

Synod on Synodality

St. Pius X Klamath Falls, OR

St. Pius X is in southern Oregon. We have approximately 600 parish families. We distributed the Synod on Synodality questions in our parish bulletin the weekend of June 18-19, in addition to a verbal invitation from Father Shiju both during the homily and after the announcements. Small group meetings were held on June 28 with a morning and an evening session to discuss the questions, and individuals spoke with different groups or bible studies and had one-on-one conversations. Additional verbal announcements were made on the 2 weekends after initial handout. 17 surveys were returned from parishioners. The responses were recorded and summarized below.

1. How has my faith increased or decreased over the past few years? What has helped or hindered my faith growth? The common themes are listed by how many times they were mentioned. Higher on the list is mentioned on several surveys. This method was used for all responses.

Increased:

- Prayer “I feel that God draws me closer to him through daily prayer and continue to study about the faith”
- Faith community/parish programs including classes, bible studies, small prayer groups, women’s retreat, Catholic Cemetery, and Franciscan sisters.
- God’s Grace
- Online activities including Father Mike’s “Bible in a Year,” Formed, Mass from other parishes during Covid
- Daily Mass, Rosary, other sacraments especially Confession, and Adoration
- Practice of the Corporal and Spiritual Works of mercy
- Good priests “The loving care and Faith that Father Shiju shares has been a great influence on my faith”.

Decreased:

- Lack of consistency among the hierarchy in dealing with public supporters of sin; “frustration over the church not holding a line against politicians who claim to be Catholic but don’t follow the teachings”
- Lack of catechesis
- Scandals and abuse “People lose confidence in faith leaders when scandals keep materializing”.
- Being busy “poor time management, the busyness of everyday life, lack of discipline”
- Need married priests to better understand and minister to married life
- foreign priests - we can’t be inspired if we can’t understand them
- Lack of evangelization of and outreach to non-Catholics and fallen-away Catholics

2. What do you think the mission of the Catholic Church is?

- Love as Jesus did
- Teach “Families are key. Faith, alive and full or cultural and lacking, is handed down by parents first. They are the child’s first teacher of the faith. We must support and encourage a rich faith lived in family life”.
- Live what we preach (mercy, corporal and spiritual)
- Move all toward the Unity God asks of us

- Listen
 - Service
 - Accept people, inclusivity
 - Pray with others
 - Bring us to God and Heaven “for people to have a personal relation with Him not just know about Him”
 - Be the incarnation of God in the world
 - Sanctify
 - As Jesus said: “Make disciples...”
 - “To lead, inspire, and increase the followers of Jesus Christ by example, spreading his Word, and educating the faithful as to why we believe as we do”.
3. What are your gifts? How can you see them utilized for the betterment of others and to further the mission of the church?
- Hospitality
 - Teach, preach, and sanctify
 - “Being a good example, being more aware of people and their problems, praying for them”.
 - Empathy
 - Love and service
 - Personal outreach
 - Personal invitation
 - Listening to reach understanding
 - Donation and generosity
 - Singing, reading scripture
 - Consistency in daily Mass
 - Writing and organization
 - Marriage
 - My life experiences, family, life in community, Franciscan call, education, positions of service and responsibility.
4. Other comments:
- Unity, listening to each other, mutual respect, is needed
 - The division between Bishops is discouraging, even scandalizing
 - Family Catechesis
 - Providing outreach and welcome toward non-practicing and returning Catholics and non-Catholics.
 - Understanding the fullness of Mass, maintaining the liturgy, and teaching the liturgy
 - Understanding and explanation of sexual sin regarding communion.
 - Improvement of and broader use of technology and tech savvy
 - Have to have a personal relationship with Christ
 - “The hard thing is getting people to sit down and listen to one another”.
 - Clear and open statement from Bishops regarding pedophilia, “confession” of the Church’s guilt
 - Advertising our church and practices more effectively