

## SOUTHERN OREGON VICARIATE – SYNOD MEETING, APRIL 23

Main themes that emerged from the discussion:

- The sacraments fill people with life.
- Outside liturgical celebrations, there should be other opportunities to encounter God, such as retreats (like ACTS), parish missions and guest speakers.
- Ongoing faith formation at every level needs to be a priority. In particular, we need to do a better job of reaching out to young people.
- There is a need for stronger collaboration between laity and clergy in the mission of evangelization.
- There is an ongoing need to address the role of women in the church.
- There needs to be better/more simple access to formation for the permanent diaconate given the distance that deacon candidates are being required to travel.
- Three issues were identified as points of division in the community: the response to the pandemic, the Latin Mass and Pope Francis.
- Clergy sexual abuse and cover up continues to be a painful wound in the church and there is a need for ongoing healing.
- In building a stronger community, a spirit of unity is required, while still embracing diversity
- Acknowledge the reality that the church is shrinking and new modes of evangelical outreach – such as social media - need to be used.
- The church should be a place of stability.
- Participants found the format and methods for each Synodal gathering to be life-giving