



Synod 2021-2023
Mary Queen of Peace Catholic Church
Sammamish, WA
Jim Chambers Coordinator
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<https://mqpevents.weebly.com/synod-2021---2023.html>

MQP Synod Archdiocese Final Report 05/04/22

Ministry Identification

1.

Ministry Name:	Mary Queen of Peace
Ministry Location:	Sammamish, WA
Ministry Type:	Parish
Parish ID#:	
Name of Person filling out this form:	Jim Chambers
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Where we have been and where we are going, invited by the Holy Spirit.

2. What were common or important themes that emerged from the listening sessions?

- Concern for loss of members, especially kids and young adults
- Need for stronger youth groups
- Great interest in participating in small groups
- Marriage – Man and Woman, position on LGBTQ
- Divorce & remarriage and the barriers returning to the Church
- Abortion & Birth Control
- Addressing Non-Catholic Spouses & Family members
- Priests
 - Need for more Priests
 - Leadership
 - Largely against married Priests
 - Abuse and scandal
- Division of membership between conservative & progressive points of view, lack of unified position
- People come for Mass but are looking for more. We need to find what.
- Need to bridge cultures within the Parish



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3. Which particular stories or real-life experiences were shared related to the way our church currently journeys together?

Parents find it painful when their children leave the Church and unable to fix this in their own family. Parents need to know how to teach their children as Catholics, how to raise children in the faith and be better role models for their children.

We need to change how Catholic Schools are run. The belief is that for many years they did not teach religion in Catholic schools. We encountered stories of kids losing faith or being bullied while attending Catholic School. The goal should be that Catholic schools are desirable because of the formation of virtue. The Church needs to protect our Catholic Schools and enforce our beliefs with old values not current society.

Young Adults are leaving the Church and we need to reverse the issue with College age Catholics. They do not see where they fit in at the Parish. There are groups for children and teens, for Parents & Families, but no age-appropriate activities and groups for Young Adults to engage them.

4. What dreams, desires, and aspirations for our Church were expressed by participants?

People come for Mass but are looking for more. We need to find what.

Family faith formation is giving hope for the future, and we need to bring faith home and part of daily routines.

The Church should not pander to current culture, if no difference why be Catholic?

We need to find a way to bridge the various cultures within the Parish. There are numerous ethnic groups with significant roles in the Church, but without recognized leaders and accessible contacts to aid the groups in crossing over to engage each other.

There are large divisions between conservative & progressive laity and clergy. Conflicting issues that the Church is too lax or too strict & judgmental. There are differences between parishioners with the contrasts of Tradition vs Vatican II, Conservative vs Progressive.

Many participants voiced interest in ongoing small groups. This would be engagement for Adults, Young Adults, and Kids, especially with a much stronger Youth program. These groups are important to develop community, connections and to make friends. A place where they are heard, a place to grow, and heal. Participants would like to see a Bible Study Program, Alpha, and others at MQP



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5. What challenges or opportunities do these reflections pose as we journey together?

A major concern was the number of members that we have lost, especially the kids and young adults.

Marriage, Divorce, and re-marriage were common topics.

There were several positions on same-sex unions, but most feel that Marriage should remain one man one woman. That we can accept gay people, but not gay marriage. Our more progressive participants want the current social position that we should adopt same-sex marriage.

There was broader desire for better ministry for divorced members, that divorce and remarriage is driving people away. We need to reduce the barriers for those returning, especially the annulment process

We need to find a way to better accept married couples with mixed religions who want to attend Mass together. This is still awkward and tends to alienate these couples from the Parish.

Most people were against abortion, but there were some who supported the women's rights including abortion. The opinions were both for and against the use of birth control and half felt the Church should change the position regarding birth control.

Priests were a central focus. Participants mentioned that the Priests & Sisters who in the past provided discipline, leadership and faith are now gone and this is contributing to the loss of members. We need more Priests who are younger and strong leaders. While most participants were against married Priests, we did hear suggestions that included married Priests and the promotion of Deacons into the Priesthood to help with the shortage.

The sex abuse scandal continues to be a concern with members leaving due to the abuse crisis and cover up. The problem was poorly handled, and they want full disclosure. This has created mistrust of the Bishops.

People are discouraged by the USCCB due to their political positions & silence on Social Justice issues and even have concern that the Synod results will be filtered by Bishops who are part of the problem.

The Pope encourages women in Church to make it broader and more inclusive and we need to review role of women. Others feel that the Church discriminates against women, that they should be priests or other roles. One participant even refuses to bring kids into Church where women prohibited from being Priests.



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6. What did participants share related to the questions of “what steps does the Holy Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our journey together”?

Evaluate youth faith formation and Confirmation. We need to provide more of an education to engage them emotionally.

Suggestions included that we need to teach children about faith after High School, to improve religious education so the kids better connect to Mass and stay in the Church.

Improve education with better educators. We need teaching from professional leaders, highly trained volunteers, Priests or other religious leaders.

Continuing Education: Religious education often ends in childhood before children learn the adult version. We lose people after life events, graduation, marriage, birth of children, the loss of a family member.

We need to find common ground and common values with the position of the Church and Parishioners to a wide range of emotional issues. We have some members of the Church who are not able to support the Church’s position on many subjects and do not feel that they are included. They are not in favor of traditional practices, disagree with the position on LGBTQ and prefer alternative Christian and non-Christian religions. They want the Church to be open to social teachings, have more activism in Church and want presentations about Catholic teachings regarding Social issues. They want more contemporary theology, not the old hard line. They agree with Gospel, but not with traditional spirituality and Catechism & no longer attend Mass. The progressive participants desire for greater acceptance of gays and gay marriage, additional work on racism, politics, and a number spoke about the desire for a greater role for women. Clearly this is in contrast to the traditional position and values of the Church and needs to be resolved for there to be a common bond for all members.



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Synod Consultation Approach

7. How many listening sessions did you have?

6

8. Did you have different listening sessions for different groups?

The only change was a scheduled live and virtual for teens only. Neither teen session was successful.

9. Did you seek to invite unrecognized voices? If so, how?

Yes, we successfully reached out through the local Catholic School to parents and students. We attempted to reach out through the public schools, the local Rotary club, and through the City (rejected by the schools, the Rotary, and the City as a religious organization)

10. What other methods, structures or approaches did you use in your plan?

In addition to listening sessions, we invited participants to send their thoughts to a dedicated email, by drop off at the Parish Office, and in a drop box in the Parish common area. All three received input.

Synod Consultation Participation

11. How many total people participated in all of your sessions?

50

12. How many session participants were from each of the following age groups?

No records

13. How many participants were from each of the following ethnic, race or culture group?

No records

14. How many participants were from each of the following gender groups?

No records

15. What other groups were unique or notable in their participation?

None of note.



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