

Synod Question Responses

1. How would you describe Jesus' presence in your life?

Objective: Articulate what Jesus does for you

Key Themes Expressed

Spiritual Solace

As a living presence; guiding, protecting and teaching; makes himself known, Giver of power source of strength and direction. He continues to call me out of my comfort zone. Provides purpose, calls us forward... He gives us life; stabilizes chaos; he is always there when we need him. He makes himself known to us as our guiding light, confidant, and friend; helps with distractions from God; provides purpose in my life;

Sacramental Presence: From Liturgy to one's circle of friends to the poor and marginalized.

At Mass, In the Eucharist, Scripture Message at Mass, through family and friends in my life. In creation, and provides me grins me forward... with other people by bringing them into my life during certain times. He is present in prayer, in the poor and unfortunate, lifts you up when you are down, in music, in sacramentals.

2. Where do you see Jesus at work in your local community?

Objective: identify how does Jesus works in your community

Key Themes Expressed

Social Services

In nature, (Lake Thompson Assoc preserving nature in the community); in the quietness we can sense him more; in people young and elderly alike. In volunteer work throughout the community. Caretakers; first responders; community-based programs such as food pantry; NAIM, Meals on Wheels; Fredrick House, Essential Workers. Coats for winter; Mental Health Alliance; Health Care providers; Churches of all denominations; homeless shelter; New Dawn Pregnancy Center; all those who volunteer for these organizations who give of their time freely to help those in the community; local hospital; people who provide funds for books for students; NATH-Fredrick House; assisted living and nursing homes'

Parish Activities

Communion to the homebound; parish community through Sacraments; those who serve without recognition; through the work of our priests; clergy staff and ministers; bible groups, scripture study; youth ministry; all Religious Education; parish thrift shop; parish ministers who give without seeking money or recognition; jail ministries; parish deacons ministry;

Relationships

Grandparents raising grandchildren; through random acts of kindness that are witnessed in people in our families; caring of children by Religious Education staff;

3. Where do you see a need for the healing power of Jesus in your life or in your community?

Life:

Objective: identify what does Jesus need to heal in your community

Key Themes Expressed

Personal Life Journey Issues

Physical healing through the gifts of the church; more trust in Jesus to guide us in charity and forming our conscience. People need to stop judging; being patience; fear of war and unexpected pain and loss of war; finding more time for prayer throughout the day; People being able to heal to let go of past hurts and not judging each other. Ask Jesus to help us to see God's will, which will lead us to see Jesus in everyone; develop an attitude of gratitude to see and appreciate our blessings; believing I'm worthy of God's love; surrendering the things I can't control; healing of negative, destructive habits; my conscience and self-control;

Families in distress. Families who have left the church and the acceptance connected with it in our families; Families need healing and forgiveness especially from anxiety, fear and worry; Healing due to the brokenness of addiction, families, lost children, loss of faith, illnesses. families needing reconciliation(s)

Communal Spiritual Life

Communities as a whole need healing between people, to much disagreeing going on in the secular world; Open the eyes of others to see the needs of the complete community not just oneself. Bring God alive in the lives of many who do not have his presence as part of their lives; to be unafraid to talk about God; Bring an awareness of empathy to the poor; be tolerant for one another when people disagree. Healing to parishes due to the effects of the pandemic. Healing to the parish to help us to see the light of Christ in order to bring it to our community. More welcoming to strangers, mutual respect, and selflessness. Healing in the community and work place so that we accept the needs of everyone and the uncertainty in the world. Overcome fear with love; Help people to not want 'stuff' to fulfill them; we are an Easter people-be not afraid; healing between whites and "people of color"; Further train more lay Catholics in the charism of healing, praying, discerning; healing of the hurts in the parish from the sufferings o caused by all the transitioning of priests; upheaval caused from rotating so many priests in and out in such a short period of time; break racial-social barriers nationally;

4. What or who helps you know God more fully?

Objective: Name the resources which help you know God?

Key Themes Expressed

Liturgical Life

Mass where Jesus is truly present In the Sacraments; In scripture, sacraments, mass, Holy Communion, reconciliation, RCIA, Prayer, Magnificat, Eucharistic adoration; sacraments; meditation

Life Modelling of Other People

Family, priests, parishioners; caregivers and people who help others in need.

In the face of the less fortunate and sick; Parish Councils; Pope; in mothers who live out their Christian faith they model non-judgmental-ness which connects them to understating all people. Faith of parents, grandparents, understanding the life of Jesus and talking to God: Jesus, the work of the Holy Spirit: young people, Fr. Kevin Farrell, Faith Development; spouses; connecting an adult to teach a child; the faith of the young children; our family, friends and neighbors; seeing the gratitude to God from those who have survived serious illness; turning misfortune over to God makes me feel His love more fully; discussion with a spouse the readvised sermons

we have heard; my spouse's love; community of saints; people who challenge me; appreciation of nature and God's gift of nature

Media

Relevant Radio; reading church documents; reading spiritual books such as Mathew Kelly; journaling; spiritual reading; programs such as Word on fire (Ascension Press), Formed(program); Bible Studies e.g., "Bible in a Year"

5. What steps do you hear the Holy Spirit asking us to take to deepen our commitment to the church's mission of spreading the gospel and making disciples?

Objective: Identify how the Church can more effectively spread the gospel and make disciples in our age.

Key Themes Expressed

Invitation

Outreach; Encourage family and friends to return to Mass after COVID; Calling parishioners to let them know they are missed; Be God to others; pray for God's guidance; reach out to a shut in and offer to take them to Mass; Become more welcoming. More attention to the relationship with one another in welcoming others and accepting people. More aggressive and less passive in attracting new members; build a stronger community by focusing on the mass; make love our mission to bring us together locally and universally; meet people where they are at and develop relationships outside our comfort zone; open ourselves to the poor, broken and lonely-hearted, the immigrant; tolerance, service, acceptance;

Encouragement

Encourage families to use our catholic schools; Courage to preach God's law of morality, healing, hell and forgiveness. Encourage help in God and the Church; Share the story and beauty of our faith, the community, and the music; the church needs to be more realistic to deal head-on realistically with the priest shortage and losing young people; empower women, teens and children;

Advocacy

The Holy Spirit is the Truth of God and let the Truth of God be known not the truth of man; Advocate for the poor and marginalized. Seeing immigrants as God's people; We need to be more catechized to confidently share our faith with others;

Service

Become like the church of St. Paul in scripture specifically the Acts of the Apostles. Do not just serve to serve but meet people where they are at and develop relationships outside our comfort zone. Use peoples' specific skills to cover specific needs. Share; Be open to the poor, and marginalized. Spiritual leaders should be expanded to include more deacons and expand the roles of the lay ministers, so that we can become a community again; expand the role of lay ministry.

6. What could the church do (if anything) to help you so that the church can become a more meaningful part of your life?

Objective: Specify what the Church can do to be more in contact with, and appropriate for, peoples' needs?

Key Themes Expressed:

Inclusivity

Empowerment; acceptance of gays; for everyone to be understanding of each other; respond to people when they want to volunteer' do not ignore their request.

Leadership

We need to feel more connected to the Diocese of Superior. Women to be equal; Offer Faith enrichments; and provide babysitters. Leadership needs to listen to the people and not be afraid of what they may say; provide guidance quickly when serious community disruption such as a pandemic, etc. prevent normal parish activities; build a fuller sense of community within the diocese and parish as a "mission" diocese we seem to be the last to be considered- an after thought and forgotten; allow women to be priests, accept all the people;

Balanced approaches to people

Pray for more ways to make our parish more vibrant. Celebrate our community with more community events, more fellowship and social events. Emphasize how to be a presence of Christ in our community and less about the rules and doctrines. Remind the people we are the church. Be brave, feed our souls; Promote social and sacramental ministries; do more reparations for the nearly global scandal of the sexual abuse mainly sold as a "catholic" problem; more opportunities for building fellowship; allow women to be equal members of the Church;

Spreading the Word of God- Evangelization

Emphasize how to be more Christ like in our lives.... People want to know what they can do. Do not water down the faith, teach it, be firm in our faith, so we can reach out to people outside of our faith tradition. Provide tools for evangelization. Teach how to evangelize; find ways to build up the Body of Christ in the parish – more catechesis on our faith, traditions, teachings of the early Fathers, mass parts, etc.;