

Sacred Heart Fleming Island Synodality Notes

- Listening
 - General thoughts on listening
 - People only listen to similar opinions or are not willing to hear difference x3
 - People listen to respond rather than listening to listen x2
 - People look too much for instant gratification rather than having patience to listen x2
 - People are afraid of being judged/ostracized
 - People don't listen because they're convinced they're right
 - People ought to be willing to discuss faith in conversation
 - Conversation should search for common ground
 - Conversation includes "blocking out noise" – how do we focus on what's important?
 - Culture is important and ought to be understood
 - Communication breaks down stereotypes
 - Church/Parishes and listening/welcoming
 - Church needs to listen to people x2
 - Often doesn't ask even those who participate in ministries
 - Some groups and ministries are exclusive and not welcoming to new members x3
 - Same people have been in charge for a long time
 - Committees are not anyone's personal property
 - God speaks to us and we don't recognize it x2
 - Rules may be emphasized too much x2
 - Canon law on marriage in particular
 - "It is one thing to defend doctrine and another to defend basic human need against marginalization that does not affect doctrine"
 - Church teaching should be aspirational and not a weapon.
 - Rules aren't emphasized enough
 - Parishes aren't consistently welcoming x2
 - Example given of parish "saying 'all are welcome', but they will not be able to receive the Eucharist"
 - Parishes should train parishioners to welcome new persons
 - Parishioners have a responsibility to talk to new people and connect them to groups
 - Parishes should host gatherings for new parishioners
 - People are busy and don't make time for church
 - Pastors/Parish leadership often lack information/feedback to make decisions x2
 - Pastors are often too busy to engage and listen
 - Pastors can't engage individuals if they can't know them
 - Parishes don't often know whose voices they're not hearing
 - Should offer place for unheard to voice thoughts
 - Parish could place suggestion box in narthex

- Parishioners don't know how to engage with parish council
- Parishes can do a better job of placing people with groups and ministries
- Church staff are on the front lines of direction to service and ministries
- Ministries need more publicity so people know of their work and want to join x2
- Bulletin is a good source of news for parishioners x2
- Media apostolates offer great information and evangelization x2
- Parishes can offer low-cost social events
- Parishes need to offer more opportunities for those who want "something deeper"
- Parish-sponsored weekly gathering to discuss Sunday readings?
- Church and the peripheries
 - Youth and young people need to be listened/ministered to and invested in x3
 - Young people don't connect with the Mass/Protestant worship is more engaging for young people x3
 - Youth can be trained on visible ministries and given responsibility x2
 - Youth group should be more visible to parishioners
 - Youth should be given educational opportunities and space to ask questions
 - Youth should be connected to other ministries
 - Adults can share experiences with youth to draw them into conversation, invite to other ministries
 - Adults need to demonstrate listening and compassion for youth
 - Young people want to know that adults are there to support them
 - Young people are increasingly unaffiliated with institutions
 - Young people don't need facts in religious ed – we need to expose them to the "wonders of the faith" and treat them like adults
 - Youth are turned off by "judgmental attitude"
 - Sisters/consecrated have had a large impact on faith of participants x3
 - People who have left the Church are not reached out/listened to x2
 - Surrounding communities should be known and reached by parish x2
 - Food pantries, Catholic Charities, Vincent De Paul, etc.
 - And not just during the holidays
 - Young adults are not reached x2 – little after youth ministry for young adults or young couples
 - Homebound need engagement
 - Church can reach out to those who have not returned to Mass since COVID
 - LGBTQ+ are ostracized
 - Minority cultures are less-appreciated and less attended to
 - Families need more opportunities to participate together x2
 - Non-Catholics can be invited to participate in church events
 - Poor are ignored by the Church – donation money receives attention
 - Women in high-risk pregnancies should be reached by the Church x2
 - Women need to be more involved in the church and leadership
 - Women's vocations need to be taken as seriously as men's

- Women do a lot of church work without official recognition and roles
 - CCW and youth ministry offer opportunities to women
- Responsibility for the Common Mission
 - Sharing in mission
 - Church needs more community outreach opportunities x3
 - Church seems to have forgotten what its mission is – people don't know what the Church does x2
 - Baptism unites us in the common priesthood x2
 - Church should address problems in the world x2
 - Mass should be held central, should be beautiful, reflect true presence x2
 - Christians should be role models to emulate – faith needs to be lived x2
 - Youth see conflicting messages from Church/society x2
 - Church can recognize good work done by people of other faiths, engage in ecumenism x2
 - Food distribution weekends can be an opportunity for ecumenical/interfaith service
 - “We should be bringing people to Jesus as sons/daughters of God, especially those in misery, poor, in trouble”
 - Everyone has something to offer – laity need to be involved
 - Vatican II calls for lay involvement
 - Pope Francis says the laity should be more involved
 - Laity need more clarity in what their role is
 - Being part of a minority or smaller group gives more opportunity to contribute
 - Mission should not be rules-first
 - Ministry fairs offer visibility x2
 - Difficult to find financial/volunteer support for ministries
 - Prison ministry is important
 - Church money goes towards building improvements/externals rather than to people who need it
 - Lack of opportunity for involvement pushes young families to Protestant churches
 - Older students could mentor younger students
 - People ought to evangelize in the workplace
 - Latin Mass should be more available
 - Latin Mass should not be the norm
 - Catholic school students complain about Mass/Adoration
 - Homily is an opportunity to engage parishioners
 - Faith needs to be missionary, evangelical
 - Relationships are crucial to mission
 - Movement of priests causes disruption
 - People should make an effort to thank those in ministry
 - Faith should be year-round, not just holidays
 - What hinders the faithful?
 - Lack of knowledge of the Gospel/Church teaching x5

- People don't share their faith because they're afraid of getting details wrong x2
 - Parents are unequipped to hand on the faith x4
 - Catholic school/CCD but no Mass attendance x2
 - No available adult formation at parishes x2
 - Formation is "antiquated"
 - Broken families
 - Deviation from the Gospel message
 - Youth formation should be more in-depth
- Forming Ourselves in Synodality
 - People can walk with others without changing what the Church teaches x2
 - Catholics can learn from other churches x2
 - Church can employ broader strategy across parishes to link people with resources/ministries x2
 - Eucharist should be central x2
 - Balance of relevance and Catholic identity in outward mission x2
 - Evangelization and outreach together
 - Need to identify those on the periphery who are at risk of leaving or on cusp of joining
 - Need for re-evangelization of Catholics – RCIA-like
 - Could allow longer time for the sign of peace
 - Can build relationships in welcoming
 - Relationships strengthen faith
 - Walking together begins with a smile and introduction
 - Vertical and horizontal dimensions to faith
 - Homilies can be practical
 - "We have to be receptive to change"
 - "We don't want to become a Protestant Church"
 - "We don't want to become a Protestant Church, but we don't want to be stagnant and not grow"
 - Receptivity to change begins with prayer
 - People should be comfortable enough in ministry to define and defend Church teaching
 - Catholic Church is not another NGO
 - Our actions as Christians matter greatly to those who have stopped attending Mass or those who might be interested in joining the Church
 - Noted particularly with the LGBTQ+ community
 - Church needs to remember what unites us
 - Quick answer isn't always the right response in dialogue
 - Church can be ok with "grey"
 - We need to be ok with questions
 - Esp. from youth
 - More need for ecumenism – "Christians need to stick together"
 - People have different experiences in life – what is for one may not be for another
 - Faith gathers people as a community
 - Engagement with other people is important – talk, look people in the eyes, etc.

- Zeal is important
- People need more formation – more they know, more they can serve
- “Silo mentality” needs to be combatted
- Conversation on Latin Mass
- When can bringing up of gifts return?
- Conversations like these should take place more frequently
- All age groups need to be represented in Church decision-making
- Closing Word
 - Hopeful x14
 - Encouraged x9
 - Optimistic x3
 - Motivated x3
 - Challenged x2
 - Humbled x2
 - Thankful x2
 - Energized x2
 - Disappointed x2
 - Blessed x2
 - Positive x2
 - Pleased x2
 - Sharing
 - Excited
 - Ready for change
 - Grateful
 - Expectation
 - Enthusiastic
 - Informed
 - Bread. Blessed. Broken.
 - Supportive
 - Faithful
 - Change
 - Enriched
 - Discernment
 - Involvement
 - Informed
 - Overwhelmed
 - Surprised
 - Prayerful
 - Mission
 - Invigorated
 - Spirituality
 - Gladness
 - Fired up
 - Catholic
 - Beginning
 - Resolved
 - Sad
 - Joyful
 - Inspired
 - Resourceful
 - Intrigued
 - Pondering
 - Love
 - Thumbs-up
 - At home
 - Curious
 - Welcome
 - Good
 - Cool
 - Glad
 - Communion
 - Recognized