**Synod Summary of Results**

* Synod Process
	+ In total, 9 sessions were held: 5 general sessions, 1 Spanish session, 1 session held during teen faith groups, 1 virtual session, 1 staff session
	+ Around 400 participants total
* What we will do with information received
	+ **Grow in Faith**:
		- Continue to teach about, encourage, and provide opportunities to know Christ and foster a personal relationship
		- Create opportunities for hospitality to foster faith sharing
	+ **Foster Service** opportunities to the boarder community
		- Coordinate volunteer/service opportunities, improve communication regarding such opportunities
	+ **Welcome** members into the faith community:
		- Develop strategies to reach out the those who are disengaged
		- Create a Young Adult Ministry
		- Revamp existing ministries and develop collaboration across them
	+ **Celebrate**
		- Host whole parish events – bringing ministries together in hosting

***Summary of the responses to the four topics of reflection***

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| **The Fundamental Question** |
| A synodal Church, in announcing the Gospel, “journeys together.” How is this “journeying together” happening today in our parish/community? How is the Holy Spirit inviting our parish/community to grow in “journeying together?” | * Retreats
* Volunteer opportunities
* Ministries
* Sense of community
* Helping us build a closer relationship with God
* Eucharist
* Universality of the Church
* Need to change
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| **Reflection on Key Theme: Listening & Discernment***Listening is a first step that requires an open mind and heart, without prejudice. Discernment in a synodal style, which requires attentiveness to the Holy Spirit through the prayer and sharing of the whole community, depends first on listening* |
| Listening and Discernment is fostered through | * small faith groups
* adult education, catholic social teaching
* faith formation perpetual adoration
* Ministries including St. Vincent DePaul, Family promise
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| Listening and Discernment can be improved through | * Prioritizing listening without judgement and preconceived notions
* Practice, guidance in prayerful listening, need to model listening in children
* Including and informing parish members in decision-making (parish council/suggestion box)
* Extended time for personal intentions during mass
* Q & A class with a priest would be helpful for teens
* *The large size of the parish is a perceived challenge*
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| *While some feel our parish effectively embraces diversity; others feel the church hierarchy caters to their own political agendas and creates an exclusive church (in regard to women, the LGBTQ community, those seeking fertility treatments)* |

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| **Reflection on Key Theme: Co-Responsibility & Participation** *Synodality is at the service of the mission of the Church, in which all members are called to participate. All the baptized are co-responsible for the mission of the Church—to proclaim the Gospel and make disciples of Jesus Christ.* |
| Factors hindering Co- Responsibility and Participation | * Catholics do not feel confident and avoid professing their faith in public
* Why invest time in priests, they get moved too often
* Classes are outdated – update to reflect the times we live in
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| Ways to improve Co- Responsibility and Participation | * Bringing back young adults – need for aggressive action
* Better family support and programs
* Emphasize time and talent and volunteering opportunities
* Allow church activities to be announced from the Altar
* Create a Welcome back program for absent Parishioners
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| **Reflection on Key Theme: Prayer and Celebration** *Central to “journeying together” is the communal listening to the Word and the celebration of the Eucharist.* |
| Prayer and Celebration as shared faith experience | * Mass is the community “journeying together”
* The centrality of the Eucharist
* Mass as an experience the leaves you feeling fed, time well spent, a better person, challenged to be more spiritual
* Fosters a feeling of God as a god of love and forgiveness, that we are called to love all despite differences, accept those who live outside of our understanding of the Catholic church
* Opportunity for scripture study, to Engage families’ faith formation, to engage adults in their own faith formation, to discuss mass afterward with family/friends – coffee/donuts
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| How to encourage active participation of all the faithful in prayer/liturgy/sacraments | * Engage more women and children in mass
* Importance of music ministry/liturgy experience
* Sacraments during mass
* “Sign of Peace” song during mass
* Return to special “liturgical celebrations” of Transfiguration
* Teens enjoy going to mass together
* More trainings for liturgical participation
* More welcoming; Recognize visitors every week
* “name tag” Sundays, donuts and coffee, parish “reset”, whole parish events, Ministry Fair
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| **Listening to the Holy Spirit** *Take 5-10 minutes to pray in silence with your small group, after invoking the Holy Spirit again through a “Come Holy Spirit” prayer or impromptu prayer. Then, from your small group sharing,* ***name one insight where you heard the voice of the Holy Spirit today or share one insight that is on your heart after your time of prayer*** |
| Some felt a call to action | * Called to evangelize and re-engage community, minister to others
* Called to engage the young in the church: children, teens, young adults
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| Some felt that there’s still work to be done | * Obligation to leave a legacy that can be carried on by a diverse, accepting church - Call for tradition and change (Vatican III)
* Desire to be listened to by church leadership (local and hierarchy)
* Felt this was a missed opportunity to discuss real issues – LGBTQ, Women
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| Some recognized the process as beneficial to their faith journey | * Overwhelming sense of gratitude for the experience and to revisit it in the future
* Identified where they felt their faith journey is best supported (in small faith groups, Women in Faith, etc)
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