



Journeying Together Synodal Report

Section 1: Parish

- St Vincent de Paul Catholic Church – Rogers, AR
- Msgr. David LeSieur
- # of Parish Consultations Held
 - English - 164
 - 21 listening groups, averaging 6 each
 - 32 online
 - 6 individual interviews
 - Spanish -300 individuals total

Section 2: Methodology

- Communicated Synod on Synodality listening sessions via parish bulletins, posters in Gathering space, Mass announcements, and social media.
- Jan 17 to Feb 21: Conducted Synod on Synodality listening groups throughout the entire parish.
- Weekend of Feb 4 to 6: Launched QR code, inviting parish community to complete Synod on Synodality study online; remained opened until Feb 25
- Weekend of Feb 19-20: Invited parish community to participate in listening groups after all weekend Masses
- Invitation through various ministry groups, Parish school, Parish councils, and personal connections
- Synod Listening teams comprised of both English and Spanish facilitators

Section 3: Executive Summary – Top 3 Revealing Discoveries

1. **Teach and challenge us.** Synod participants are thirsting for a deeper understanding and firmer teaching of our Catholic faith that is rooted in absolute truth and humility. They cite that many practicing Catholics have a 2nd grade level understanding of the faith and are unaware of what they don't know. Church members are questing for stronger formation and leadership programs across all levels – ministry leaders, volunteers, staff, youth, catechists - that not only educate, but empower them to take the lead in their own families and with friends. They also want to incorporate lifelong learning so they can learn to evangelize and defend the faith. There also is a call for priests to be more visible and involved in the teachings to add credibility. Church members want to hear

our priests preach the Gospel, while tackling current events and sensitive topics without diluting the truth.

2. **Understand and welcome us.** The Church can feel bureaucratic, judgmental, hurtful, and exclusive especially when Church leaders rely solely on Church teaching without compassion, dialogue, and understanding. Church needs to show proper respect and etiquette when dealing with its members and to communicate with the love that comes from Christ. Many – Hispanics, divorced, same sex attraction, interfaith marriages - feel that they have no voice in the Church or see and feel internal conflicts within the Church that lead to feelings of abandonment, confusion, and ultimately, a departure from the Church. Church members are confused over who can receive Communion and suggested open Communion as an option so all feel welcome.
3. **Heal us.** The Body of Christ is hurting. Depression and anxiety are increasing in the community negatively impacting the lives of our parishioners, particularly among the Hispanic youth and married couples. The Church needs to support an accessible, permanent, and effective mental health care platform with trained professionals as an extension of God's mercy and to provide practical tools that will help families and individuals cope with these challenges in a healthy manner that provides healing.

Section 4: Commonalities

1. **Personal invitation.** All acknowledged that the Church becomes home once we become involved; however, not everyone knows what is available nor how to get involved. Joining can be intimidating! With all of our bulletins, social media, and Mass announcements, nothing is more powerful and effective than a personal invitation. Nearly all of the Synod participants got involved in the Church because someone asked them. They also commented that getting involved in the Church changed their lives, gave them friendship and community, and united them into the spiritual Body of Christ.
2. **Conversion changes everything!** The movement of the Holy Spirit was felt most deeply in Adoration and during retreats – Cursillo, Renovación Carismática Católica, Steubenville Youth conferences, La Escuela de Evangelización San Andres, and Little Rock Scripture Study, to name a few. There need to be more opportunities for others to encounter Christ in such a personal way. We cannot trust that everyone has experienced God's love for them.
3. **Open Dialogue.** While many are thankful to the Pope and our Church leaders for listening and having a dialogue with our Church family, they also stress the need for continued conversation and a way to work together to create actionable solutions on key issues, where appropriate. Communicating and following-up with people on the actions taken is critical in terms of people feeling that their concerns and ideas have merit.