

Synod Discussion Questions

Communion:

1. In our parish, do we have active participation in the sacramental life of the Church? What would help strengthen this participation?
2. Do Mass and the other liturgical celebrations and practices in our parish promote and engender a communal Church that lives out its Christian faith? How could our parish enhance our current practices to achieve this end?
3. Does our parish foster a Spirit-filled sense of belonging with and among the laity, new members, and visitors? How might we make the parish more welcoming and cohesive?
4. Does our parish provide calming respite from the anxieties and busyness of the world? How might we create better opportunities and space for reprieve?

Participation:

1. How well does our parish foster lay participation in the life of the Church (i.e. volunteers, extraordinary ministers, etc.)? How might we increase such participation more fully?
2. How well do we equip parents with the knowledge and tools to pass on the faith effectively? What would be beneficial to help strengthen the family as the domestic church?
3. How vibrant are our youth programs? Are we adequately giving voice to the youth and young adults in our community? Are we effectively engaging them in the life and teachings of the Church?
4. How are we reaching those who might be at the periphery of the community (i.e. marginalized, disabled, disadvantaged, and neglected)? How are we providing a space that is inclusive to those of different cultures, races, socio-economic status? In what ways can we connect with them more effectively?

Mission:

1. Within the parish, what initiatives or outreach programs exist to foster the faith among Catholics (both those who are actively and passively practicing their faith)? How are we evangelizing those with no religious affiliation? What other programs might be helpful in this endeavor?
2. Does our parish engage in dialogue with non-Catholic Christians and/or those of other faith traditions in order to promote the common good? How can the parish improve interfaith and interreligious communication?
3. What particular issues pertaining to the Church and society should we direct our attention and efforts toward? Are we actively engaged in social justice issues or is this an area that needs improvement in our parish?

