

SYNOD SYNTHESIS, Christ the King Parish, April 2, 2022

GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. Christ the King Parish
2. 38 Participants
3. 20-1; 30-3; 40-1; 50-6; 60-1; 70- 8; 80- 5

ESSAY QUESTIONS

1. What was particularly significant, surprising, or unexpected?

Participants were genuinely surprised that Pope Francis wants to hear our concerns and to listen. We need more of these sessions.

There was a persistent, significant concern for the loss of young people in our church. How do we reach them? The authority of the church needs to pay attention to social changes. Our young people do! We need to move beyond emphasis on “rules” and be more welcoming and willing to change.

We need to be conscious of the Holy Spirit’s Presence and to come together more during crisis.

“They will know we are Christians by our love.”

2. What new perspectives or horizons opened up?

A call for change: “how do you run any organization and see a drop in numbers without seeing the need to change?” Pope Francis is doing all he can but is hitting a wall with bishops’ leadership.

Faith is not always about doctrines and rules. It seems rules are more important than people.

There was a call for priests to be allowed to get married. There was a call for women deacons, women priests, as well as women being more visible in leadership roles in the church.

There was a call for young people to be involved in dialogue with church leaders – and for young people to have leadership roles in the church.

3. Which stories or personal experiences were especially moving and why?

Personal experiences were expressed in these ways:

- “If you listen to people, you will hear their pain.”
- “If you don’t include people, you can’t hear them.”

- “Don’t exclude others by reverting to old times. We need to bring in more ‘worldly people.’”?

The cry for more inclusion in the Church was clear. This includes young people, the LGBTQ community, the elderly, seniors and those in health care facilities, those who are divorced.

Rules are not central. Rather we need to be “the Face of Christ” in the world, be forgiving and accepting.

4. Which points of view seem to have strong resonance?

Although two or three expressed not allowing some groups to participate in the Church, there was a very strong resonance to be more welcoming and inclusive of all groups.

At the same time, there was a strong thread to learn more about the Church (why we teach what we teach). There is confusion and crisis in the Church. Can we learn more from each other and to listen to each other more. The authority in the Church needs to let go and to listen.

Also, strong was that the voices of lay people need to be heard AND their gifts utilized and called upon more. “How do we get the hierarchy to work with us and to help us?”

5. Which points of view were mentioned less but are noteworthy?

One participant remarked, “A new door is opening in the Church and the Holy Spirit is opening the door.” Another said, “The Holy Spirit is the forgotten One – yet what we are doing now is from the Holy Spirit.”

Much of the response to the question on the Holy Spirit centered on the gifts of the laity being utilized. However, when the Spirit was mentioned, the responses were vibrant, raising questions such as, “How can we (the laity) as Church be more proactive?” “Do we need to wait to see what the Pope will do (with the Synod) or can we make change now?”

Also noteworthy were a few comments on coming together with other Christian Churches to learn more about and from each other and to support each other.