

Listening Session Notes 3/7/2022 approx. 30 people

Women's Council

Listening Section:

Specific to St. Bartholomew:

Different parishes have different experiences. This is specific to St. Bartholomew.

Believes we have flexibility in involvement. We are heard.

Parents involved and now we have ministries to assist.

Pandemic has changed attitudes. More kindness, time to reflect, appreciating life. People need to be more inclusive with those the margin – homeless, LGBT, abused, divorced, women in the Church as ministers.

Feel if you are active in a ministry you have access to provide input to the parish but general parishioners do not have access.

Feel if we offered babysitting more people would get involved.

Some believe the Church is interested in peoples lives, contributions of the excluded and marginalized.

Feel at St. Bartholomew the parish is interested. Would like to see more like when a family member dies.

Sometimes it is hard to tell if the Church is interested.

Very hurt by the abuse scandal.

Would like to see the Church really listen and not talk down to the people.

Feel priest are great and will listen to us. Feel we can express opinions.

Feel that St. Bartholomew is a wealthy parish and we should do our part and give.

Feel pastor runs the Church, there is no opportunity to express ones self.

Not aware of how the Church is helping the marginalized.

Feel there are different ways to press opinions, but depends on whether it is the parish or the universal Church.

Feel the Church is thinking more about the people.

Celebrating Section:

Feel that a dress code needs to be acknowledged by parishioners, lectors, EM's.

Feel Mass is a special occasion.

Feel presider connects readings to everyday issues.

Love our liturgies

Would like to see new married or engaged couples introduced at Mass.

Feel what you put into it is what you will get out of it.

Like that the priests come to the point and like the variety of priests.

Feel it is important to keep traditions – various celebrations – veterans day, thanksgiving etc.

Would like more for Mary's feast days.

Love the national, patriotic celebrations.

Feel our liturgies are better than most – richer and deeper.

Loved the Mass for infant baptism Rite of Welcome.

Participation & Responsibility:

Feel woman need to be more inclusive – deacons.

Don't know if young daughters feel they will belong in the Church.

How do we bring back the young families that have left the Church?

Feel we are all in this together and by our example can lead others back.

Leaders/Priests set an example of community.

Feel parishioners are invited to participate in issues.

Need to involve more parishioners in active ministries.

Feel it depends on the Pastor on how he encourages people to get involved.

Feel the Church responsibilities and positions are shared among the laity, religious and priests.

Feel the priests will listen, but won't follow through with suggestions.

Not sure the laity can get involved at the Church/Rome level.

Feel you can participate as much as you want.

Feel you can talk to the priests.

Feel supported. Received 2 calls during COVID., Sr. also came with communion.

Feel that when a family member passes, the Church should reach out to the family.

The Church and the World:

Feel Catholicism is under attack in the US.

Priests are more active in political issues.

Secularism is more prevalent now. Don't see much spiritual joy. Believe it starts with us and we encourage others.

Feel we all matter.

Feel self-centeredness and immediate gratification has lead to downfall of ethics.

Feel Pope Francis is a ray of light to bring people back to the Church.

Feel the World problems are part of the life and message of the Church

Don't feel the message of the Church is heard in our society. It is tunned out. Disappointed with Criticism of Pope Francis. Feel the negativity of Church is heard more. Feel the commercial about the Church are offensive.

If you don't belong to a parish group people don't get to know each other.

The greater social component a parish has, the more success a Church has.

Feel the women's council and K of C bring people together.

Feel world problems are not addressed enough. It depends on the Priest.

Would like a wider Respect for Life Group.

Feel the Church is too PC – things aren't said because we did not want to offend someone.

Discern and Decide:

Would like to have an education on parts of Mass and what it means to participate.

Feel faith formation is about relationship with God not doctrine solely.

Feel that they can be supported varies from parish to parish.

Feel people can get guidance from the priests.

Transparency has improved in recent years, but feel more room for improvement.

Feel there needs to be more engagement in larger broader Church policies, LGBTQT issues, women deacons etc.

Do not feel there is a lot of opportunities for dialogue in the Church for young people, women, men.

Feel there needs to be more sessions to be heard.

Would go to family first before the Church to discern a problem.

Not so sure the decision making is made by the believers in the Church.

Don not believe the Church shares in the decision making.

Feel the Church steeped up during sexual abuse crisis, but can do more.

General Discussion:

Unique liturgies are great.

Husband was baptized a Baptist. He was welcomed into the Church. He has embraced the parish.

Would like if all Christians could unite.

Don't water down what we have.

Be more welcoming and including others. Don't let people sit alone.

Would like to see more community activities outside the parish, service activities.

Fish fry's maybe more and offer a menu.

Soup dinners.

Adult softball teams, bowling nights, golf tournaments, game night.

Negative experience – Son was murdered and no one called to offer support.

Friends mom died and friend is divorce and priest would not let her go to communion. As a result the entire family left the Church.

Raw Data From Synod Listening Sessions

Discussion A:

Catholics with faith in God are walking together with God.

Reading the Gospel everyday & go to mass & receive communion.
Don't have a feeling of togetherness
People sneaking in late and early out of mass
Some priests are better at delivering message of the Lord
Need to know how to relate mass to our daily lives
Local & American church seeks to exclude people- Not open welcome.
People see Church hypocrisy on how they don't follow the gospel
The Church excludes divorced & remarried from sacraments.
Many people are made to feel unworthy, young people are told what to do/believe instead of listening to their journey & accompanying them.
Archbishop Gomez calling people who care about the environment tree huggers.
Social justice ministry has been shuttered so there have been avenues of communication on the margins have been silenced.
Our parish priests, religious women, lay workers, volunteers & Catholic school staff are walking with the Lord & serving our faith community.
Pandemic brought faith out more.
Parents influence youth sometimes in negative ways.
Family involvement in a Catholic home.
Walking with Jesus Christ: Pope, ordained, Archbishop Gomez, Am Cardinals, Cardinal Dolan, Bishop Barron, Women Religious communities, Cardinal Mahoney
Not walking: Cardinals (most)
Fr Michael & Fr Marks installation were great events
Praying the rosary at the Colosseum
No participation by youths of their family
Link youth activities at our parish to another school
Dialogue with other denominations needed
Surprised by how many youth at school that do not go to church
Online masses in other locations are better
St Barts is a small parish so its easy to get involved.
Be more open to new things and ministries. Priests ready for retirement not interested

Our church "Journeyed Together" by providing opportunities to be heard

When we respect and communicate before & after mass.
Feel that the journey is "together"
Progressive vs traditional not together
No compromising on certain issues
Why did pope ban Latin mass? Previously ok.
Celebrate with other faiths - Passover

I have always felt that our parish priest was somewhat handcuffed by what one stated as "instructions from downtown"

There used to be annual interregional pastoral gatherings where nothing changed year after year - it was a repetitive cycle of no concrete action

Listening session for liturgical ministries - many changes suggested, issues raised & nothing has been done.

Lack of meaningful participation in decision making by the Archdiocesan liturgical commission.

Saw regulars & others more, were not stopped by pandemic.

Rethink faith more due to pandemic

Appreciate what parish did: staying open

Missed fellowship of the Eucharist, didn't appreciate it until it was taken away.

Experience of faith journey, we don't get to decide who's on the journey.

Exclusive teachings keep people away (?)

Listen to each other & careful how we say things to each other.

Communicate to all.

Laity does not have a path to communicate

Sometimes feel heard, never felt the Bishop listened to me

Come together - Church picnic

Be intentional about meeting new people

If not on the Church radar, feel ignored for my opinions

Put in the FLOC notes on what the Parish council is doing & who they are

Who is the finance committee

One person from each ministry on Council

Full active participation of women in the church

Need Parish Life Director

Church message to young people is propaganda, not a good ideology

Ignored or excluded voices:

Forgetting to serve our purpose as Catholics and preach gospel to those people.

Serve the homeless, COS program, Bible Studies, Walk for Life, more programs

Priests don't greet everyone

Not living the to embrace the challenges of the homeless, marginalized in LB

Jewish rabbi criticized why the Catholic clergy did not support Latino Catholic workers

Sometimes the Church does not participate in large events/outreach because of involvement of other groups that do not align with Catholic teachings - Jesus interacted with people that did not see eye to eye with his teachings. Missing opportunities because of this.

The Church of LA & parish are so far removed from the Gospel message of Jesus & caring for the least among us.

For those of us that stay, we may be "In the Church" but still feel marginalized.

If we are silent, we are only complicit with the injustice/sin of the Church to not affirm the dignity of all people.

Social concerns have been ignored by the Archdiocese.

Matthew 25 - to serve the needs of the least & asking why they are in need.
I suspect that Catholics whose lives & beliefs place them at the margins of our faith Community (LGBTQ, pro-choice Catholics, divorced & remarried people may not feel welcome.
St Barts is an affluent parish, we are blind to those on the margins
Not terribly bad at giving money to the marginalized, but not good at listening
Not good at listening to gays or women.
Yes the church helps the marginalized.
Believe that the church is doing the best they can.

What keeps us from speaking life of the church?

I do not see or feel participating this at all.
St Barts is like a religious country/yacht club for social friendships /not living the mission of the Gospel
Church leadership are not listening to us, letters are not answered & phone calls are not responded to.
Struggle to find ways to engage younger couples & families.
No forum , No place.

Discussion B:

Holy Spirit inviting us to Journey Together:

Keeping the Holy Spirit in in our heart. Lead with that.
Townhall meetings for discussions
Hold townhall listening sessions at parishes to hear from the laity.
Parish councils that represent laity.
Opportunities for lay ecclesial ministers
For parishes with Pastoral associates / parish life directors that can help parishes address the needs of the parish.
More upbeat music, homilies that are relevant to today/peoples lives & challenges
Address contemporary issues of the day & not just feel good reflections
Theology that seems to forget that while we are sinful people, we are forgiven
Need to integrate (speaker) message of special collections not just put \$ in the basket
Themed masses: earth day, season of creation, stations of the cross, day of migrants etc
Include more laity in liturgical celebrations, Example: parish in the Easter season had laity perform the sprinkling of the holy water.
Community building experience to share coffee & donuts after mass while kids played.
Reinstitute events: movies, concerts, bingo, dinners.
Offer short classes on various Catholic practices & liturgies - small groups, activities
Education: need to know the interests

Greeting people at mass
Take communion to home bound
Parish can organized ministry to drive people to church
Synod is a great place to start
Vatican II calls for fully active / engaged
Do not usually invite the Holy Spirit to part of my decision making

Experiences of Prayer/Celebration deepening the communion with God

Continue prayers /mass / sacraments
My family and I love celebrations
We could use more like various prayer types, taize which could invite a broader community to share.
Diversity of Catholics could benefit from cultural masses, different musical styles.
We appreciate the essence of God in all people
Parishes have sister parish relationships of very different demographics
Women feel the call to be more involved ie: priests & deacons - Church should promote
Female leadership would invigorate the Church With their prophetic voices & stop the hypocrisy of excluding women.
Need more young people as lectures, Eucharistic Ministers to represent the diversity of parish demographics and make young people feel as valued members of the parish
Groups such as the Bible study, retreat series are ways that deepen our faith while building community amongst our parishioners.
Attending extra liturgies has made my spiritual life much richer
Reading scripture helps me keep informed
Homilies go to the care and feeding of my faith

Experiences of Prayer/Celebration guided common life & mission:

Most important.
Leaders need to take the lead. Priest to call on parishioners to reach out to others.
Conversations with priests. Church should promote this.
Parishioners get to know our bishops
Suggestion Box for input
The need for more church events to bond parish together, get to know more people
Have greeters direct parishioners to coffee & meet with them
Liturgical concerts.
Invite people back.
Do not always agree with the Church rules/opinions of the bishop.
We need to educate youth,
Become more aware of the important things in life - less emphasis on material
I feel like I am on a new journey

Listening:

If there was an important issue that I needed to bring to Fr Marks attention, I feel
Confident that Fr Mark would listen to my concerns as a parishioner
Pope Francis pastoral style is one of welcoming & inclusion
Our pastors & priests at St Barts have also modeled the this approach.
Priests are friendly & available.
Do not feel anyone is accessible.
Its an older parish without a school thus less opportunities
Would like to talk to the priest about the gospel.
Do not usually talk about my faith.
Feel comfortable talking to someone at the Church .
I really do not know the priest well and dont know if they would be available.
Usually turn to family when I need to talk.
I do not speak to my friends about Jesus.
Yes I can talk to people at church.
Maybe speak to Father depending on mood.

Celebrating:

Attendance to church has true meaning.
I participate in activities, but too busy sometimes.
Outside mass was great.
Low covid participation.
Pandemic has brought faith out more, closer together.
Sermons speak to local community/parish.
St Barts is accommodating/welcoming.
Many middle aged parishioners feel that they have done their time & only want to go to
church to worship.
Feel that there is nothing for 30-40 year olds W/O kids to do.
Feel St Barts is inclusive.
Hard to join groups.
Impressed how St Barts handled covid, open, safe & accommodating.
Priests need to give more dynamic homilies.
Need to emphasize time with Jesus at mass.
Watching other church ceremonies online make Long Beach look pathetic.
Like going to mass.
Some go to the special celebrations, some do not.
Pray for those who are celebrating the mass.
Read bible at bedtime. Talk to people about what you read.

Participation & Responsibility:

There is no channel to express thoughts or opinions by individuals.
Parish is disconnected from living the gospel but it doesn't take away from the sacramental grace of the sacraments
There is a lack of welcome of input by women.
Exclusion of women & laity in Archdiocese.
Disturbing concern: affirmation of women religious orders that wear habits/veils & ostracizing of women that do not belong to these orders - have their work discounted by the Archbishop.
Parish told me that they didn't need any new ministries after I was asked at the ministry fair to have a table about care for creation.
Do not feel encouraged or supported by people at my parish
No opportunities for ministry involvement
Lay people, women/religious serve in a variety of roles at our parish & in the Church.
It is still clear that decision making largely rests in the hands of the priests & bishops.
In the light of the sexual abuse crisis, the Church needs more decision makers who
Are women, married people and parents.
Young families need more involvement.
Asking individuals what we/church can do for them.
Door is always open.
Need a welcome back letter sent to all.
Not an open door to express opinions.
Opportunities to be heard during events.
Church wants to listen but don't know where to go.
People really do not know how to get involved.
Ultimate decisions are made by the pastor and what he wants.
No place for suggestions or don't know where to go until the Synod
Reinstitute the ministry faire.
I would feel uncomfortable stating my opinions.
Church participation is greater when there is a school attached & families with small children are there.
Void exists for unmarried, childless couples, & older people.
Would like a program like RCIA for Catholics but different from bible study.
Real decision making comes from the Pastor
Need ministry fair
Never been asked before for my opinion
Uncomfortable to go to priest.
Women are being removed from positions of leadership, not being heard.
Participate in faith formation & social dinners
Sharing faith with other people helps find joy.
Kids would like to be part of ushering, possibly alter service, community service

We feel time can be made to work with Father.
Music is the key to

Church & the World:

American Church is not in sync with Rome. Feels divided.
Would like for the prayers be more specific issues & stay away from politics.
Using the internet to get more of the word out about trusting God.
We feel that the church takes too long to respond to its followers
Church was well aware of the abuse and swept it under the rug it feels like.
Male dominated
Message not the same as local parish as others
The bureaucracy of the Church appears too rigid to allow much expression.
Locally we are not doing well regarding the young people.
Fairly good job relating world issues in our parish.
No social justice ministry, no global solidarity awareness, racial justice
Do not feel that many positive movements are supported in the Archdiocese.
Do not hear about world problems of the life/message of the Church.
Archdiocese promotes divisive voices that do not unify the Church & the world.
Do not feel the Church is interested in parishioners unless there is a school.
Voice of the church is there but doesn't feel effective.
The Church/Values do not seem important to young adults nor valued.
Church teachings have changed for the younger generation.
Church could be more flexible & welcoming.
Church teaching is not brought up in society.
Focus groups for younger people to give hope.
Church does not emphasize positive news & messages.
Is society listening to the church?
Feel need more supported and opportunity to become a leader.
Help by praying at home, use good manners.
Take family to feed the needy.
Church needs to be flexible/open and not as literal.

Discern & Decide:

Transparency does not feel to be promoted by the church- no level of trust
We are not privy to the thinking or implementation processes of the church. The priests are told what to follow as we are.
Abuse set back church a generation. Maybe more. Public assumes the worst.
I have never considered the Church as a source when making decisions.
Decision making is running from the top to bottom almost exclusively.
Local priest told me that it was just the tip of the iceberg when allegations of sexual abuse first came out.
In the past I have sent emails, made calls, suggestions & mostly never a reply.

Not participated lately. Made suggestions but no support, ideas ignored.
Church leadership does not support my initiatives or met with no response.
The Church , especially parish & Archdiocese could care less about the laity think.
Parish in San Fernando Valley hushed sexual abuse issues. Hid priest pictures.
Church should not wait for civil authorities to investigate & should come forward ASAP
The Church is ripe for a profound change today.
We are still receiving revelations about mismanagement by bishops - financial scandals
& mismanagement by the Vatican which creates lack of faith in the Church. There is a
lack of trust that may not be repaired in our lifetime.
Feel transparency and accountability is better, still needs improvement.
Not shared so no opportunities
Church is not important to people today.
Current events are not part of the life of the church.
Church does not use my input at all.
Need to censure civil authorities for their un-Catholic beliefs
Taught not to cause scandal in the church so unwilling to speak up
Huge cover up, top down in every country of the world
Mixed messages in / out of teachings vs actions
Not normal to be Catholic any more due to scandals
General consensus is that they can find support in the Church, but still need
improvement Feel that the church talks about helping you stay safe.
No decisions are made by all.
Help Father with church.

Synod Listening Session Comments

Celebrating:

Never miss church. Have meaning for me.

World:

Need to pray more for specific issues.

Not be political, be more generic

Need communal support

Internet has been good

Trusting in Jesus is trusting in God

Church:

Church has been remiss on what compassion is and what solutions church can offer

Waiting for the church to respond

Church is so afraid of the money it will cost

Church was well aware of the abuse

Male dominated: swept it under the rug

Current issues heard in other churches, not in local parish

Discern:

Believe it is not good

Transparency: not promoted in the church

Not privy to the thinking process of the church

Was told the priest were told what to follow: how were decisions made

Doesn't promote high levels of trust

Affects vocations

Set church back a generation

General public will assume the worse

Discussion Question "A"

Don't know if we do journey together

Bifurcation of the church: progressives vs traditional

Includes bishops and hierarchy

No compromise on some issues

Pope banned Latin Mass

Previous 2 popes encouraged it

Celebrate with other faiths; Passover

Various programs : serving the homeless, COS program, Bible study, Walk for Ife

Don't get a feeling of together at Mass
Tribalism, not reaching out to others
People sneak in and out of Mass
Priests don't always greet people
How to enrich the Mass
How to relate Mass to our daily lives, some priests better at this than others
No 5pm Mass
Need Adoration back

Discussion Question "B":

Dialog requires good leadership
Townhall for discussions
Leaders need to take the lead in the church
Priest to call 1 person a day to reach out to others
Need conversation with the priest
Church has invested interest in the Priests, need more dialog with them
Priest need to start talking with more people
We should know who our bishops are....never even met Bishop Marc before Fr Mark came to the Parish
Need a suggestion box for the church
Need more events, i.e. Friday night Soup
Have greeters rotate during the Coffee hour to meet parishioners

- **Who is and who is not walking together with Jesus Christ in the Church today?**

Yes

- The men (ordained) leading us are Cardinal Dolan Archbishop DC, Seattle, San Diego
- Pope Yes ☒☒☒ Bishop Barron ☒☒ Fr. Mark (perhaps)
- Archbishop Gomez Women Religious Communities
- Am. Cardinals Cardinal Mahony/Cupich

No

Cardinals (most)

- **In recent years, how has our Church “journeyed together” by providing opportunities for people to be heard?**
- There isn't a prescribed method to really hear the people ☒
- Need 2-way dialogue
- Laity does not have a path to communicate
- Local level/there is a pastoral council: Fr Michael disbanned...Fr Mark shd constitute it!
- Matthew Kelley at locally
- Formed provided by St Barts
- We have lost 2 generations...need to reach out to youth/faith formation
- **In recent years, how have we ignored or even excluded the voices of people on the margins of society and the sidelines of the Church?**
- St Barts is an affluent community –we are blind to those on the margins
- Pope has brought a focus to those on the margins
- We are an Older parish-some of us are alone/disabled/not welcoming
 - 23 yrs parishioner
 - 24 yrs parishioner
 - 37 yrs parishioner ☒
- We need to be more aware of who we are
- **What keeps us from speaking with courage and charity on what matters to us for the life of the Church?**
- No place
- No forum
(agreement all around)

- **How might the Holy Spirit be inviting our Church to “journey together” more fully through intentional listening and speaking to one another in the coming years?**
- Synod is a good start
- Acknowledges deficits & making opportunities
- When I was young w/ children to raise I was active/engaged & I consider myself engaged [perhaps not active] I encourage my grandchildren/children by supporting their choice of Catholic education (schools/colleges) help w/tuition
- Vatican II calls for fully active/engaged
 - Yet our ministries are lightly staffed

- **In recent years, how have experiences of prayer and the celebrations of the liturgy (Mass and the sacraments) deepened our communion with God and with each other?**

- Homilies...used to put me to sleep today they are more contextual to living the gospel
- Reading scripture helps to keep me informed
- Attending extra liturgies has made my spiritual life is much richer
- Homilies go to the care & feeding of my Faith
- I witnessed the rite of welcome the look on the parents/families' faces touched me & lifted my spirits...It was awesome

- **In recent years, how have experiences of prayer and the celebration of the liturgy (Mass and the sacraments) guided our common life and mission?**

- I have become more aware of the important things in life (less emphasis on material)
- I pray everyday that I will hear Jesus' voice☑
- I feel like I'm on a new journey☑

- **How might the Holy Spirit be inviting our Church to "journey together" more fully through a richer celebration of the liturgy in the years to come?**

- Greet people (at church)
- Offer a ride to someone who needs a ride
 - Better yet parish shd have an organized way (ministry) to do that
 - Take communion to home bound
 - Reach out-be Christ-like to others

- **How might the Holy Spirit be inviting us to promote Sunday Mass attendance and active participation in the celebration of the liturgy?**

- Hopefully more dynamic ...enthused because (absence makes the heart grow fonder)
- Over 1/3 of parish dropped off during Covid

Listening Session Notes 3/1/2022 12 people

Listening Section:

Feel like it is not an open door to be able express opinions.

Feel that can be heard more during events because the opportunities are there.

Feel the priests are friendly and available.

Believe the priests are friendly, and available.

Sermons speak to local community/parish

St. Bartholomew is accommodating/welcoming to parishioners.

Feel the Church probably wants to listen, but people are don't know where to go.

Doesn't feel the Church is as interested in the parishioners unless there is a school attached.

People are really not sure how to get involved.

If kids are grown, feel they have done their time and just want to come to Church to worship.

Feel there is nothing for 30 – 40 year old's with no kids.

Celebrating Section:

Feel St. Bartholomew is inclusive.

Feel it is hard to join groups.

Impressed with how St. Bartholomew handled COVID - to be open, safe and accommodating.

Participation & Responsibility:

Yes and No to make decisions. The ultimate decisions are make from the Pastor and it is what he wants.

Feel there is not a place to make suggestions. Where would we go.

Would like to continue to have the ministry faire.

Up until this Synod, have never been asked for opinions.

Would feel uncomfortable stating opinions.

COVID changed events, participation.

Struggle to find ways to engage younger couples and families in the parish.

Feel church participation significantly increases when school is attached and couples have small children.

Void exists for unmarried, childless couples, young couples without kids and older people who's kids are grown.

The Church and the World:

American Church not in sync with Rome. Church feels divided.

Voice of the Church is there but it doesn't seem effective.

The Church is not as important to young adults.

Church rules and traditions are not valued by younger generations.

Church teachings changed for younger generations.

Church could be more flexible and welcoming.

No decision making opportunities.

Feel transparency and accountability is better, still needs improvements.

Feel Church teaching is not brought up in society.

General Comments:**Session 2:**

The church adjusted well during COVID.

We maintained a direct connection to Church during COVID.

Don't always agree with the Church rules/opinions of the Bishop.

Educating youth hinders growth and understanding.

High – profile Catholics more in the media – radio, podcasts.

Would like a program like RCIA but for Catholics who have received sacraments, but different from bible study.

Session 3:

Focus and groups for younger people give hope.

We need to be welcoming to all – LGBTQ, divorced etc.

Church doesn't emphasize positive news and messages.

Need to get back to the richness of the Church.

We could be more social and participate more.

Need to emphasize time with Jesus at Mass.

Priests need to give more dynamic homilies.

Listening Session Notes 2/24/2022 3 people

Listening Section:

Consensus was that do make themselves available, so if not available can't voice opinions.

Not had the need to express opinions, but when needed have expressed opinions to the priests.

When you put yourself out there, they felt they are heard.

Feel that the whole Church (universal Church) is very hierarchal/male oriented and feel women are on the outside.

Why would they be – who would listen. There is no process for this to happen.

Consensus was that the Church has positioned themselves around the world to deal with poverty, clean water, education, food, help in disasters – CRSI. Felt it is in the right direction.

They also it also depends on what your are referring to as Church. If it is Francis, then yes. This Synod is an example to help bring in a more representative voice. Down the chain not so much.

Celebrating Section:

Make it a point to be here at St. Bartholomew for major celebrations – Christmas, Easter, Holy Week, etc.

Consensus is that here at St. Bartholomew liturgy is done well. They believe the liturgies have meaning and purpose in their lives.

Also, it depends on who is the presider. Some have more impact than others.

Participation & Responsibility:

The all felt that the responsibilities and positions are shared among laity, religious, priest here at St. Bartholomew, if it is the universal church, no.

They feel that there is no vehicle to make suggestions and take action in the parish. They feel it is not an expectation to hear from the people.

They also feel that looking at reality – you probably can make suggestions, but the priest are in charge and can ultimately decide – again hierarchy things of the Church.

All felt that here at St. Bartholomew they are encouraged and supported by the people, and if they chose they could be a leader. If it is the universal Church, no.

Feel supported by local ministry leaders – informal leadership is there and people are needed. Struggling to get people to volunteer because they have not come back from COVID or do not feel comfortable participating yet.

The Church and the World:

They feel that there are opportunities for dialogue at large group retreat gatherings like youth day, Congress etc.

They see the message of the Church is mainly at where people work and minister, not necessarily mainstreamed.

Feel that the Church is not clear in their communication, and to shine the light on the positive of the Church and the message is not being heard.

Discern and Decide:

In finding support and accompaniment in the church itself no, but have friends within the church where they can talk to and get encouragement. They feel it is not part of the culture.

They find if they need support on catholic teaching, gospel, social teaching etc. yes they can go to the parish, but won't go to the parish for help with discerning and they feel they are not encouraged to do so.

They feel the Church has done a better job in recent years of being transparent, but there is still work to be done.

General Comments:

Session 2:

What St. Bartholomew has done during COVID felt was really a good job trying to keep everyone informed – weekly emails, social media, faith formation online, website etc.

They feel what we are doing now with the Synod, being able to talk, discuss, having opportunities for people to gather, bringing people together. Inviting people, personally invite.

Listening Session Notes 2/28/2022 18 people

Listening Section:

Would like to talk to the priest about the gospel.

Don't usually talk about my faith.

Feel comfortable talking to someone at the Church if needed. (Kids)

It depends what it is if I would feel comfortable talking to the priest. I really don't know the priest well and don't know if they would be available to talk.

Usually turn to family when need to talk.

Yes the Church helps the marginalized.

Believe the Church is doing the best they can.

Celebrating Section:

Like going to Mass.

Pray for those who are celebrating the Mass.

Some go to the special celebrations, some don't.

Participation & Responsibility:

Participate in faith formation and social dinners.

Sharing faith with other people helps find joy.

There are good opportunities to participate.

Kids would like to be part of ushering.

Possibly community service, alter serve.

Need to find a way to bring people bag to Church.

The Church and the World:

Yes feel supported to become a leader.

Feel need more support or opportunity to become leader.

Unsure of all the opportunities.

Discern and Decide:

General consensus is that they can find support in the Church. However, they will usually pray to God.

Feel that there is transparency and accountability in the Church, but there is still room for improvement.

Feel the church talks about helping you stay safe.

Don't usually invite the Holy Spirit to part of decision making.