

Feedback on discernment of Young Adults Synod Forms

A total of 10 forms (from 5 males & 5 females) were received from those between the ages of 16-30 from the parishes of St Peter's, Our Lady's, and St Joseph's Churches in Catholic Leamington. The Young Adults Group also held a Synodality meeting in person, which was attended by 4 people.

COMMUNION

60% of the respondents described themselves as in full communion with the Catholic Church, which has been interpreted as practising the faith attending mass weekly, frequently or as much as possible. Two respondents were Catholic but no longer attend Church. One respondent had an awful experience at a university chaplaincy and understandably and unfortunately feels let down by the Church. And one person didn't specify any level of Church attendance.

When asked 'what do you most appreciate about the Catholic Church or the people you have met who are Catholics?'. Responses were the Sacraments (2), moral guidance (3), the truth and real presence of the Eucharist (2), Devotions to Our Lady (2), that we all share the same values (2) and that we are all part of a community (3). Also appreciated is that they are kind (3), lovely (2), and caring (1) people who do good work. Valued in the Church is the work of clergy (2), theology (1), and not bending to secular culture (1).

70% of respondents cited the Church as caring and showing love for others through charity work. Sharing the faith with other people (3), caring for others (2), praying for others (2), and volunteering and helping local or parish community (2) were also mentioned. When asked about Catholics showing all are welcome 40% answered by being witnesses to faith in their lives. Also written was personally inviting others to Catholic and Church events (3).

PARTICIPATION

Ideas suggested by the faithful for further participation is more catechesis (3), faith formation (3) and understanding about different aspects and depth of faith (3) to enable us to share faith with others (2). One person said that they would find it helpful for the Church to produce information for those called to the single life. According to Fr Mike Schmitz the average is 7% of each parish provides volunteering for 90% or more of the parish work. Imagine if just a few more people participated. We must keep saying "yes" to the Lord and letting the Holy Spirit prompt and guide us.

3 non practising Catholics filled out why they no longer come to Church. One person cited an unfortunate personal experience. Another said they stopped

attending at 11 or 12 due to finding Church not holding their attention. The other respondent attended a Catholic school and views religion as metaphorical. No reasons for non-attendance at Church were stated but rather slated the Catholic Church, saying that it should modernise (2) to be all inclusive such as gender and sexuality (2). Overall, two of these respondents said that the Catholic Church doesn't move or keep up with the times, is non-inclusive and should modernise. One suggested it should be made clear that all are welcome in God's house. Responses indicated a clear lack of understanding, knowledge, and doctrinal education about the Catholic faith.

MISSION

Many missionary outreaches of the Church were mentioned. Teaching and knowledge about the Church were identified as factors to be built upon with more faith-filled learning (such as the 'Wild Goose Series'). After development of personal faith, there is enthusiasm for evangelisation. Outreach via social media was suggested on Facebook, TikTok, and YouTube (2). Also mentioned were more frequent testimony talks (2), evangelical events (1), affordable events for those on low incomes (1), parish gatherings (1) and advice/support on personal and regular prayer (1). Two are keen for more regular Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and one for a healing service. Someone said they would find it helpful to have Biblical stories/parables explained with connections to current times to understand the relevance of Jesus to the present day. The investment of time is problematic with busy lifestyles, especially those of our age studying and/or working. To reach out to others, suggestions were Nightfever (2) and inviting people to come to Alpha (3) and Sycamore (1).

DREAMS

The faithful have optimism for the future of our Church. Greater faith formation and Catholic doctrinal education for the congregation is needed in our parishes. Also required is teaching and understanding on how to defend the faith and evangelise people in secular society (3). Otherwise, how can we seek to explain and defend faith that we don't understand? Positive expressions of the faith (such as God loves everyone) are needed through personal witness (2) and social media. The Church needs people using their God-given gifts with the right people doing the right things for the Church (1). Let's advertise and invite all young people to get involved through initiatives like Youth 2000 (2).

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