

# RESULTS ARE IN!

In the past year, we as a church have been asked to participate in the Discipleship Maker Index (DMI) Survey and the Synod.

Both processes are to help us as a community, both local and universal, to journey together reflecting on our experiences with the Church and our faith to help us live in communion, to achieve participation, and seek the mission of God.

We wanted to share with you the key findings from both processes, which are found below:

## DMI SURVEY

### Strengths:

- Our Parish's belief in the Eucharist as body/blood of Christ.
- Scripture is word of God.
- Attending Church is critical in our relationship with God.

### Opportunities to grow in:

- Sharing our personal faith story with others.
- Having conversations about the faith teachings and being confident in our knowledge of those teachings.
- Sharing the story of Jesus with others.

We as a parish want to enable you our parishioners to better your prayer lives, be confident in church teaching, and to be bold in sharing the faith with others. We found that our parishioners want to be more connected to the Catholic community through service, involvement, and good communication. Our Revitalization Committee will be working towards these goals through the events, activities, and groups that are implemented. If you are interested in getting more involved to help us with this mission please contact Mark Szymczak at 989-772-1385 or mszymczak@sha.net.

## Synodal Church

We hosted four listening sessions in our parish where 41 people participated. Listed below are the main topics and the key takeaways from each topic:

### Share your experience of journeying together in communion participation and mission in our local church.

- Togetherness at Mass, Sacraments
- Catholic education
- Sharing God with others
- Glad to be anonymous- blend in with the crowd

### Share experiences that bring you joy and help you grow in your relationship with Jesus.

- Meals promote camaraderie and fellowship- like Knights of Columbus breakfast
- Daily Mass, Weekend Mass
- Daily prayer, retreats, reading the bible, saying the rosary
- Time with family
- Communion Ministry
- Faith sharing
- Stained glass windows

### The difficulties or obstacles you have encountered.

- Feeling unwelcome, wanting greeters at doors before Mass
- Devoting too much time to job
- Being shy, feeling like you won't fit in, feeling excluded or judged by others
- Lack of young adults, or people that are similar to you

- Lack of reverence/belief in real presence
- Shortage of priests, clergy, administrators and having same people do all things
- Role of women
- Not seeing Jesus in each other
- Lack of Catholic background in social groups
- Acceptance of all people, race, ethnicity, sexual difference

### Wounds that these experiences (above) reveal.

- My worst wounds come from a selfish devotion to me first, not sharing my time
- Feeling judged, intimidated, rejected, unwelcome, sad from lack of support
- Disconnect between parish and school

### Insights that the experiences shared (in the group) have elicited.

- There is a dedicated nucleus of those devoted to Sacred Heart
- Lack of reverence for Eucharist
- Need connection between parish church and school
- More events of different demographics
- Fr. Loren treats everyone the same way
- No support for people on the fringe

**What the parish does well that we should continue to do.**

- Liturgy, Choir, Daily Masses
- Funding school
- SHAgala
- Bulletins
- Names of deceased on wall in November (Hope Ministry)
- RCIA
- Physical property looks great (yard, appearance, seasonal decorations, etc.)
- Welcome picnic
- Welcome packets to new parishioners

**What would make our parish better?**

- Provide reading materials
- Have school children, college students, and young people involved in parish
- Accept all people
- Teach basic catechism
- Have more support for our priest so he isn't burnt out- have deacons or lay ministers help more
- Confirmation at a later age
- Identify volunteers by personal invitation
- Wednesday and Sunday no more sports for youth
- Provide more opportunities to grow spiritually- catechism classes
- Bring those back who have left the church

**To what minority opinions) is the Holy Spirit calling us to further consider?**

- Women
- People with young children
- People who are angry and feel excluded because of lifestyle choices (LGBTQ)
- All minorities

**Who else do we need to reach out to, listen to, or include whose voice is not being heard?**

- Divorced
- Widowed
- Single
- Women who have had abortions
- Those who have fallen away from the church
- LGBTQ
- Grief support
- Special needs
- Elderly
- New people
- College students
- Women
- Homebound

**What key message from our discussion is the Holy Spirit guiding us toward?**

- Reach out to a diversity of people- non-Catholic, homosexuals, young people, those with special needs
- Help people to feel loved so that the parish can feel like a family, unity.
- Invite others
- How do we acknowledge and respect other beliefs without compromising ours?
- Be faithful- truth is truth

**Thank you.....**

for all that participated! Your feedback is important to us. All of our feedback was sent to the Diocese and will be reviewed and compiled for discussion at the US Conference of Catholic Bishops. They will combine them into a document for the entire United States.

The second phase includes bishops gathering on each continent to create a draft and submit their thoughts to the Vatican. A synodal assembly will meet to produce a final document for Pope Francis' review and he will decide on the final publication of the document. This will ultimately influence a document the Vatican plans to make public in June 2023.

For a list of all the survey findings please visit our website at [parish.sha.net](http://parish.sha.net).



**Synod  
2021  
2023**

*For a synodal Church*  
communion | participation | mission