

Our Lady of Joy
Carefree, Arizona
Synod Submission
May 12, 2022

The OLOJ submission includes input from a total of 112 people. Eleven live sessions were facilitated which included input from 70 people. Twelve people provided electronic direct input and the parish “That Man Is You” men’s group (30 total) submitted a group signed document that is submitted as an attachment to this submission.

The Holy Spirit prayer was prayed at the start of most (8 of 11) live input sessions.

The question: “In your lived experience, what have been your joys and sorrows in your journey with the Catholic Church?” was introduced to each person who participated live or electronically.

The following encapsulates the input shared:

JOYS EXPERIENCED

The sacraments were a many mentioned joy experienced by most participants.

Receiving the Eucharist was an additional very frequently mentioned joy, especially during the pandemic.

Reconciliation was mentioned by many people as a complete joy of the church. Many people added it should be offered daily at all parishes.

(Page 1 of 5)

Thankful that the church is open and welcoming to people who have left and returned to the church.

Pope John Paul II: The positive results of his papacy – mentioned multiple times.

Art and music in our mass is a gifted addition to the mass.

Seeing Catholic nuns in habit is a wonderful confirmation of grace and faith. It is a wonderful reminder of sacrifice and daily prayer habit.

The Magisterium (conviction of truth) and the fruits of the Universal Church occupied all over the globe. The recognition of the faith in our entire world.

Catholic schools and social services that serve people of all faiths is a proud fact.

Frequent input of the fact that Catholic teachings have not changed over 2000 years when Jesus started the Universal (Catholic) Church. This fact versus other faiths that change their teachings to be compatible with society.

Love the fact we can refer to our faith as being originated by Jesus himself.

Beautiful, Loving, Kind, Rich, Universal and Powerful Theology.

There were several mentions of the depth, richness, and universality of our Catholic faith.

There were frequent mentions of the desire to access the traditional Latin mass.

Input from our RCIA Synod is best stated as: The tradition, beauty of the sacraments, the beauty of the Blessed Mother, the Magisterium, truth of the faith, the music, and art and the 2000 years of life and the conservatism of the faith.

Several people shared the joy of seeing people return to the faith and being a sponsor of the faith for a loved one. It strengthens their faith by overcoming doubts experienced in their faith journey.

There was a common input from most of the live sessions regarding the wonderful spiritual priests we are blessed with at OLOJ. It was also shared many times how blessed we are to have a holy Bishop who fully supports the teachings of our faith and doesn't bend to the secular society.

(Page 2 of 5)

The joy of belonging to a Kingdom of God and faith that includes the most diverse ethnicity and culture in our world of many people.

LIFE TEEN SYNOD INPUT

Love the community, religious education, being welcomed, volunteering, the retreats are wonderful, enjoy altar serving. The Teen Mass is great.

Summer programming – most fun summer I’ve ever had with Edge. Social elements are the joys, i.e. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, Life Teen and Edge provide wonderful direction & joy.

“I was protestant, but the mass was wow – the most amazing thing”

OLOJ MIDDLE SCHOOL SYNOD INPUT

“The Edge program gives me the ability to bond through our faith.”

“I love that Mass helps me unwind and connect with my faith.”

“Edge helped me make friends after I moved across the country.”

“I love when I can learn about my faith in fun ways.”

SORROWS EXPERIENCED BY THE PARTICIPATES

Much of the input included an urgency for much better catechesis to change the trend of our youth leaving the faith and enriching the adult education of our faith. “When you understand it, you don’t want to leave it.” Improved catechesis will change the declining trend of the number of Catholics who don’t believe in the presence of our Lord in the body and blood.

A lot of input of concern with the direction of the church, i.e. Free masonry, the cancelling of priests who preach the truth and don’t bend to the secular society, priests who are passive with Catholics who engage in grave sin such as abortion and gay marriage, and giving communion to those who support abortion. Catholic clergy leadership need to be succinct in teaching the Catholic Church doctrine.

Many are weak and afraid therefore send the very wrong message. It misleads and confuses many of our brothers and sisters, especially our youth.

“Our Bishop listened to the government instead of standing up for our right to attend mass at all costs.” “The Bishop took the Eucharist away from us.”

There was much input regarding disappointment and disgust regarding the closure of our churches during Covid. Where was the church leadership when we needed it? Churches never should have been closed was a common opinion in sessions.

Many shared their disappointment on the handling by the church’s leadership of sex scandals – much too tolerant of abuse although most believe the handling of such is now on the right track.

Many shared the belief that the church is involved too much in politics. Stick to the teachings and let the chips fall. Many criticized Pope Francis in this regard and mentioned he should resign. Many feel the Pope is far too liberal with the teachings of the church. His public statements give support to people who support grave sin, i.e. abortion and gay marriage. Most participants in the sessions were critical of outspoken politicians who claim to be Catholic but do not support the teachings of the church yet are allowed to receive communion.

More accountability needed – too many scandals. The Catholic Church used to be held as the moral compass of society but not any more due to the leadership failures.

There were a small number of participants (4 or 5) who support allowing priests to get married. A larger number (10% or so) support allowing women to be given a more active role, i.e. be ordained as deacons.

Some input regarding Catholic Churches not being welcoming.

Input included: clapping for the choir during and after mass should not be allowed and gay men should not be allowed to join the priesthood.

There was input from several people regarding why our Catholic Universities allow liberal anti-Catholic teaching.

Received a lot of input regarding disappointment with Pope Francis's leadership such as: "He is the problem." "He gets into politics." "Looking and listening to the Pope sometimes feels like looking and listening to Joe Biden." "Pope sits and does nothing." "Pope appears to be supporting behavior that goes against Catholic teachings." "I am disappointed in Pope Francis' leadership." "Pope Francis, please follow the teachings of our church." "Please retire Pope Francis."

NOTEWORTHY QUOTES FROM PARTICIPATES

"The most sorrowful experience in the Roman Catholic Church for me is to be female, unmarried, with no children, because most every homily is surrounded by the word "family." I always find it difficult that I must be considered a second-class Catholic."

"Single lay persons should be prayed for in the Petitions of the Faithful. Families are always prayed for, but not groups of single individuals."

Great sorrow – "The appointment of liberal bishops and cardinals who bend the faith to suit their own purposes and to appease liberal members of their flock."

**To: Father Jess Ty, Pastor
Our Lady of Joy
Men's Group Discernment Results
Synod on Synodality**

The undersigned respondents have considered the published goals provided by the Vatican and made available to us by the authorities placed in charge of the Synod on Synodality. Cardinal Mario Grech, Secretary General of the Synod of Bishops and Cardinal Jean Claud Hollerich, Synod Relator General.

In brief, we understand that this Synod is a “discernment process in a prayerful attitude” for the Church and the people of God to “find truth”, while asking “what is the type of Church that the Holy Spirit is enlightening us to have for today?” “And when we say discernment, that mean that we are trying to listen to the Holy Spirit.” *(Quotes from Cardinal Grech -- Published in LifeSite News, March 2, 2022)*

In all honesty, none of the respondents reported hearing directly from the Holy Spirit, however, discerning the will of the Holy Spirit is not difficult as the Triune God, The Father, and The Son, and The Holy Spirit is Love, Truth, Beauty, Goodness, and all Perfections. God is outside time and **Unchanging**. Based on these undeniable philosophic truths there can be no change as the Church teachings were perfect as laid down in Tradition: The Bible, The Apostles, the Fathers, and the Doctors of the Church. There is nothing to correct in this as that would imply that God made a mistake or failed to account for something.

What is desperately needed is for the Church to embrace the Traditional Teachings and set aside the unholy innovations and Modernist allusions that have grafted themselves onto the Church over the past sixty years or so. We should restore The Catechism of the Council of Trent, The Traditional Mass and Sacraments as perfected over 1,600 or more years. The Church will continue to suffer and decline until we return to embrace the Glorious Teachings and Traditions bequeathed to us by God.