

STM
Synod on Synodality
More Hall
February 20, 2022
Notes

Topic

Listening

Church history excluded women – how can we welcome more women and get more women involved – ways to get children involved – if children are involved then parents will be involved

Has children who attend STM school – remembers when children would be called to the altar then go downstairs for a Children's Liturgy of the Word. It was a good way to get children involved and allowed parents to pay more attention during the Mass.

Also has children at STM school – also loved the children's liturgy – loves to see young participants

During the pandemic attended Mass out of town – children came to the altar at the end of Mass – Celebrant gave the children a special blessing – made the children feel special – everyone in the congregation smiled - need to use technology with homilies – use visual aids – put words to the hymns on the front walls of the church rather than using hymnals

Challenged everyone to think about whether we are truly listening or just waiting for our turn to talk – think about our listening skills – during pandemic lost the habit of attending Mass live – had to work to get back in the habit of attending in person but making it – misses the 5:00 Sunday evening Mass for teenagers and 20 something's

Hopes that we can get people back to attending Mass in person – remembers 9:00 Mass – children would bring the gifts – when

her children were teenagers and 20 something getting them to attend Mass was a challenge – once they had children they returned to Mass

Asked what facilitates or inhibits conversation – knowledge of the topic – how well do we know our Faith? – difficult to listen to a homily when we don't know our Faith well enough – need more Faith formation outside of church on Sunday – gave an example of not being able to enjoy a cricket game because he knows nothing about cricket

Old model not working – we are losing children once they become teenagers and 20 something's – doesn't have any solutions but we need to address the issue

Our foundation is critical – need to pass our Faith to our children – engage our youth

Celebration

Priest giving homily needs to be engaged with what is happening with community – stuck in liturgical ritual – cannot relate to Parishioners in the pews

Catholic Church not willing to adapt – world is becoming more and more digital – speaking without technology aids – they can be part of the learning experience – other Faiths use technology aids - see and hear in addition to listening – congregation zones out – we receive a heap of religion but don't understand how to use it

Attended church out of town that projects hymn words on the front walls of the church – better participation

Sermons teach us – Homilies need four or five concise good points plus a couple of questions to contemplate afterwards – opportunity to generate discussion after Mass – part of “walking the walk” of what we believe

Would like to have the major points of the homily available that could be used with family – good resource. These could be provided through the use of technology.

Best Priests relate to the congregation – we don't understand the message sometimes

Father Justin did a good job this morning – use homilies to teach so we understand our Faith better – children believe that church is boring – cause is not understanding our Faith well enough – Priests receive so much theology – sometimes unable to relate it to the congregation in language/terms that they can easily understand

Agree with the need to utilize technology – like the idea of words of the hymns being projected on the walls in front of the church

We should read the Bible – best homilies are the ones that focus on one issue and we remember

Companions on the Journey

High school and college age children needs are not being addressed – they are out among the wolves – when Jesus was on earth he hung out with sinners and brought them back in

Need a time when we can explore – They also miss 5:00 Mass time on Sunday afternoon – when she was younger that was the Mass she attended – saw others she knew but attended a different high school- listen to people on the margins – create opportunities for the rest of us

Fewer 20 year olds and 30 year olds are coming back – no words of wisdom – need focus –Father Ed Wills has “burgers and beers with the priest” sessions to attract those who are not attending church – casual – they can ask any questions they have

moderator – shared information from a national speaker that the beginning of the pandemic accelerated the decline of Mass attendance that was already happening (possible 10 year acceleration) – speaker said that we can't keep going down the path we have been going down for 400 years – will not work – opportunity to create new ways to be church – are we listening – are we open to the Holy Spirit

Need knowledge – knowing why – is our Faith making us different than non-Catholics around us – How can we get to the point where people want to come to Mass versus obligation?

When we lose our way, how can we recover?

Ruled by rules – they can be changed – needs to happen – evolution – love our neighbors – include everyone even if we do not agree with them

Welcome everyone – if not, then we seem rigid – don't want to alienate – shared story of a couple who were not allowed to be married in another Catholic Church because they already had a child – came to STM and were married

Individuals are more mobile – today, they live in a city different than where they grew up – transitory – need to regain a sense of belonging – How do we connect?

Faith is community – How can we reach outside of Sunday Mass and get involved? – make Mass more inviting

At the end one of the participants thanked our moderator David Butel – he shared a story about David. An STM Parishioner who would not be able to practice their Faith because of physical limitations without David's help with resources – others also mentioned David's leadership in STM's social outreach programs – STM's social outreach would not be the same without David

We had nine participants – 5 women and 4 men – age range was roughly 35 - 75