

St. Madeleine Synodality Notes – 2/20/2022

- Listening
 - Welcome new people x4
 - People should feel welcomed and listened to in church x3
 - We are missing the social aspect of church – connecting with people x3
 - Need to listen to young people x3
 - Younger generation seems entitled and doesn't want to listen
 - Listen to people different from us – God speaks through them x2
 - Listen more and talk less x2
 - Every person is needed x2
 - Catholic faith is unity in diversity x2
 - Diversity in language can cause fear and barriers x2
 - Difficult to speak to Protestants x2
 - Take time to learn from other cultures x2
 - Reaching out to others is difficult x2
 - Lack of understanding of Scripture is a hindrance x2
 - Periphery includes people who don't attend Church x2
 - Need attention to widows x2
 - Listening requires time
 - Listening requires removing judgment
 - Listening allows God to speak to us
 - Asking when we don't know something requires humility
 - Pray for God's grace to be able to listen and see
 - Holy Spirit is at the center of discernment
 - Can't impose views on others
 - Bilingual Mass can be good and a challenge
 - Unrecognized prejudice can break unity
 - Listening requires "putting yourself out there"
 - We need to set an example for others
 - Jesus is present in the Church
 - Focus on messenger can inhibit hearing the message – political division gets in the way
 - Listening requires attention to the individual
 - We like to speak for people on the peripheries rather than listening to them
 - Each person has a different path to God. Helping them to find it requires listening.
 - Current times are confusing
 - Doesn't like being told to be vaccinated, including from bulletin
 - Laity don't have much opportunity for input
 - People enter the church loudly while others are praying
 - People feel like they can "abandon their morals"
 - Need for prayer rallies
 - Need to pray the rosary more
 - Outreach to those in need – women in difficult pregnancies
 - Need attention to singles
 - Need attention to divorced

- Unhappy with seminaries requiring vaccinations
- “Father David gives counseling on sexual orientation when needed for people”
- Need to engage Spanish-speaking youth
- Need to listen to people who are abused
- Minorities might feel like outsiders here
- Homebound are on peripheries
- Working to keep people in the church after confirmation
- Need for balance of entertainment and education in youth group
- Focus on personal invitation to participation
- Create groups for people to feel welcome
- Need to welcome to people coming back to the Church after time away
- Have a children’s Mass
- “certified babysitters to babysit while parents attend Mass”
- Need for more focus on Eucharist
- Need for less focus on “tangential things/social justice”
- Responsibility for Our Common Mission
 - General thoughts on mission
 - Every baptized person is called to participate in mission x4
 - Show others how much they are loved x3
 - Mass calls us to love
 - Mission requires education and formation x3
 - “If people knew they would never leave the Catholic Church”
 - In education we need to relate faith to everyday life
 - Compatibility between faith and science
 - Eucharist and adoration are key to mission x2
 - Discern gifts and put them to use
 - Begins with prayer x2 – need to teach people to pray
 - Fear of rejection, discomfort, and/or speaking out is a hindrance x2
 - Be obedient to God’s will
 - Mission requires time, listening
 - Example speaks louder than words
 - Belief requires discipleship
 - Mission doesn’t have to be big things
 - Commit to individual action
 - Specifics
 - Need to engage young people x4
 - Involve young people in service or rights issues
 - Ask young people what they want to see
 - We’re losing young people to Protestant churches
 - More concerts at churches
 - Confirmation should go to 10th grade. 8th grade is too early and we lose youth
 - “We grew up in a different era and it was different back then. Need two more years of CCD”

- “CCD must be improved. FOCUS on the teachings”
 - Faith is to be lived in public x3
 - Materials on politicians’ voting records is appreciated
 - Catholics are politically involved
 - We are all called by the Holy Spirit
 - “Consumer approach” to church is a problem – everyone can give back
 - Church works to protect human rights
 - People need access to the sacraments
 - Problems should be reported to Bishop’s office
 - Activities get involvement
 - Lots of people stopped coming due to COVID, but some attendance is coming back
 - Need for more vocations to priesthood
 - Seeing seminarians is encouraging
 - Presence of religious women is appreciated
 - Funeral Masses are an opportunity to reach people
 - Need for after-Mass gatherings
 - Make announcements in the bulletin
 - State secularism is freedom from religion rather than freedom of religion
 - Many Catholics just like to complain
 - “Church puts up with Catholic politicians and they are not setting a good example”
 - We can work to change the things we don’t like
 - Need for prison ministry
 - We can choose who to donate money to
 - “Don’t need to support charities that help illegal aliens that are breaking the law”
 - “CRT – Don’t like it. Bad for our kids.”
 - Discussion on providing education for Mexican immigrants/migrants
 - Expand pro-life to include prison ministry and anti-capital punishment
 - No meat on Fridays
 - People don’t understand religious life
 - Visit people who have not come back to church
 - People are lonely and want interaction
 - Events can bring together people from different language communities
- Forming Ourselves in Synodality
 - Receptivity to change is difficult x2
 - Create opportunities for people to interact with others and work together x2
 - Need for more evangelization/outreach x2
 - Synodality is a form of listening
 - Invitation is important
 - Discernment requires us to listen to the voice of God
 - Need more teaching on the saints and conversion
 - COVID has affected us

- Change in culture requires different approach
- No one knows how to act at a funeral liturgy
- Need to be open to on-going learning
- This is a new issue for most of us.
- Build bridges with diversity.
- Clergy should be available to listen.
- Need more direction from Bishop on this issue
- “other churches seem like there is a lot of ‘fluff.’ I want the ‘Meat and Potatoes’
- God is allowing this to happen, something wonderful will come out of it
- Need for focus on adult faith formation
- Communication and listening sessions
- Mission should include hopes and dreams of parishioners
- Can’t change theology
- Words
 - Hopeful x8
 - Excited x5
 - Grateful x3
 - Encouraged x2
 - Joy x2
 - Affirmed
 - Ascending
 - Comfortable
 - Curious
 - Delighted
 - Distraction
 - Doubtful
 - Engaged
 - Enlightened
 - Enriched
 - Frustrated
 - Good
 - Great
 - Happiness
 - Healthy
 - Inquisitive
 - Inspired
 - Interested
 - Optimistic
 - Overwhelmed
 - Peaceful
 - Reassured
 - Tired
 - Vulnerable
 - “It’s a done deal”