



For a synodal Church
communion | participation | mission

Wrapping Up / What's Next

We are so very grateful for the open, generous, and thoughtful sharing that has been happening in our Listening Sessions these past four weeks. We are just about done, but there is ONE more opportunity to participate. Join us this Sunday, March 13, 10:00am-12:00pm in Condon Hall for our final discussion of Week 4 / Question 4.

As we wrap up this phase of our Synod process, here are a few other reminders:

- In addition to the final Listening Session on Sunday, all Interview Cards, Family Interview Cards, and Surveys have a deadline of this Sunday, March 13, too. Turn in hard copies on the table by the bulletin board in the Commons or make use of the online options available on the St. Ann website. The electronic versions will become inactive at midnight on Sunday, so be sure to make use of them before that time.
- St. Augustine's in Richmond is holding Listening Sessions in Spanish, and they have invited our Spanish-speaking parishioners to join them. Remaining sessions are being held on March 15 and 22 at 7:00pm in the Social Hall at St. Augustine's.

So what's next?

- You are invited to **help us synthesize** the input we have been gathering over the past month. Next week, between Monday and Friday, March 14-18, we need about 10 parishioners to work in small teams of 2-3 people to go through the information and pull out the major themes and ideas. Your team will work on just one of the four main questions we have been discussing, meeting together for just 2-3 hours, at a time that is convenient for you. If you are willing to help or if you have questions about what it would entail, please contact Katie Johnson in the church office ASAP (kjohnson@stanncc.com; 804-526-2548).
- **Next weekend, March 19 & 20**, the entire parish is invited to review the major themes and ideas that have been generated in the Listening Sessions. These will be written on flip chart and posted on the walls in Condon Hall all weekend. Please come by to read and add more comments. We still want to hear what you have to say as we prepare our report to the diocese.
- Following the "comment period," a small group will take several days to **write our report to the diocese**. After it is reviewed by Fr. Ernest, it will be submitted on March 28. We will also send you the report by email and publish hard copies in the bulletin the weekend of April 3.
- **After Easter, the discussion will continue!** We want to keep the energy going as we make plans for how our parish will move into the future. The Holy Spirit still has things to say to us and has plans for St. Ann's, so stay tuned!

Finally, a HUGE thank you! Our parish owes a real debt of gratitude to the parishioners who volunteered to be facilitators and recorders for our listening sessions over the past four weeks. They stepped up – not knowing entirely what they were in for – and with trust, joy, and care have shepherded us in our discussions. **Thank you so very much!**

p.s. – Please read below to learn "What We Are Hearing" from the first 3 weeks of our Listening Sessions.

WHAT WE ARE HEARING

Better communication among all - pew cards, text messaging, etc.

Youth need a voice & role in parish & wider church

Parish council post agenda ahead of time and minutes after meetings

No process to participate in decision-making; implies church (St. Ann & beyond) isn't interested in hearing from parishioners

Small faith communities; neighborhood groups

Form cultural heritage groups for mutual support

We spend a lot of time, energy on pre-born and neglect others: separated/divorced, LGBTQ+, immigrants, homeless, abused, etc.

Increase transparency of decision-making

Need to involve & engage young adults (20s-40s)

Suggestion box in Commons

New Church Directory

More interaction across age groups

Focus on a ministry each week in the bulletin

Form ministry to stay in touch with & support college students while they're away

Restart pancake breakfasts

Something like this synod process on an on-going basis

Elect members of parish council

Better use of social media

More adult education opportunities: speakers and programs

How do we develop active parishioners who will lead/commit to ministries?

Revisit, restart older devotions

We need to step out of the box and try new things and be open to all

The church is not inclusive and lacks ministry to many groups (e.g. LGBTQ+ community, divorced and remarried, former Catholics)

The laity have a major role to play in
journeying together as Church

The more connected we are to one
another in the Church and in the wider
community, the more everyone can grow
in faith

Prioritize Jesus as central to our lives
and model our actions after his

Everyone has gifts to offer to build
community in the Church

We need better communication
at St. Ann

We have a unique gift
in the Eucharist

We need to be a people who ask,
"What is it that Christ wants us to do
with our life?"

More love and less
judgment!

Resume coffee and cookies after Mass

Celebrate and engage with our
increasingly culturally and racially diverse
parish

We are increasingly an aging Church.
How do we engage, listen to, and meet
the needs of young adults and those with
school-age children?

Revitalize social activities of the past
Periodic turnover of ministry leaders
is healthy

Be open to uncomfortable areas, topics
Empower decision-making; everything
shouldn't need Father's okay

More visible Parish Council

Individual invitation
to participate is vital

Asking people to be active beyond
attending Mass helps create community
across differences

More outreach in the community

Path/process to create new groups,
ministries

Our skills, abilities, etc. are varied;
together we create community

We need to actively reach out to those
who feel marginalized, excluded from the
Church