

## **Second Synodal Discernment Session**

*St. Matthew Catholic Church*

*December 9, 2021*

### 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:**

- We need humility when listening. We limit ourselves to listening only to those we agree with.
- There should be less of an effort in finding commonality before being willing to listen; rather, we should learn to accept people for who they are. We must overcome the need to find commonality in order to be able to build relationships.
- We have a tendency towards talking rather than listening. Our need to respond stops us from truly listening.
- Our individualistic society hinders our willingness to listen.
- Our capacity to listen is hindered by a multiplicity of distractions and the business of society and family life.
- We need to learn to listen to those of different cultures and backgrounds.
- Language barriers sometimes result in marginalization.
- There is a general concern that families are not coming back to the Church. It is particularly concerning for most people that the youth are leaving the Church. It is very important to draw teens back to the faith.
- Our own preconceived notions and prejudices, and those of the ones in leadership roles, hinder our ability to listen.
- The outspoken voices are the ones most often listened to in the Church while the marginalized continue to be silenced.
- There is a tendency in the Church to group minorities together but we need to learn to be culturally aware and realize that not all minorities are the same.
- Social and ministerial involvement of minorities should be encouraged.
- There is a need to reach out to everyone regardless of status or race, especially to the marginalized.
- There is a need for greater assistance for pregnant women and single mothers.
- The priest plays an important role in promoting activities and events but these efforts should not fall only on the priests.
- There is a desire for greater involvement of religious sisters in parishes and schools.

## **II. Sharing Responsibility for Our Common Mission:**

- More involvement from parishioners in the life of the parish and the needs of the community is needed.
- More efforts to get people involved should be made.
- Promotion of programs by priests is very important.
- There is a need for personal invitations and connections. When people offer to help we should accept their offer. We must give everyone the opportunity to serve.
- There should be more support for youth programs.
- Everyone must have a voice when it comes to spreading the good news and accomplishing the mission of the Church.
- Reaching out to people who have been hurt by the Church and left can help in figuring out how to help them come back.
- A greater focus on the teachings regarding the Eucharist is needed.
- Volunteers and ministers can help the pastor to better accomplish his duties and responsibilities.
- Marginalized groups and people with alternative lifestyles often feel unwelcome in the Church.
- Prison ministry and pro-life ministries should be emphasized more.
- There should be continuity in catechesis after first communion and confirmation.
- A lack of knowledge makes people afraid of participating.
- The mission is hindered by the culture of the world and the family structures.

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

- We need servant leaders who are willing to spread the good news through service.
- The Church needs to foster discernment.
- We would like to hear more from the hierarchy of the Church.
- Multicultural integration can help unify our Church.
- It would be helpful for the priests to talk more about synodality.
- Individual invitations for priests based on people's gifts are important in building relationships.
- There is a need for interreligious communication.
- Input from teenagers should be included in the synodality process.
- An environment of conversation must be fostered.
- We must walk together without compromising the Church's teaching.
- We need to educate more on our culture and tradition so as to better understand where we come from.