



SAINT JOHN FISHER PARISH

April 15, 2022

Dear Parishioners:

During the month of March, the Pastoral Council invited you to take part in listening sessions, so that we could hear your ideas, affirmations, and concerns in the Catholic Church. Pope Francis has requested these consultations throughout the world as a preparation for the Synod of Bishops that will take place in Rome in 2023. I am grateful to the leadership of Sheila Bloodgood, chair of the pastoral council, for organizing these sessions and to the pastoral council for their work in promoting these sessions and helping in the group facilitation.

There were 98 persons who took part in these 4 sessions. This included the 17 teens who attended the session specifically designed for them. 38% were male, and 62% female. 76% of the participants were over 56 years of age. Although this parish has an older population, that category was overrepresented compared to others. I am concerned that those between 18 and 55 years of age represented only 7% of the participants. 81% of the participants attend Mass at least weekly. This is not surprising since for several weeks the council was registering people after Mass. It is more difficult to reach people who don't come to Mass.

The category with the most responses was that of "loss of reverence/back to basics." The teens' interpretation of what that means is much different than that of the adults. Even the adults did not have a consensus on what that meant. There was conflict even within the same table. It seems to me that we need to continue a similar process particularly among those who were underrepresented at these sessions.

The council chair collated all the comments and prepared a document that was sent to the San Pedro Regional Office. The regional Bishop, Marc Trudeau, has the responsibility of collating the reports of the parishes within his region. He and the other 4 regional bishops send their documents to Archbishop Gomez. He then collates the reports of the 5 pastoral regions and sends his report to the Vatican. The reports of the dioceses throughout the world will guide Pope Francis in preparing the agenda for the Synod of Bishops.

This is the first time in the history of the Church that the laity have been involved in the process. I want to thank all of you who were part of the process through these listening sessions.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Msgr. David A. Sork
Pastor