

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

Meditation group of St. Alphonse Church Luxembourg

Luxembourg, 17.03.2022 – online 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?

- (1) *Diversity in the Church:*
 - ✓ *to have married priests*
 - ✓ *the position of the church on same sex marriages*
 - ✓ *women leadership*
- (2) *The mass's structure*
- (3) *Hierarchy, transparency*
- (4) *Social role of the Church*
- (5) *Listening to the Holy Spirit more*
- (6) *Reaching out to youth more*
- (7) *Be creating yet conserve the rituals*

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?

- *The church 'gets in the way' that people are still Catholics but not church goes anymore*
- *Church is between me and the Holy Spirit*
- *The position of the church on same sex marriages has propelled people to the margins*
- *Arrogance in the Catholic Church. Clericalism. Too institutionalized. The Spirit is not confined within our boundaries and the church has to be attentive to that.*
- *Boring mass. Few priests who have time to deal with the children/elderly people. It cuts people off from the church. People no longer go to mass due to the structure – it does not speak to them though God does.*
- *Low level of transparency*
- *Young people find that institutions are not able to respond to their needs*

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?

There are other ways of organizing society:

- ✓ *The seat should move around the world and not just remain in Rome to challenge the 'dolce vita' of the bishops*
- ✓ *Hierarchical approach is a male approach. If women are given more leadership, they would organize it more horizontally.*
- ✓ *Jesus trusted his Apostles. He did not lay down specific ground rules and we have to interpret that in the place we find ourselves*
- ✓ *Committed priests who feel close to Jesus in performing their important social role*
- ✓ *More respect for the child as an individual*
- ✓ *The church needs to go back to its roots and back to its people. Sense of community and openness.*
- ✓ *Meeting people 'where they are' rather than expecting them to come to the church:*
 - ✓ *The Camino – open up your houses and discuss common concerns*
 - ✓ *To get to know others in the church community over a meal*

- ✓ Question or even let some 'old school' institutions 'go'
- ✓ 'House churches' rather than big churches. Children would join then and there would be something more 'alive' about it
- ✓ Small groups meet and talking heart-to-heart once a month. A priest would attend
- ✓ Need more people licensed to say the Eucharist and have a lot more kitchen table Eucharists. Having a meal together – like the last supper - how it all started. Finding unity

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?

- Reaching out to youth to make it relevant to them: engage them, offer them physical space and people available to listen to them, teach them to take responsibility for their own life under some spiritual leadership. Otherwise there will not be a church in the 'next generation'
- Spiritual experience - Meditation Groups
- anti- church people are so against the church due to the known abuses of women.
- More transparency
- Work on the content of mass. Still conserving rituals
- Creativity, bringing more music events, involvement of youth in the choir, etc.
- Repeating the synodal process in 12 month's time
- Keeping up the online broadcasting of masses
- 'Sharing bread': restore the coffee/community meals when Covid permits

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

We opened our hearts and we discussed what we wanted to bring up.

Take aways from our discussion:

- ✓ We started by praying the Holy Spirit and take good guidelines for this evening: active listening with hearts open and no judgement
- ✓ A sense of *huge responsibility for others and ourselves was brought by the Word of God to our souls*
- ✓ We do need to have leadership otherwise everything may collapse. However preparing a leader means to prepare leaders to listen to all the People of God
- ✓ We have the power to be inspired by the Holy Spirit and journey together. The ordinary faithful need to understand that we have divinity in us. We do not need to rely on the church – we need to be proactive ourselves.