

STM: Synod Report:
8th Grade Class Meetings February 16, 2022

Theme 1; Speaking Out

There should be weekly or monthly meetings to talk about positive and negative things in the church. The priest could be the designated person for the meetings.

A sign outside of the church could keep people updated on upcoming events. This could invite more people from our community to be a part of the church.

I would like the priests to visit our classrooms more and help lead us learning more about our faith.

I feel like the only person who speaks out and makes decisions on behalf of the STM community is the priest. We don't have much room to contribute suggestions or pitch any ideas.

****HOT TOPIC**** A good way to get younger people like me closer to God and church is by making social media pages targeted to teens or older school kids. Evangelizing in kind ways and showing the fun and interesting parts of the church would be a great way to reach younger generations. TikToks could help spread God's word in a fun way- our peers could make them with Fr. Justin or Deacon Fenlon. Important things to share would be mass times, celebrations, charity and volunteer opportunities, scripture, bible quotes, basic catacomical content, pictures from events, etc.

In our catholic community we should have more common people like the laity have a larger say so we get many different opinions and equal amounts of voice instead of just the priests and bishops.

A good way to be able to speak out is offering a suggestion box at the church so when people of the church have something to say they can be heard. If we don't have an opportunity to be heard we can't progress.

I believe that the prospect of ridicule and resentment toward someone who speaks out in the Church is causing people to go silent in fear of what might be said against them/judgment.

In the Catholic Church, there is a catastrophic amount of miscommunication.

The Church could help more by speaking out against world problems like homelessness, poverty, hunger and more. The pope and bishops speak for the church and there are many barriers; language, distance and relatability.

I think our parish leaders do a great job, but more could be done and people should be able to speak out and have their opinions heard. We need more activities for teens to bring us together.

Theme 3; Celebration

The church encourages celebration through things like children's and adult choir. I like when we sing, it makes everyone feel connected.

It is also promoted in things such as serving and other roles played during mass. The roles could be advertised better so more people can take part in certain events. Cantoring and Lectoring could be opened up to younger people.

The church does a good job with celebrating things like first communion and first reconciliation at our parish. The church did a good job on educating us for the gift of these sacraments and celebrating us growing in faith.

Sometimes I dread getting up for mass on Sunday morning.

I like school mass more in the morning. I feel like I have God in me all day. School mass at the end of the day makes things chaotic. I am tired and checked out. My buddies are hard to manage and that makes

Theme 4; Listening

It is usually the consecrated people who make decisions with input from a few others. When it comes to certain decisions there is very little input from the congregation.

I think God could be talking to us or trying to send a message to us through teachers, parents, friends, family, coaches, trainers and more. Those people want what's best for us and I think that's God helping us through them. We help the minorities (poverty and homeless) with shelters and food drives but we ask what they really want, think and do we listen. If adults listened to kids and heard their ideas they would have more peoples thoughts on matters and have more help making decisions.

Many people, especially young people are being drawn further and further away from the church mostly because of the church's views on certain minorities, especially the LGBTQ. I feel like the church isn't giving people the opportunities that they need to be happy (same sex marriage). The problem isn't that they aren't being heard but it's that the people that are listening don't understand or accept what they see and hear. I think the church listens well to the majority of the people but not the minorities, specifically LGBTQ+ and women regarding their rights, bodies and place in the church. I feel like transgender and homosexual people are shunned in the Church and that many of their voices are not heard.

The mass is relatively hard to listen to, due to the jargony nature of the church documents. The best way to get people to listen is to give short messages using simple terms.

I feel young members of the Church believe that they are not listened to, especially in regards to Mass participation and activities. When we were younger the priest would ask a questions and put on a play to help us understand the message. It helped me understand. I like when the priests use analogies that I can relate to like sports or something they experienced as a kid.