

***The diverse fruits & insights of the synodal experience & discernment
among the people of the diocese***

Diakonia group of St. Alphonse Church Luxembourg

Luxembourg, 19.03.2022 – face to face discussion

What were the fruits that the Holy Spirit has brought about through this experience? What topics or issues gave rise to diverse points of view? What new perspectives or new horizons opened up?

- Promoting a dialogue between Church and science / modern world
- Transparency, diversity & flexibility
- Cooperation with secular society and other religious communities based on a unique moral code in order to define common boundaries for human interaction (not hurting oneself and the other)
- Offering physical space for group meetings
- Fostering young people's initiatives
- Engagement, participation and commitment
- Role of women leadership in the Church

What has the Holy Spirit inspired the community to see regarding the current reality of synodality in our church? What did participants have to say about areas where the Church is in need of healing and conversion, in its spiritual life, culture, attitudes, structures, pastoral practices, relationships, and missionary outreach?

Church needs to be more connected to the modern world.

- While, on the one hand, the Church has encouraged dialogue between faith and scientific research (cf Pope Paul VI), at the same time it is fearful of changing some of its teachings, which are based on outmoded and unscientific views. Advice to the Church: "Don't stay stuck!" This applies also to teachings on sexual orientation.
- Church should be open and flexible, recognizing that needs fluctuate, and individuals may have moments when they need to drop out.
- The consequences of an increasingly secularized world - "EGOlution" has replaced "Evolution"

In what ways is the Holy Spirit inviting the local church to grow in synodality? What dreams, desires, and aspirations for the church were expressed by participants?

How to foster service?

- ✓ More communication and transparency at all levels;
- ✓ More information at community level of what is being done by the community: evangelization by example.
- ✓ Promote Serving other especially by offering your time, which is precisely the major difficulty in our society.
- ✓ Learn from the early Church – service with humility;
- ✓ The importance of small groups in fostering faith and service.
- ✓ Outreach to young people, in particular, by supporting their initiatives (eg Ukraine concert) and providing space for them to meet and build community. Problem of venues for them, and for other small groups – could the diocese help out?
- ✓ Need to involve more members of community in what we do. Suggestion of a "New to the Parish" initiative, whereby a new arrival is briefly introduced at the end of Mass, and any needs are shared. This provides opportunity of spontaneous offers from others after Mass (over coffee? Tea/coffee are much missed!)

Participation :

- ✓ The fact that women account for 80% of churchgoers and are 80% of those who do the work must be reflected both on the altar and in Church structures.
- ✓ All churchgoers need to be encouraged not just to be “consumers” of Mass and the sacraments, but to be part of the Church, actively.

What steps does the diocese feel called to take in becoming more synodal? What are the next steps forward for our diocese on the path of synodality, in communion with the whole Church?

- Conserve routine rituals: celebrations, spiritual experience, sacraments, security guidance,
- Encourage safe environment – allowing people to be who they truly are, be vulnerable
- Invite in the church activities all willing people (not the same all the time) so that they feel as part of the community, not just a customer of the service
- Organize ‘home discussions’ over a meal/coffee/tea
- Support initiatives of young people
- Variety of music pieces, more singing together
- Prayer in English – one language to pray together to eliminate confusion for children
- Interactions in social media

What was most significant about the whole experience of the consultation?

We opened our hearts and we discussed what we wanted to bring up in a very warm and non-judgmental atmosphere. Take aways from our discussion:

“How is this “journeying together” happening today in our particular Church?”

- Jesus came to save all of humanity. The Creator God did not create rubbish, therefore each and everyone is part of the People of God.
- Any Church community, including our own, is made up of very different individuals, with different mindsets and opinions on society which may be diametrically opposed, with the consequent risk of division or even splitting.
- Regarding Church rules (in the context of the question whether the Sunday Mass obligation is healthy or not) we were reminded that obligations, as the counterpart of rights, are essential (cf moral philosophy: the obligation not to hurt oneself or others), and of the importance of setting limits.