



## SYNOD OF BISHOPS

### “For A Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission”

Local Parish Consultation on ‘**Communion**’

20 January 2022

Number of Participants: 16

- We need to engage in ‘cooperative discerning’ where the whole church is involved
- We need to reach out to people, particularly the marginalised
- People would rather not ‘spread the word’ so as not to ‘hurt people’
- We need to affirm the “image of God” in us
- Some members and groups in our parish are already giving witness to faith while others are ‘time poor’
- We need to care for the elderly, young children, indigenous, troubled people, and survivors of historical abuse by church leaders – we can’t rely on the hierarchy ‘to fix it’
- We need to lead by example
- We need to encourage participation in parish ministries
- ‘Joy’ is lacking in our Holy Masses; one feels down after Mass
- We must join with other Christian denomination in the area to draw strength from each other
- We should find someone in the parish whom we can ‘walk with’
- The Mass structure is not attractive to people
- Talking with people helps us grow in our faith
- We are not a welcoming parish, not a greeting people; we need training
- There is no forum for people whom we do not agree with; no forum for the minority
- We can’t hear the Aboriginal ‘voice’
- We should have parish retreats
- We can do a million things to involve people
- We need to promote women acolyte
- Listening is difficult because of our prejudices
- Overhead projector will help Mass participation
- We need to know the people in our pews in order to know their gifts
- We need to involve the schools in our Church life



## SYNOD OF BISHOPS

### “For A Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission”

Local Parish Consultation on ‘Participation’

27 January 2022

Number of Participants: 10

- People don’t know what the goals of the parish are
- No one knows what the Parish Pastoral Council is all about
- Parish Pastoral Council is merely rubber stamping the Executive Committee
- Minutes of Parish Pastoral Council meetings are not published; merely report from ministries
- Parish Pastoral Council is totally lost – no election, no nomination
- Parish Pastoral Council are composed of ministry leaders – does not represent a true account of parish life
- There must be an election of Parish Pastoral Council officers to gain broader representation
- The Parish Pastoral Council must evaluate its strategies constantly
- Decisions have already been made by church hierarchy – consultation is a waste of time
- Executive Committee has already made decision for the parish
- Some people are not receptive to change
- Parishioners do not know what’s happening around the parish – ‘Dean’s List’ is addressing some of these
- It would be nice to know the people in our parish – have a ‘family board’ that shows parish personalities and families
- Reach out to people by starting with 5 parishioners and then it will grow
- The parish needs to have a ‘good communicator’ who can ‘sell’ what synodality is all about
- Parish is not consultative; it is frustrating since there is no feedback after a consultation, no follow up
- Limited number of people are joining
- Some people feel alienated
- There must be an evaluation of everything we do as church
- We must promote lay ministry, women acolyte
- Ministries appear to be merely a ‘men’s club’ – we need to be diverse
- We need to start from scratch to achieve synodality, start at the grass roots level
- Discernment is the way of being a church
- Summer School needs to be promoted – no one goes from our parish
- Talk in smaller groups so that they will understand
- We need to reach out to non-Catholics
- Church leaders must serve people with a smile, to be approachable, to be down-to-earth, honest and not say things behind someone’s back
- Parish Stewardship didn’t really move anywhere
- Lenten and Advent programme – battling with numbers
- We need to invite the Spirit in!
- Bring back the Commentators to welcome people
- Does the diocese have a program for training deacons?
- We need to discern what the Spirit is telling us in the face of the shortage in the ordained ministry.



## SYNOD OF BISHOPS

### “For A Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission”

Local Parish Consultation on ‘Mission’

3 February 2022

Number of Participants: 9

- Very little collaboration due to covid-19
- There is evidently ‘clericalism’ in the church, more in the lay than in the priesthood
- People outside the church are already engaged in mission such as the environment
- There is not a lot of love in our community – not a good witnessing
- We need more dialoguing such as this consultation
- We are not NGOs - we are a Church and we are meant to bring hope
- We need to learn from the mistake of closing the Catholic chapel in Bunbury town
- We need to share and not to be embarrassed in sharing the Gospel, even when the name ‘Christian’ appears to be a liability these days
- There are many people whose lives are exemplary in mission
- Due to legal laws forbidding cooperation between different agencies, we are missing out on church interrelationship
- We need to reach out to non-Catholics
- We should love and care for one another
- People sometimes feel inadequate to share the Gospel due to lack of knowledge; inadequate easy materials around about the faith
- We need to be aware of sick people in our parish
- Lack of youth involvement in the parish
- How can we take the next step forward in relating to other churches?
- There is no point in telling others ‘God loves you’ without witnessing
- We are not taught how to do mission
- We’ve had new evangelization...but no explanation about what it is
- No dialogue happens in our diocese – we are ignoring the homeless, the divorced and re-married, single parents, the bereaved, the First Nation people, the homosexual
- We’ve got a long way to go to reach an awareness of the gifts of parishioners
- There hasn’t been much happening in the area of adult faith education
- We need to open people’s awareness about what we are doing, or not doing
- There is a need for discernment before launching into mission
- Our church is disjointed, disconnected, people are feeling frustrated
- We need to be a missionary church and be able to influence our society
- We need instructions on what to say; need to be trained on how to read the Bible
- We need to keep offering opportunities for Bible Studies, for discernment
- We could start by coming together to work out the next step
- There is clearly the absence of leadership at the top, from the bishop/priests too who do not speak about mission – we need to be educated in order to know how to do mission