



Holy Redeemer by the Sea Catholic Parish
Staffed by the Oblates of St. Francis De Sales

Re: Holy Redeemer by the Sea Parish
Synodal Listening Session
June 18, 2022

June 28, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

I have reviewed the attached report summarizing the Listening Session held at Holy Redeemer by the Sea Parish on June 18, 2022 at the invitation of Pope Francis and Bishop Luis Rafael Zarama for the 2023 Global Synod. I give my approval to this report, and add that I am proud of the leadership of the Parish Council in organizing and executing the session. The approximately 30 parishioners who attended were very engaged in the Listening Session, and many have requested that similar events be scheduled in the future. I humbly submit to you the attached report, along with my prayers for a fruitful continuation of the process.

Yours in Christ,

William F. Walsh, OFS

Rev. Dr. William F. Walsh, OFS
Pastor



Section A: Basic Information

- 1) Name of parish, Catholic school, campus ministry or community/group
Holy Redeemer by the Sea, Kitty Hawk
- 2) Address of parish, Catholic school, campus ministry or community/group
301 W Kitty Hawk Road Kitty Hawk
- 3) Name of pastor/leader
Rev. Dr. William F. Walsh, osfs
- 4) Name of person filling out this report/form; phone number; email address
Val Cummings, 252 261 4700 hlyrmdrwed@aol.com

Section B: Assessing the Synod Process within Your Parish/Community

- 1) What process did you chose to consult your community. Please check all that apply: X
Prayer-Centered Listening Sessions (in-person, virtual, hybrid)
- 2) Whom did you consult? Please check all that apply:
 - a Parish/community members X
 - b Parish/community leadership, staff & volunteers X
 - c Parish councils (pastoral) X
 - d Inactive Catholics
 - e Other Christians
 - f Those of other religions
 - g Unaffiliated
 - h Other
- 3) What was the best part of the process? What were the high points?
Opportunity to gather and be heard; participation by all in attendance was the high point.
- 4) What was the most challenging aspect of the consultation process?
Organizing the material to be adequately covered in time allotted (3 hrs).
- 5) What are some lessons learned?
People are eager to do this more often and they expressed great love and concern for the Church, the Parish and the faith
- 6) Are there steps that your community will be taking as a result of this process?
Already, a 13 session apologetics course for adult ed has been proposed by one of our deacons to take place in the fall. A great desire for ongoing knowledge was expressed and will be a point of follow up. Practical considerations are also ongoing, such as transportation. Our specific take aways are included on the attached pages.

Section C: Pope Francis is Listening. What would your parish like to say....

The attached pages include the synthesis of answers to our 4 questions:

Global: The Second Vatican Council took a decisive step toward the Church reading the "signs of the times." This means that the Church does not carry out its mission in a vacuum, detached from the realities of the world.

- Consider the "signs of the times." What particular issues and opportunities would you like to share with Pope Francis?

Local: A Synodal Church is one in which all members are called to participate.

- How are baptized members of your Parish able to participate in the mission of the Church to proclaim the Gospel? What hinders people from being active in your Parish?

Personal: The Catholic Church is called to walk side-by-side with all of God's Children.

- How can the Church do a better job of walking side-by-side with YOU?

Reflection: Consider why you came to this session today. Consider what you heard in your small group.

- Name one insight where you heard the voice of the Holy Spirit today.

(Attached as Appendix A is a report from a separate Hispanic listening session held June 19, 2022)

LISTENING SESSION COMMON THEMES BY QUESTION

(Please note those themes identified by a red asterisk at the end of the statement were expressed in response to more than one question)

COMMON THEMES (QUESTION 1): Consider the signs of the times. What issues and opportunities would you like to share with Pope Francis?

- 1.The Church should pay more attention to social issues (immigration, poverty, human technology, needs of third world countries).
- 2.The Church and individual parishes should be consistent in the implementation of Church teachings. All bishops, priests and church leaders must speak as one in matters of doctrine and Church policy.*
- 3.We are not one. There were expressions of the need for a more inclusive Church (homeless, LBGQ, divorced/remarried). There were also responses stating that the Church should adhere to the teachings of the Church as they currently exist (abortion and Eucharist).*
- 4.Due to the decreasing number of priests, priests should be allowed to marry.*
- 5.Women should be allowed a greater role in the Church ministry and leadership.*
- 6.The departure of young people from the Church is an issue. They are the future of the Church. There needs to be more programs for older teens after Faith Formation. *

Common Themes (Question 2): How are baptized members of your parish able to participate ?

(Please note those themes identified by a red asterisk at the end of the statement were expressed in response to more than one question)

1. Our parish provides many opportunities for parishioners to participate in parish ministries. Announcements are made in the weekly bulletin and from the pulpit. Informational sessions are held after mass with opportunities to sign up for ministries.

2. Hindrances for participation include the size of the parish, two churches, an aging population, and a lack of public transportation.

3. There are those who feel that the parish is not welcoming.

4. There is a need for a greater number of opportunities to participate beyond parish ministries. Suggestions include the following:
 - More faith-based learning opportunities for adults
 - Social activities for teens, adults and families
 - Bible studies, social justice programs, Christian book club
 - Opportunities at mass for individuals to give testimony or proclaim the gospel

Common Themes (Question 3): How can the Church do a better job walking side by side with you?

(Please note those themes identified by a red asterisk at the end of the statement were expressed in response to more than one question.)

1. The Church should be more inclusive and more understanding of others.*
2. The Church should return to traditional practices and traditions.*
3. The Church should provide adult formation programs.*
4. The Church should provide more opportunities to be heard in Synod Listening Sessions.*
5. The Church should make the Gospel more real.
6. The Church should provide more opportunities for involvement by children and older teens.*
7. The Church should provide more educational opportunities and guidance related to such topics as Church history, the significance of Holy Days, and understanding Mass.
8. The Church should provide more social activities. For many, the Church is the center of their lives.
9. The Church should allow open communion for spouses and families of mixed denominations.

Common Themes (Question 4): Personal Insights

(Please note those themes identified by a red asterisk at the end of the statement were expressed in response to more than one question)

1. The synodal listening process was a positive experience. The opportunity to be involved, to be heard, and to listen to other points of view was appreciated. The process should continue yearly.
2. Participants attending the listening session attended because of a love for the Church.
3. During the listening session, participants felt the presence of the Holy Spirit. As one participant said, "I heard the voice of the Holy Spirit in our communal voices. We are all on this journey together." This was expressed over and over in the personal reflections that were offered.*
4. Faith is alive in our parish.
5. We are not of one mind and divisions exist. While there were expressions of the need for a more inclusive Church (homeless, LBGQ, divorced, remarried), there were also responses saying the Church should adhere to the teachings of the Church (e.g. abortion) as they currently exist.*

APPENDIX A

Synod Summary from Hispanic Community of Holy Redeemer by the Sea Parish

Global: The Second Vatican Council took a decisive step toward the Church reading the "signs of the times." This means that the Church does not carry out its mission in a vacuum, detached from the realities of the world.

- Consider the "signs of the times." What particular issues and opportunities would you like to share with Pope Francis?

People are not coming to church because of knowledge of what our Catholic Church is. We need more evangelization in person by people who are willing to serve and are not given the opportunities to do so. We need our priests and nuns to be more involved with teaching us not only in mass but also outside our churches in little towns, not only big cities. We need to focus on our youth, the future of our church, what are we doing to keep them involved in church? We need more retreats not only for youth but all the family, teaching us not only rules, but also the love of God for each of our families and teaching us about the Eucharist, because many of us receive and don't know who is actually present in the Eucharist. We need more priests that speak the language of where our communities most need it, because people are leaving because they don't understand. Overall our major concern is evangelization we are not receiving enough, to keep everyone involved in our church.

We thank our church for giving us the opportunity to serve with each unique talent each of us has. If we receive more evangelization and more knowledge about the Holy Spirit our church will grow.

Local: A Synodal Church is one in which all members are called to participate.

- How are baptized members of your Parish able to participate in the mission of the Church to proclaim the Gospel? What hinders people from being active in your Parish?

We are called to participate during mass by serving in different ministries, by helping the poor, our brothers and sisters in need. We are called to make our marriage and family saint, by making sure we keep God first in our lives. We are called to be priests and nuns to serve God all our lives. We teach the gospel not only by reading it to people or teaching it to people but also by giving the true example of the gospel by how we live our lives.

What hinders us from being active in our parishes is our lack of knowledge, little faith, spiritual laziness, nervousness, we are not compromised, letting the worries of earth lead us and not having enough courage to leave sin behind. We are not letting some people who are capable of teaching us or giving us retreats to actually participate, this brings people down and not come up to teach the gospel.

APPENDIX A

Synod Summary from Hispanic Community of Holy Redeemer by the Sea Parish

**Personal: The Catholic Church is called to walk side-by-side with all of God's Children.
- How can the Church do a better job of walking side-by-side with YOU?**

Giving more opportunities to church groups of schools to give evangelization to the people of the church. Teaching us more about our sacraments, Holy Spirit, and our Catholic Church in general. Giving people the opportunity to heal their past lives and change their lives, this brings us back to having these retreats. We want the church to have one voice and want our priest to believe more in us. Judge less and have more action on what I want to change. Change comes from me, I have to be willing to change my own life first and then change the lives of others by teaching them what I have learned.

Reflection: Consider why you came to this session today. Consider what you heard in your small group.

- Name one insight where you heard the voice of the Holy Spirit today

We still have hope to learn about the love of God. By unity and unity with the Holy Spirit is that we can change the world. God called me today to not only wait for others to preach and teach us but also called me to learn and do the same. We need to be heard so that our church can grow in faith and love. The Holy Spirit told us today that we are healed, we just need to believe it and will change our view of our church and lives. We need to see the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. We need to criticize less and learn how to hear the voice of others.