not comfortable with homelessness, addiction, etc. x2
    - People on the peripheries don’t come to church x2
      - Solution is to go to them
  - Elderly/Homebound
- Shared Responsibility for the Common Mission
  - People feel like they don’t know enough to share their faith x4
    - Need more formation
  - We can do a better job of inviting people to Mass x3
    - Bus can pick up people who can’t make it on their own
    - Buses in Gainesville can’t go near churches for liability reasons
    - Call non-practicing Catholics and invite them back x2
  - Jesus’s love should have us serve others. We are called to continue his mission x3
    - We are called to participate
  - As Catholics we must evangelize x3
    - Joy is central to evangelization
    - Catholic schools are part of evangelization
    - Evangelization is difficult and uncomfortable

- Evangelization can be simple
    - Be an example in prayer
  - Baptism gives the responsibility of discipleship
  - Recognize our gifts and put them to use x2
    - Sometimes we can wait for someone to bring forward problems
    - When ideas are shut down, people feel discouraged
  - Same people seem to run everything x2
    - Worried about burnout
  - Personal invitation can bring people back to Church x2
    - Landing Ministry
  - Good leadership is about delegation x2
    - Give people something to do
  - Ministries are not advertised well
  - Stories can help get people involved
  - Lack of listening from hierarchy inhibits active participation
  - Lead by example
  - Apathy is a hindrance to mission
  - People don't know their own testimony
  - Expectations are low
  - People throw money at problems instead of getting involved
  - Church needs to address the needs of those hurt by the Church x2
  - Church is falling apart
  - Priests can't speak English well
  - We should show love to the marginalized, form our children in service
  - We can support missionaries
  - Church can be an agent of change in the world just by its size
  - Church needs to stand up for the environment with *Laudato Si'*
    - Water issues in Florida
  - Pastor can empower others to be more effective
- Forming Ourselves in Synodality
  - Trust in the guidance of the Holy Spirit x3
  - We can relearn to communicate x2
    - Church needs to discuss difficult topics
    - Give voice to others
  - People have different and valid perspectives. Accept those who are different x2
  - Church is not listening to itself
  - Laity and whole community have an important role
  - Laity have always tried to drive the church, but it's just not practical
  - Parishes are not working together
  - Pope is blessing for leadership
  - Prayer is a source of guidance
  - Difficult to get people to come back after COVID
  - Crisis is both danger and opportunity
  - Small group conversations in parish for continued discernment

- When people do something wrong, tell them how you feel, not how wrong they are.
- We don't engage those on the margins out of fear
- Need community to live faith in a world that is "against us"
- "The more you know each other's hearts, you give them the latitude to be different"
- Pray for the change you want, make change when you have the opportunity
- Synodality can be confusing
- Need more formation in synodality
- Homilies can help in formation
- Can encourage people to go to Mass
- Closing Words
  - Hope/Hopeful x13
  - Love/Loved x4
  - Challenging/Challenged x3
  - Concern/Concerned x3
  - Thankful/Grateful x3
  - Community x2
  - Encouraging/Encouraged x2
  - Enthused/Enthusiastic x2
  - Excited/Exciting x2
  - Frustrated x2
  - Grace/Graceful x2
  - Happiness x2
  - Optimistic x2
  - Acceptance
  - Amazed
  - Anxious
  - Attentive
  - Awesome
  - Challenge
  - Communion
  - Curious
  - Cynical
  - Disturbed
  - Enlightened
  - Enriching
  - Faith
  - Family
  - Futility
  - Growth
  - How?
  - Humble
  - Information
  - Insightful
  - Invigorated
  - Jesus
  - Joyful
  - Life
  - Light
  - Nervous
  - Open mind
  - Openness
  - Overwhelmed
  - Peace
  - Pessimistic
  - Prayerful
  - Progress
  - Proud
  - Reexamine
  - Sent
  - Shocked
  - Skeptical
  - Solidarity
  - Spirit
  - Stressed
  - Thinking Outside the Box
  - Trust
  - Understanding
  - Unsettled
  - Welcoming
  - Wonderful