

St. Mary Synod Discernment Session Responses for Saturday, January 29th, 2022

Note: the numbers at the end of each item indicate a table number to show how many times the same item came up, i.e., 1,5 means same item came up at table 1 and 5.

Question 1: What in the church fills me with life? How is the Holy Spirit working in my life to deepen my faith and inspire me to be a better disciple and witness of Christ's love to others?

1. Part 1: What in the Church fills me with life?

- a. The sacraments, particularly the Eucharist. 1,2,3,4,5
- b. Beautiful liturgy in every form, filling all the senses. 1
- c. Liturgy of the Hours. 1
- d. Personal relationship with Jesus and Mary. Talking with them. 1
- e. Adoration 1,3,5
- f. Divine office. 1
- g. Really good strong preaching and catechesis. 1
- h. Access to holy websites and on-line platforms. 3
- i. Holy, reverend, orthodox Priests and staffs. 1
- j. Emulating saints. 2
- k. Seeing Christ on the cross in church. 1
- l. Fellow believers, community, one-body in Christ. 1,2,4,5
- m. Being open and reverent, humble, relying on God, being healed and faithful, seeing others loving their enemies. 2,3
- n. Finding the right ministry, places to participate, working with others. 1,3
- o. Good lectors, listening to the Word of God. 1,3
- p. Divinity of Christ combines with my humanity. 4
- q. Knowing the God is always there. 4
- r. Catechesis (especially from the pulpit. 2
- s. Faith in the afterlife. 5

Part 2: How is the Holy Spirit working in my life?

- a. Actively learning more about the faith, seeking out new resources, reading. 1
- b. Sharing the love of Christ with others. 2
- c. Learning to listen, learning to be silent with Christ. 3
- d. Saying “hello” to others, reaching out, smiling. 1
- e. Increased prayer life 1,5
- f. Helping others, sharing with others, being charitable, being a good example, inspiring others. 1, 5
- g. Person/people as a sacrament. 5

Question 2: As a community of believers, what experiences of the Catholic Church have brought joys and revealed wounds? And how can these experiences help us grow together in faith and offer the hope and healing of Christ to the greater community in which we live?

Note: Responses divided into: Joys and Wounds.

2. Part 1: Brought Joys:

- a. Re-opening the Church after covid. 2
- b. Daily Mass. 1
- c. Tradition and authority of orthodox teaching. 1,5
- d. Sharing the faith. 1
- e. Seeing the faithfulness of women and children. 3
- f. Seeing women passing on the faith (it is often women who do this). 3
- g. Moving the tabernacle to under the Crucifix. 1
- h. Seeing more young people at Mass. 2
- i. Celebrating the major solemnities, processions. 2
- j. Confession 1,2
- k. Finding exuberant Masses on-line, different expressions of faith. 2
- l. Observing World Youth Day (via TV). 1
- m. Bible-in-a-year podcast. 2
- n. Ordination of Priests via live-stream. 2
- o. Universality of the Church. 4
- p. Welcoming parish. 4
- q. Participation in retreats / healing experiences. 5

- r. Seeing Christ in the poor. 5
- s. Church involvement in the pro-life movement. 5

Part 2: Wounds:

- a. Lack of influence, for example, at planning sessions for the parish at start-of-year planning. 1
- b. Lack of good catechesis, good teaching on the hard truths of the CC 1,2
- c. Poor catechesis from the Pope and some Bishops 1,4
- d. Lukewarmness and lack of reverence in some parishes (not St. Mary). 1
- e. Lack of services for the victims of abortions, miscarriages, caring for the hurting. 2
- f. Divisiveness of sin. 4
- g. Abuse scandal, children being mistreated, sex abuse crisis. 1,3
- h. Insensitivity when bring up topics that affect past sins. 2
- i. Women, mom's being mistreated and unsupported, often in their efforts to pass on the faith. 3
- j. Suppression of the Latin Mass. 1,5
- k. Media coverage of CC. 1
- l. Covid, locked doors 1,3
- m. Our priests being under attack. 1
- n. People forming cliques. 4
- o. Archbishop appealing more to one side (the right). 3
- p. Church doesn't feel like a community but a place of business. 3
- q. Volunteers are left on their own / lack of support. 3
- r. Daily struggle to be good. 5
- s. Lack of follow-up in RCIA. 5

Question 3: As a Catholic community, we are expressly enjoined to invite others into a life-giving relationship with Jesus Christ. When we dream about how best

to accomplish this, what steps is the Holy Spirit inviting the Church in western Oregon to take?

Note: Responses broken up into categories: Education, Spirituality, Youth, Outreach, Community.

Education

- a. Better catechesis, good, repeated teaching on what we believe, why we do what we do at Mass, constant formation 1,2
- b. Personal relationship with Jesus, good example to others, pray in public, cross ourselves in restaurants 1,2
- c. Short classes for different age groups. 1
- d. Teaching and living the virtues, ordinary tasks with great love. 2
- e. Create a process of connection, “places to go”, after RCIA. 1
- f. Teach tools on how to share our faith, our joy. 1
- g. More education on issues like same-sex marriage and transgender. 4

Spirituality

- a. Experience of personal and lived conversion. 5
- b. More time for prayer, retreats, seminars, etc. 4
- c. Start every Church season with a retreat. 4

Youth

- a. Activities, including Mass, that encourage the young (at school) to participate with older parishioners. 1
- b. Focus on youth, invite young people to participate. 2
- c. Create a local “World Youth Day”. 1

Outreach

- a. Mention Christ and the Church in conversation. 2
- b. Embrace Alpha program, leading to parish census, visit every household. 3
- c. Invite people persistently, be bold, be good at hospitality (like Mt. Angel) 1,2,3
- d. Be warriors (again) for Christ and the Church. 2

- e. Better ways to get information to elderly parishioners, hand out bulletins after Mass. 2
- f. Advertise and promote, with posters and other means (visibility) 1,4
- g. Every active parishioner have 5 telephone numbers to call. 2
- h. Publish good on-line sites and resources. 2
- i. Include in bulletin good on-line sites, vicariate information. 1
- j. Work projects for men, work projects for women. 1
- k. Church needs to be a cultural leader. 4
- l. Outreach through programs like AA and celebrating recovery. 5
- m. Being a good living Christian witness to other. 5

Community

- a. Create homes that show that we are deeply Catholic. 1
- b. Collaboration with other churches 1,2
- c. Discussion opportunities (like this one), fellowship, community, belonging 1,2
- d. Promote community life, weekly potlucks, need socialization 1,2,3
- e. Formal and ongoing volunteer support. 3