



Synodal Summary (St. Anne, Grants Pass) March 22, 2022

First session: Thursday, March 3, 6:00 pm - 8 tables of 5 to 6 people; about 50 total
Second session: Saturday, March 12, 8:00 am - 5 tables of 4 to 6 people; about 30 total, St. Patrick 9 people. Total from all three sessions: About 90 people.

Question 1 - What in the church fills me with life? How is the Holy Spirit working in my life to deepen my faith and inspire me to be a better disciple and witness of Christ's love to others?

In our review of the responses we summarized the list to six major themes.

Sacraments and Liturgy -

- Amongst the Sacraments, the Eucharist was prominent throughout our sessions.
- Confession was also a popular in our responses
- Music is important. It opens a portal to the soul
- It's important to understand the parts and rituals of the Mass

Community -

- Personal/small faith-sharing/Bible study groups are important, because it created a sense of belonging in the community
- Those in our missions love the small feel of the church - more intimate
- Some enjoyed sitting together as a group of friends - enjoy praying together

Stability of Church -

- The Church is a "life raft" an "Anchor" and "rock"
- It allows us a place to "come home" when we have to live in the world
- Enjoy the stability of the traditions of the Church
- It's the only thing that seems to make sense in the world

Service -

- Ministry to the homebound is important for our churches and the people who receive this care
- Ministry to the imprisoned
- Ministry to the marginalized
- Many mentioned the Archdiocesan Food Box Program
- Our communities love serving each other in the church community

Prayer -

- Adoration was most popular form of church prayer
- Marian prayer and devotions were popular
- Daily Mass as a form of daily prayer
- “Prayer keeps me going”
- Stations of the Cross

Scripture -

- Reading and discussing Scripture
- Group discussions about Scripture
- Book club and other spiritual reading was popular
- Reading materials such as “Magnificat” helps

Question 2 - As a community of believers, what experiences of the Catholic Church have brought joys or revealed wounds? And how can these experiences help us grow together in faith and offer the hope and healing of Christ to the greater community in which we live?

In our review of the responses we decided to reduce our list to two major themes

Joys -

- Family celebrations such as Weddings, Baptism, Funerals, etc.
- Liked the new church building
- Like watching young people growing up in the Church
- Enjoy music
- Retreats
- Personal experience of going to Confession
- Being part of the Food Box program

Wounds -

- COVID-19 Pandemic and politics, restrictions
- Pandemic has hurt our community
- Sexual abuse scandal and mishandling
- Lack/poor teaching
- Poor leadership
- Sad that many have left the Church
- Judgement & division
- Lack of young people in the Church

Question 3 - As a Catholic community, we are expressly enjoined to invite others into a life-giving relationship with Jesus Christ. When we dream about how best to accomplish this, what steps is the Holy Spirit inviting the Church in western Oregon to take?

In our summary of the responses and comments.

- The most common comment was the need to engage our youth and young adults which would attract them to the faith and keep them
- More social media & technology for evangelization
- Need for more adult education/faith formation
- Encourage unity between language groups in church and embrace the diversity.
- Walking the journey with others
- Being more courageous about living out and speaking about the faith and being sensitive to others hearts when they disagree
- Want to increase community building activities and ministries to those in need
- Need continuing education beyond grade school
- Enjoyed going out of the parish for meals, parks, BBQ's
- We need to be more aware of our parishioners needs beyond spiritual, such as physical, emotional, relational
- We need to get out of our comfort zone
- Being willing and encouraged to try new things to bring people back even if they fail