

Synod Parish Synthesis Report Form

GENERAL PARISH SESSION(S) INFORMATION

Parish Name *

Our Lady of Grace / St. Joseph

Parish City *

Hoboken

Parish County *

Hudson County

How many sessions did you host? *

1 X

2

3

4

5

6

7

Other:

Date(s) of Session *

February 6th

Were the sessions held in person or online? *

In-person X

Online

We had some sessions in person and some sessions online

Total number of people who participated *

10

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Providing demographic information was voluntary for participants. However, we ask demographic questions because it is important to understand who participated. Whose voice does this represent?

Estimate the percentage of how many women attended. *

50%

Estimate the percentage of how many men attended. *

50%

Age range for those who attended.

14-17

18-25 X

26-39 X

40-55

56-74

75+

The largest percentage of participants were from what age group?

Young Adults – 18-39

What was the race and/or ethnicity of those who participated?

Caucasian X

African-American or Black

Asian X

Hispanic or Latino X

Middle Eastern or North African

Native American or Alaskan Native

Hawaiian or Pacific Islander

Other:

What language groups do you have in your community?

English X

Spanish

Chinese

Haitian Creole

Korean

Polish

Portuguese

Other:

Which of these language groups participated in a listening session?

- English X
- Spanish
- Chinese
- Haitian Creole
- Korean
- Polish
- Portuguese
- Other:

Help us understand more about those who participated.

- Youth
- Young Adult X
- Single X
- Married X
- Separated
- Divorced
- Remarried
- Widowed
- Religious (priest, sister, brother, deacon)

Mass attendance of those who participated.

- Daily
- Weekly X
- Once a month
- Special occasions (holidays, weddings, funerals, etc.)
- Rarely
- Never

Tell us about the connection to the parish community of those who participated.

- Parishioners X
- Religious Education
- Catholic school
- Youth group
- Campus ministry
- Faith sharing group
- Charismatic community
- Prayer group
- Liturgical minister
- Other:

Did the participants in the session(s) represent a cross-section of the racial, ethnic and cultural diversity in your local community?

Yes X

No

Did you reach out to people with disabilities or families who have members who are disabled?

Yes

No X

Did you reach out to people who are marginalized?

Yes X

No

Which group(s) did you reach out to?

LISTENING SESSION(S) OVERVIEW

Provide a brief overview of session(s) - (Limit to 2 paragraphs or about 500 words.) If you hosted more than one session, you may wish to highlight how these sessions were similar or different.

This session was specifically for Young Adults, aged 20-40. Those who participated are regular parishioners who attend Mass weekly. The session was held after our 7:30pm Sunday night 'Young Adult' Mass, and during our monthly YA Sunday Social.

In addition to the listening session(s), did you use an online survey to collect feedback? If yes, please provide information about what you learned from the survey in a separate report.

Yes
No X

CORE QUESTION ONE

HOW IS THIS "JOURNEYING TOGETHER" HAPPENING TODAY IN YOUR COMMUNITY? Share 3 examples of "walking together" in your community. (Pull information from the worksheet to complete these sections.)

Theme for Example #1 (i.e. welcome, engaging youth, etc.)

Community and Connection

Description of Example #1

The church provides a community of like-minded people, a connection, a sense of togetherness and belonging. Priests know everyone's name, make you feel welcome and part of the community.

How often was theme #1 discussed? (i.e. 80% of the tables discussed this theme)

All participants agreed with this theme

Theme for Example #2 (i.e. welcome, engaging youth, etc.)

Inclusiveness, Acceptance, and Outreach to all

Description of Example #2

OLG is inclusive and welcoming. Pride Mass and LGBTQ outreach, inclusion of women in leadership, inclusion of different economic backgrounds (rich and poor). Unfortunately, this is specific to OLG, not necessarily reflective of the global Church

How often was theme #2 discussed? (i.e. 80% of the tables discussed this theme)

All participants agreed with this theme

Theme for Example #3 (i.e. welcome, engaging youth, etc.)

Homilies and church leadership embrace challenging topics, are relevant and current, provide guidance

Description of Example #3

The priests' homilies are relatable, willing to discuss topics like LGBTQ, women's roles in the church; young adult leadership provides many activities and opportunities for engagement,

How often was theme #3 discussed? (i.e. 80% of the tables discussed this theme)

All participants agreed with this theme.

What prevents us from “walking together?” What hinders people from being a part of the parish and/or speaking up courageously, candidly, and responsibly?

Many people feel judged and ostracized, particularly LGBTQ, divorced, single mothers – the opposite of church teaching on mercy and forgiveness.

CORE QUESTION TWO

HOW ARE WE "WALKING TOGETHER" AS A CHURCH, AND WHAT STEPS DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT INVITE US TO TAKE IN ORDER TO GROW IN OUR JOURNEYING TOGETHER?

By our deep listening, what actions do you hear the Holy Spirit asking the universal Church to take?

Allow further leadership roles for women.

Embrace those who feel left out and judged – particularly LGBTQ, divorced, lapsed Catholics...

What practical steps are needed to include people in the areas of leadership, governance, and inclusion in the universal Church?

Leadership: **Women in leadership roles. Leaders and hierarchy should be servant leaders, not power hungry ladder climbers.**

Governance: **Financial Transparency**

Inclusion: **Embrace LGBTQ Catholics. Embrace divorced and remarried people. Include those on the margins, especially the poor.**

LOCAL QUESTIONS

How can the Archdiocese of Newark support you in your local parish?

Most of the things that hinder people from deep connection to their faith are problems of the global Church that our local church (OLG/St. Joseph) already addresses very well – LGBTQ inclusion, Women’s leadership, relevancy of homilies, connection to church leadership. Archdiocese of Newark can continue to support the LGBTQ outreach efforts of OLG.

What are 3 steps we can take in our Archdiocese to grow more collaboratively for the future?

Step 1

More inclusion of those who feel left out and judged. Female leadership – priests, deacons, lay females in authority.

Step 2

Financial Transparency – no money for sex scandal payments.

Step 3

More focus on ecumenism and interreligious dialogue

PARISH PLANNING

Refer back to Core Question 2. In your discussion of this question, participants were asked to offer specific actions for the local parish.

List 3 to 5 themes which you heard in the table discussions which will assist with your future parish with pastoral planning.

Theme 1

Continued support for LGBTQ outreach

Theme 2

Catechesis of both youth and adults

Theme 3

More ecumenical and interreligious dialogue

Theme 4

Use of technology

Theme 5

A copy of your responses will be emailed to the address you provided.

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