



**Church of the
Resurrection**

***Universal
Synod Response***

**by Deacon Mike Haas,
Marie Bernard, & Jackie Zoucha**

Synod on Synodality

- What is the Synod?
 - World-wide listening sessions requested by Pope Francis
 - Involve the People of God in transforming the Church
- Statement by Bishop Cantú
 - The intention of the Synod process is “**to inspire people to dream** about the Church we are called to be, to **make hopes flourish**, to **stimulate trust**, to **bind up wounds**, to **weave new and deeper relationships**, to **learn from one another**, to **build bridges**, to **enlighten minds**, **warm hearts** and **restore strength** to our hands for our common mission.”

Synod Questions

- 1) Where and how do you **personally experience** Church today?
Describe your personal experience. What **joys** do you experience?
- 2) What **difficulties and obstacles** have you encountered?
- 3) What **insights** do you have?
- 4) What is your **dream or vision** for our Church in the future?
- 5) Are there any aspects of the Church's **evangelizing mission** that you would like to see?
- 6) How do you value the Church's **social mission** to care for the poor and marginalized, as well as its efforts to address poverty and social change?

Parishioner Response

- Questions made available during late March
- Collected responses during homily period on April 2-3
 - Online attendees poorly represented
- Received **318** handwritten responses
 - Transcribed by Sister Lai
 - Proofed and formatted by Deacon Mike
 - Reviewed and summarized by
Deacon Mike, Marie Bernard, and Jackie Zoucha

Response Overview

- Most responses focused on local issues
 - Gratitude for the return of in-person worship
 - Appreciation for (or frustration with) their online experiences
 - Comments on the music, homilies, environment, and ministries at the Church of the Resurrection
- Some people adopted a broader perspective
 - Addressed issues of the global Church
 - Made comments about the Pope
 - Weighed in on theological issues or church practices

Five Main Themes

Three nearly universal themes:

- 1) **YOUTH** - Importance of engaging, supporting, and encouraging our youth and young adults, who are seen as the future of the Church
- 2) **COMMUNITY** - Hunger for more community building activities, including spiritual, educational, volunteer, and social events
- 3) **SOCIAL JUSTICE** - Recognition that care for the poor and marginalized is, and always must be, a high priority for the Church

Five Main Themes (cont'd)

Last two themes exist in tension at both the parish level and within the global Church:

- 4) **INCLUSION** - Many desire a more welcoming and inclusive Church
 - Our love should extend to ALL and drive what we do
 - Include LGBTQ, divorcees, women clergy, & married priests
 - Adapt, modernize, be open & transparent, less judgmental

- 5) **TRADITION** - Some desire a more traditional Church
 - Follow the teachings of the Church (or the catechism)
 - Retain and restore traditional values and practices
 - Resist the pressures of secular society

Two-fold purpose of Synod

- 1) Provide feedback to a listening Church at the parish, diocesan, regional, and Vatican levels
 - ✓ Conduct solemn opening in Rome on October 9 - 10, 2021
 - ✓ Deliver diocesan and regional reports by June 30, 2022
 - Conclude with a Synod of Bishops in October 2023

- 2) Encourage parishioners to engage in conversations that foster local transformation and build unity
 - ✓ Circulate Synod questions and receive written responses
 - ✓ Post the responses and our diocesan report to parish website
 - Listen and respond

Parishioner Next Steps

- Read all 318 responses with a listening ear
- Prayerfully reflect on the thoughts of others
- Discuss what you've heard:
 - Before Mass and afterwards during hospitality
 - At 60th Anniversary events
 - With parish leadership, with family & friends
- Get involved
 - Make suggestions
 - Volunteer your talents (more activities require more volunteers)
 - Participate in events (success breeds success)

See – Judge – Act*

- 1) **See** clearly and honestly
 - A process of listening, analysis, observation, and illumination
 - Where are we as Church and where do we want to go?
- 2) **Judge** by the light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ
 - How are we called to transform and renew the Church?
 - Realistically address the challenges we face at every level
- 3) **Act** on behalf of justice
 - Pursue visionary, strategic, and realistic action
 - Evangelize on the fringes while seeking conversion so that “all might become one”

*Taken from Bishop McElroy’s excellent article in America Magazine
<https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2022/05/31/mcelroy-synodality-francis-continuity-243077>

Possible Next Steps for Parish

- Prioritize youth ministry (stalled by pandemic)
- Strengthen our community
 - Utilize our 60th Anniversary events
 - Find new ways for parishioners to socialize and work together
- Grow our ministries
 - Highlight with short talks after weekend Masses
 - Host another ministry fair
 - Extend personal invitations
- Reinvigorate the Parish Council
- Host additional listening sessions

Every response is valuable and has been heard.

Thank You!

Thank you for your insights, vision, and desire for a more vibrant, spirit-filled community of believers.

**Let us continue to live in the love of Christ
and discover new ways to share that love!**