

## **Synod Report: St. John Fisher Parish**



### **Speaking and Listening**

- A welcoming atmosphere at Mass and Parish is critical; all need to greet, provide personal invitations to worship, and build community.
- Parishes need family programs (family masses, mother’s groups, play groups) because families are distracted, with working parents, economic stress, and not putting faith as priority.
- We need continuing emphasis on parish community social events: meals, festivals, charity events.
- COVID work-arounds (Livestream, tents, drive-up) to allow attendance to continue were a big plus.
- We need to get attendance back and counteract the overall decline and COVID impact.
- Parishioners don’t really know how to bring forward comments or suggestions.
- Teens have not had much connection or opportunity to be heard.

### **Celebrating**

- There is loss of reverence and a lack of understanding of the Eucharist, real presence, and Liturgy, as well as a lack of respect (e.g. proper attire) and loss of the mystical/beautiful. We need “back to basics” catechism/education (also refreshers).
- Parishes need inspiring, encouraging homilies (meaningful/short/relevant) and should provide speaker training for priests.
- Latin Mass should be available for those who wish it, and not politicized.
- 2nd collections/financial campaigns are excessive and should not take over the homily.
- Priests should be willing to perform a sacramental marriage outside a church, such as in an outdoor setting
- TV did not help during COVID; [!] Turned it off after the first or second Mass.

### **Going on Mission**

- We need to provide more focused youth/teen programs, including faith education, tools, and opportunities to share and ask questions, to address youth/teen declining participation with a sense of urgency.
- Parish retreats, adult education, and ministries are valued and needed, and we need more boots on the ground – get people involved who haven’t participated before.
- Care for the poor is important and positive; we need better/consolidated leadership (such as pooling resources across international charities).

- We need to support Catholic Education, which is declining and overly influenced by donors, and to support public school children's faith lives.
- Church-sponsored charity to the poor (global and local) does not adequately/fairly serve minorities because fund distribution is biased towards whites and favors helping criminal classes over non-criminals.
- We need online/youtube/book/media resources (Church recommended) and technology based outreach.

### **Dialoguing**

- We need to support, dialogue with, and welcome LBGQT individuals and families.
- We need to better communicate, with one voice, church positions on different cultural issues (e.g. abortion, homosexuality) with clear direction and not so many scenarios/options that create confusion.
- We need to remain vigilant regarding sexual abuse: provide training, provide a voice for victims, and be transparent!
- On our Church journey together, we need to be witnesses: be kind, be a good example, be holy, find joy in life.
- We need to respond to science by discussing how to marry these ideas with church values, and bring back youth with this understanding.

### **Leading and Deciding**

- We need women in leadership positions, with an emphasis on allowing women deacons.
- We need centralized communication (e.g., a Vatican director) to communicate consistently and disseminate change. How do we hear what the Pope says about issues?
- We need a sense of urgency for the lack of priests and clergy of all kinds: we need vocations, and we need to expand deacons.
- God is in our life but not in the center, is this something the Church needs to investigate? Is this a generational difference, and how do we deal with it?
- Decentralize the Catholic Church leadership.
- Marriage should be allowed for priests to avoid them breaking their vows and to acknowledge their humanity.

### **Growing in Synodality**

- The Synod is the best way to get the involvement of everyone to advance the changes we need; we are invited to help make decisions.
- The Pope is having a positive impact; he wants to lead a contemporary Church and we need to pray for him and the achievement of that goal.

- We need to use parish events (e.g., confirmation and sacraments, social events) to build community and Synodality.
- It is a good idea for the church to get together at all levels in Synod because participants liked that the Pope wanted to know what they thought.
- Marginalized groups may have ideas, but they are not always welcomed.
- There is an overall loss of confidence, credibility, and relevancy of the Church and its capacity to acknowledge and address critical issues/problems, execute needed change.

**Comments Not Categorized into Themes:**

none

**Additional Context About the Listening Sessions:**

Our 3/22/22 session was for teens only. At 3 sessions, participants were highly engaged & constructively communicative. At 1 session, we had challenges with participants with agendas creating a difficult discussion atmosphere.

## PARTICIPANTS

Total:98

<b>Female:</b>	41	<b>Male:</b>	37
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### AGES OF PARTICIPANTS

14-17:	18-25:	26-39:	40-55:	56-74:	75+:
16	2	1	4	33	41

### ETHNICITY:

Asian:	Black or African-American:	Caucasian:	Hispanic or Latino:
10	3	66	8

Native American:	Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander:	Other:
0	2	8, not indicated

Active Catholic since birth:	Inactive Catholic:	Catholic Convert:	Returned Catholic:	Non-Catholic:
82	1	9	4	1

### MASS ATTENDANCE

Never or Rarely:	A few times a year:	Once/twice a month:	Almost every week:	Every week:	More than once a week:
0	2	2	14	49	30

Number of Participants in Ecumenical Session(s): 1

**Date(s)/Time(s)/Duration(s) of Listening Sessions:** 3/13/22, 2-4pm,; 3/22/22, 6-8pm;  
3/24/22, 7-9pm,; 3/29/22, 7-9pm; all sessions were 2-hrs in duration

**Languages of Listening Sessions:** English

**Format of Listening Sessions:** ADLA Format 1-Day Session

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