

Apostolic Vicariate of Northern Arabia (AVONA)
SYNOD 2021-2023
PARISH SUMMARY OF RESPONSES TO SYNOD
QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of Parish: Our Lady of Fatima

City and Country: DH, S.A.

Version: 1.0

Prepared by: __Mario__

Reviewed by: __Glenn__

Parish Priest Signature:

Date:

Seal

Participant Summary:

(Share a demographic summary of the parish and the participants in the questionnaire)

Participants included the following groups:

- Saint Vincent De Paul Society
- Rosary prayer group
- Choir Ministry
- CCD Teacher's group
- Totus Tuus Group
- Bible Study Group
- Various individuals

Given the diversity of our community, the demographics included Parishioners from various nationalities and ethnicities from the following:

- Philippines
- India
- Africa (Various Countries)
- South America (Colombia, Venezuela, Peru, Brazil, Argentina)
- European (Ireland, Great Britain, France, Spain, and others)
- North America (USA, Mexico, Canada)

Synod-related Parish Activity:

(In up to 2 pages, document how your parish went about the Synod process for both awareness and gathering responses.)

An initial meeting was held on March 9, 2022 in order to go over the following:

1. Learn the Prayer for Synod
2. Introduce the Group Leaders
3. Describe what is the General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops
4. Establish the purpose of the Synod
5. Establish the Objective of the Synodal Process, as it relates to our Parish and Community
6. Remind us all, that the Synod is our Journeying Together
7. Go over the ten (10) themes to be explored
8. Present the conclusion format
9. Establish guidelines for the group meetings
 - a. Established prayer guidelines
 - b. Established reporting formats
 - c. Reviewed website requirements
 - d. Promoted open discussions
 - e. Promoted the use of audio recording for documentation purposes
 - f. Clarified group reporting deadlines

Groups met individually at a later date to gather data. These meetings took place at either individual houses, or at common church meeting rooms. No clergy was involved in the group meetings; however, clergy was asked to clarify the reporting formats and how to phrase the questions to all participants.

Data collected was in accordance to the guidelines established by the Church. All data presented in this reported came directly from Parishioners, who are solely responsible for the content.

As a disclaimer, our situation in SA is unique to all of us, as such, what we would consider normal in terms of Community involvement from the Church, must be kept discrete, these factors may have contributed to some of the comments gathered in this report.

We are as a community of Lay people, thankful to the Council of Bishops, for allowing us to participate in this Synod, and pray that our feedback is used in a constructive manner. We are ever thankful that we have the opportunity to continue to grow in our faith in the environment we currently reside.

I conclude by offering the prayer for the Synod.

We stand before You, Holy Spirit,
As we gather together in Your name.

With You alone to guide us,
Make Yourself at home in our hearts;
Teach us the way we must go
And how we are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful;
Do not let us promote disorder.
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path
Nor partially influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity
So that we may journey together to eternal life
And not stray from the way of truth.

All this we ask of You,
Who are at work in every place and time,
In the communion of the Father and the Son,
Forever and ever.
Amen.

- **Companions on the Journey**

(Summarize the responses to questions under this topic. The summary can be up to 2 pages)

We are currently doing great in the following, and should continue doing:

- Spiritually, financially, and emotionally support the members of the Parish
- Sharing the words of God to everyone and keep inviting more people to attend Holy mass and joining the activities conducted by the church.
- Actively participating in the CCD program, journeying with the kids.
- Retreats such as the silent retreat.
- Offering guidance/instruction to the parishioners through TORCH classes.
- Attending the silent retreat organized by the parish.
- Providing support for CCD teachers.
- The family and youth conferences are great ways to promote dialogue and help families grow together in faith.
- 2K Hail Mary the first weekend of every month.
- Distribution of Love Offerings to Charitable Institutions and indigent individuals in Public Hospitals.
- Gatherings for The Holy Rosary, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena, and Blessed Sacrament Adoration with a lay minister.
- Having a parishioner send out reminders and invitations to the parishioners. She will also pick us up when the weather is bad.
- Offer masses in different languages
- Providing all Sacraments
- Making it a home for all to join or drop in
- Having priests available for the Holy Mass
- Inspiring, helping and supporting one another in the various tasks of the ministry

We are currently doing but needs improvement in the following:

- The Church should allow us feel welcomed without prejudice or pre-judgement. Some parishioners have stepped away from the Church, we have not approached those who are distant from the Church and should make a bigger effort to show them a friendly/welcome face to encourage them to come back into our community.
- Instruct parishioners to avoid any negative comments to those who attend Holy Mass infrequently.
- Get the youth to participate in youth activities from a very young age.
- Church should present the information in a more unified manner across all parishes in order to avoid mis-interpretations, which cause parishioners to distant themselves from the Church.
- The best and more valued companions in the Journey of Faith are those who provide a good example on who to live by the Word, and show a commitment to the Church.
- Listen to the plea of each member
- Following the rules and regulations set by the group
- Constant follow-up on the member/s situation when and upon no show in the group activities
- Build trust within the community
- Prayer time like The Rosary- Time is so luxurious that only few can afford in time of praying alone or in group.
- Meditation- Silence is hard to achieve especially when we are not used to it and whenever or wherever we are internet is everywhere.
- Understanding the scriptures deeper and applying in our daily life. We just read but lack reflection.
- Repentance - We ask for forgiveness but we commit sin again.
- Promote current Parish Groups such as Legion of Mary, SVDP to have more membership and drive more activities in the Parish.
- Have regular announcements at weekend services and through media about the Holy Mass timings, parish activities, the parish groups and the parish website.
- Consider having dedicated contacts in local communities who can approach in-camp sponsors to attend Holy masses or parish activities.
- Inspire more people in coming more closer to God.
- Have a regular cenacle prayer.
- Promote Steadfast Faith and Trust in God in times of life challenges, difficulties and struggles
- Clarify the disbelief of some members to the gift of vision and prophesies.
- The CCD class has always been a challenge to the teachers. For one, there are not many of them and the children are also not coming regularly. Some of the parents are not cooperative.

- Target and finds ways to motivate the youth to stay true to their religious ways; engage the next generation of members
- The complete mass should be in one language. English mass should be only English prayers and songs. Recently there is increasing number of prayers in Greek, or Latin in between the English mass. This is very distracting for people who are not trained in classical languages.
- Conducting a Ministry Fair in order to promote membership growth in all ministries.
- Persevering in inviting more people to join us.
- Trying to do it more often.

We are currently not doing but we should be doing:

- Conduct an annual retreat
- Offer Monthly confessions
- Stop political discussions.
- Focus in ourselves to knowing God and only God, so we may fortify our faith.
- Create Small Christian/Catholic community groups to have prayer meetings, bible reflections, works of charity.
- Reinstate fellowship activities after weekend services such as Bake sale, lunch, etc.
- Reinstate Men and Women prayer breakfast group
- Invite friends to join in prayer and be the voice of God.
- Resume cenacle prayer and read the message of Blessed Mother Mary.
- Encourage all parents to become more involved in church life: mass attendance and other activities.
- Reach out to parents who are not attending mass regularly and help them return to church.
- Encouraging people to come to Church and participate in the daily devotions.
- Include more segments of society
- Include an organ or piano as musical background
- Increase time to reflect on the spirituality of our ministry
- Introducing other prayers like the Divine Mercy Rosary.
- Adding another day to reflect about the Holy Gospel weekly

Suggested next steps:

- Communicate the comprehensive guidelines of the choir regarding the mass service.
- Visit those faithful who cannot make their way to the church.
- Distribute bibles and provide basic scripture interpretation.
- Conduct storytelling with the children to promote the word of God.
- To brief new members to the Missions and Visions of our Prayer Group.(Healing Crusade)
- Expand the Prayer Groups
- Reach out to the people in the camp to attend the Holy Eucharist by befriending them.
- Search for a piano/organ teacher to teach one member from the choir
- Follow the Liturgic calendar and choose some topics to reflect about.

Additional Comments:

- Dear Heavenly Father, I pray for the success of the discussion in all gathered believers. Provide them wisdom on different topics to be discussed, to come up into the best solution with regards to some issues of the church and gather ideas that could help the growth of the church. Holy Spirit, I ask your presence and speak to the synod for them to comply with their responsibility. As a participant in this exercise, I may have a limited understanding but I hope few of my words can help. Thank you for the opportunity to expand my experience as a Catholic. In all of this favor I ask, in Jesus name. Amen.
- Encourage members to actively participate in the church activities, to uplift our Christian Faith .

- **Listening**

(Summarize the responses to questions under this topic, maximum 2 pages.)

We are currently doing great in the following, and should continue doing:

- Accessibility to Priests and Parish office staff.
- Daily and weekend mass schedule and we should continue that.
- Listening to students connect with the Catholic faith teachings and answer their questions based on God's grace and guidance.

We are currently doing but needs improvement in the following:

- In general terms, the Church should listen more to its faithful, who actively participate in the Church; however, every day many are leaving the Church and are further confused.
- We tend to spend too much time defending attacks on the Church. We must evangelize more.
- In general, we appear to be excluding those who are divorced, single mothers, homosexuals, and immigrants.
- Having a priest that is close to the community is the best way to spread the Word of the Lord. This could be easily done by creating diverse groups based on age, common interests, or other related subjects.
- Have a functional Parish Pastoral Council with representation from each nationality and parish groups with periodic (annual/biannual) rotation.
- Catechists should be encouraged to allow for students to share experiences and stories during the lesson and to seize opportunities to listen and guide students when questions arise.

We are currently not doing but we should be doing:

- Have a Parish Database with information about families, children and their contacts to ensure participation from families in Holy Masses and CCD programs.
- Have a Parish Finance Council and give parishioners the opportunity to comment on the parish's preliminary budget before it becomes final.
- Share quarterly budget reports from the parish finance council that show actual versus budgeted revenue and expenditure figures. Periodic (quarterly/ biannual) disclosure and announcements of the parish finances and encourage/educate parishioners about tithes.
- Require supporting documentation from everyone who wishes to be reimbursed for expenditures made on behalf of the parish, develop conflict-of-interest guidelines and undergo regular audits.
- Listening to the needs of the people, especially people who live out of camp.
- Encourage people to speak out, even if it's not part of their culture.
- Letting children share their understanding of faith teachings while we listen and guide.

Suggested next steps:

- None

Additional Comments:

- If we are having bilingual mass then the prayers should be projected, so others can follow.

- **Speaking Out**

(Summarize the responses to questions under this topic, maximum 2 pages.)

We are currently doing great in the following, and should continue doing:

- We are conducting catechism.
- We are attending prayer meeting physical or via zoom.
- We are doing bible study with kids.
- Accessibility to Priests and Parish office staff is good.
- Teaching about the importance of God, obedience, service and reverence to him, and guiding children to stay with God and stand firm in faith regardless of conflicting media content.

We are currently doing but needs improvement in the following:

- In general terms, people are still disappointed over the Church scandals and how those were hidden. Perception is that the perpetrators have not been punished.
- In many cases, we have seen the Priest as too busy and hard to reach. Though we recognize that in large communities it is sometimes difficult to reach a priest, we should consider nominating certain access to others in certain cases, while the priest(s) are unavailable.
- Listen to others without prejudice.
- We are currently having hard time in reaching out to groups or families, in trying to convince them to attend religious activities.
- Persuade parishioners who are not regular attendees, to attend Holy Mass on a regular basis.
- Creating a conducive atmosphere for parishioners to freely express their opinions/concerns to the Parish Priest and the Pastoral Council.
- We need to focus more on helping children build personal relationships with God so that when they grow, they won't depart from it.

We are currently not doing but we should be doing:

- Bible reading courses.
- Expressing and defending oneself as catholic, sharing the history of the church to enhance and cultivate the foundation of faith, apologetics courses.
- Announcement of the Pastoral Council members for the parishioners to approach in order to raise their opinions or concerns.
- Group based activities for children based on age groups to help them interact more and learn more about our Faith from each other.
- Providing opportunities where people feel comfortable to express their needs and concerns.
- Provide a suggestion box for those who are shy or would like to remain anonymous.

Suggested next steps:

- None

Additional Comments:

- None

- **Celebration**

(Summarize the responses to questions under this topic, maximum 2 pages.)

We are currently doing great in the following, and should continue doing:

- Regular schedule for Blessed Sacrament Adoration.
- Accessibility to the Chapel for prayer and adoration at all times.
- Encouraging parishioners to receive Sacrament of Holy Confession.
- Availability of bilingual Holy Masses and confessions (Spanish & English).
- Discouraging online masses and encourage parishioners to attend Holy Mass at least once a week.
- Active CCD/Torch programs and participation of parents as teachers.
- Flexibility to receive Holy Communion both in hand and mouth.
- Mass offerings for intentions.
- Providing mass during week days and inviting the laity to participate in different roles or capacities.
- Attending Eucharistic celebrations at least once a week and major Faith events
- Our Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Holy Week celebrations.

We are currently doing but needs improvement in the following:

- Holy Mass is where most of the faithful participate, however, our participation numbers could drastically improve by focus group masses for groups such as adults only, teens, families. This would increase/improve communications
- Inculcate scripture connection and adult catechism in homilies.
- Provide a structured form of training for different ministries.
- Some parents don't take their children to mass and need to be improved on.
- Encourage more children to go for confessions.
- We celebrate the Holy Eucharist with our parish priest once a week. But we would love to celebrate mass daily or if not more often. Our current situation in SA makes it impossible for this to happen.
- Have the Holy Eucharistic on Friday morning, as we did it in the past. Likewise, we would suggest to move the CCD classes together with the Mass (Friday morning).
- To pray the Holy Rosary as a community every 2 weeks.
- Remind the community (via WhatsApp group) about the communal activities, like the Holy Sacrament Adoration and other activities.

We are currently not doing but we should be doing:

- Include an interactive Homily.
- Have on screen projector for Holy Mass Readings in the chapel and the gym.
- Have brief introduction for Holy Mass readings.
- Encourage parishioners' and have announcements related to stipends for Mass offerings/intentions
- A ministry commitment mass annually, where parishioners are given a form to complete to choose a ministry or what service they can offer in the parish.
- Hold an Advent Ecumenical Service. This will bring us closer to our Christian brothers and sisters.
- Celebrate the Holy Eucharist with our parish priest on a daily basis in other camps. We do realize that logistics in this country may prohibit this from happening.
- Have the Priests send an email before every Liturgic season to encourage the parishioners to prepare and participate in the different activities included for every Liturgic season (p.e. lent, holy triduum, advent, etc.).
- We would like that the Priests come more often to the other camps, not only during the regular celebrations, to open the door to everyone for spiritual guidance, confessions, etc. in order to have a permanent presence in our camp during different timings taking in account the people who work. We suggest that twice a week a Priest could be here.

Suggested next steps:

- Pray more fervently for more priests to come in this part of the world.

Additional Comments:

- None

- **Sharing Responsibility for our Common Mission**
(Summarize the responses to questions under this topic, maximum 2 pages.)

We are currently doing great in the following, and should continue doing:

- Singing joyfully.
- Holy Mass services
- Liturgical services
- OLF activities
- Members recruitment
- Our mission is to bring more people come closer to God. Torch classes and CCD are one way of bringing them closer.
- Sharing our given gifts/talents with others as we journey together.
- The Christmas gift collection and distribution to the workers was a great idea.
- Creating more missionaries to spread the Word of the Lord.
- Listening to the Word of the Lord and reading biographies of patriarchs like Moses, David, Abraham, Job.
- Listening to others without prejudice.
- Helping those who are in most in need of God's mercy.
- Assisting in the discernment process.
- Creating opportunities to have workshops and/or retreats on various biblical topics which will get us closer to God
- Gathering at least once a month to pray the Holy Rosary.
- Participating in the Holy Eucharistic every week and having the CCD classes every week.
- Continuously inviting people to join us to pray the Holy Rosary, participating in the Mass, the CCD classes.

We are currently doing but needs improvement in the following:

- Easing the fear of those who do not have full knowledge of the Word of God.
- Help parishioners in discerning how to spread the Word of the Lord, and should they participate.
- Have additional workshops on Patriarchs, Saints, and other biblical characters, so we may emulate and follow their example.
- Praying before the start of the service
- Punctuality in mass service and choir practice/activities
- Preparedness in singing (individual and as a group)
- Learning effectively how to sing and harmonize with the group
- Aligning the songs with the gospel by the choirmaster
- Communication among the members of the Parish.
- As Parishioners, we should lead by example by promoting and encouraging the people to come closer to God. We do by attending Holy mass and coming before the Lord through regular or frequent confession.
- Charities like St. Vincent de Paul, etc. but could do more Outreach in our home countries. Select a project that needs support and encourage people to visit there during holidays for service.
- The Priests could be more approachable to the people spending more time here and by themselves, encouraging people to be involved in the different groups and activities.
- Inviting some parishioners to join ministries such as Reading, Music, Catechists.
- Encouraging others to help to set the altar.

We are currently not doing but we should be doing:

- Open forum before practice
- Provide a synopsis of the song/s to sing
- Assign member/s to align the song against the Gospel reading
- Become a mediator / peace maker of members by listening and guiding both sides.
- Provide ways for our CCD students to perform charitable action within our community. (Doing more for the less fortunate.)

Suggested next steps:

- Pastoral consultation with the priest
- Have a sharing and fellowship to reach out other people and be one family in Gods loving arm.

Additional Comments:

- Walking in mission is not only within a certain group members but as a whole community, the church, all children of God. This are the people you go along together most often everyday especially in the work place. Patience and understanding accompanied with prayer is a much needed part of our mission.

- **Dialog in Church and Society**

(Summarize the responses to questions under this topic, maximum 2 pages.)

We are currently doing great in the following, and should continue doing:

- Our choir wants to continue serving the Lord and the church through music and other services we can offer by His grace and mercy.
- We listen to different points of view.
- Through dialog between Church and the community, we improve acceptance and understanding, and reach an agreement.
- Finding common viewpoints, respecting opposing views, accepting that we can reach a common ground and walk together.

We are currently doing but needs improvement in the following:

- The Church needs to improve relationships with other denominations by listening and accepting diverse points of view.
- We need to organize activities which promote unity amongst Christian communities so we may work together.
- Choir members must be rooted in faith and doctrine.
- Be active reading the Bible
- Activity to encourage people to prayer and to meditate
- Strengthen the family nucleus
- Offer scripture-based solution to seek redemption. We all carry our cross with love for our salvation.
- We must recognize that we receive everything from God by his grace and divine providence.
- Need for reinforce the message after the Sacraments of First Communion and Confirmation.
- Minimize the rotation of priests. Commitment of the priestly order to the communication and commitment of the community to the priest.
- The longer time a priest can stay in our community, the greater ties with the church.
- Keep growing in our Faith knowledge, above all be humble.
-

We are currently not doing but we should be doing:

- In general, we notice little knowledge and lack of apologetics for the defense of the faith. Apostolic exercise is needed.
- The church should guide/sponsor us through programs such as apologetics and encourage the creation of these type of groups.
- Stop the politics in the parish.
- Encouraged all members to attend CCD and bible study to be rooted in his foundation of faith

Suggested next steps:

- Open forum to stop politics
- Promote Bible study after mass
- Facilitate / provide a downloadable Recorded Bible Study, CCD and other spiritual programs, upload it to OLF website to be more accessible to other people.
- Outreach program to the community (Christians, Muslims and others)
- Activity to improve prayer life and meditation
- Activity to encourage people to read the bible

Additional Comments:

- None

- **Ecumenism**

(Summarize the responses to questions under this topic, maximum 2 pages.)

We are currently doing great in the following, and should continue doing:

- All saints day and Christmas Celebration was a good idea to get together as a community.
- We have informed people from other religions/groups (protestant, Mormons) to our celebrations and activities. Some of them have participated at some time.
- We should continue inviting them (catholic no practitioners and other religions believers).
- We have spoken to in therapy sessions with other denominations. Pastors appeared better trained in religion, and interacted with us in a more compassionate and engaging manner.
- Priests are called to be servants, but 98% of their time is engaged in administrative duties, leaving only 2% availability for parishioners. This appears to be the case locally.
- Our priest is very active in the community, however, there is very little time to have detailed conversations.
- How far can we stay silent and allow harm to the church?

We are currently doing but needs improvement in the following:

- Understand the joys, fruits, and challenges from relating to other Christian denominations.
- Accept that we all are children of God.
- Listen to the essence of Christ's teachings.
- We could do activities involving people from different religions, like practicing works of mercy (p.e. feed the hungry (cooking meals for workers around the camp), meditation of the Word, etc.)
- Show respect for each other's beliefs when these encounters have taken place.
- We have a lot in common with other Christians, although we are separated by some misconceptions and practices that should not deter us from meeting.
- Christians share a common belief, that of the love of Jesus for us all. Non-Catholics do have their own customs in times of celebrations such as Christmas, we need to be aware of other denominations beliefs at time of joint celebrations.
- Having the spaces to comfort the faithful who have lost a loved one.
- We do not always have time with our priests, at times they are neither available nor do they appear to be willing to help.
- Our Priests are always very busy making it difficult at times just to go and talk to them.
- The interaction of the parishioners with the church appears to be one directional.
- There is no reciprocity between churches, there is no common ground, it appears as there is a wall between churches.
- We have great differences in relation with the Eucharist, priests, beliefs, though we interact some with other churches we neither attack nor discriminate them.
- Welcome new community members into our parish.
- Outside of our community, we Catholics conduct many meetings with other Christian communities, however, this depends on the community where we live and where we all conduct mutual acts of charity and donations.
- Our Catholic doctrine is strong and has a great history. But do we know it? Sometimes we can regard that doctrine very lightly, which can cause us to believe it must be changed.
- The church wants to cleanse itself from the number of mistakes it has made, however, we must know the teachings of the Church, take care of it, clean it and invite those whom should enter the church.
- Our community has Lay people who are very passionate about teaching Bible study which is viewed by many Catholics as fanaticism. In other Christian religions, there are Pastors who share their religious knowledge with the community, demonstrating a deeper commitment to the community, thus enriching the community and generating a stronger structured discipline towards religion.

We are currently not doing but we should be doing:

- Interaction with other Christian denominations within our Parish.
- Have Christmas and Easter celebrations jointly with other Christian denominations such as Protestants, Anglicans, Orthodox Christians, Methodists, etc.
- Encourage participation in Christian inter-denomination groups.
- Share testimonies and sing praise songs.
- Have a joint Bible reading session in a friendly family type of environment.
- The head of the church should encourage consolation between Christians and Orthodox.
- We must have Consensus to accept, but not to impose (Papal authority).

- Encourage the formation of a deacon who will be in our community for at least 5 years.
- We need to better prepare in courses such as apologetics.

Suggested next steps:

- A collaboration with other Christian communities maybe at least once in a year eg.an Interdenominational family day celebration.

Additional Comments:

- None

• **Authority and Participation**

(Summarize the responses to questions under this topic, maximum 2 pages.)

We are currently doing great in the following, and should continue doing:

- As the authority of our parish, our Parish Priest is doing a good job. We have a good leadership with a good team behind him.
- People in our Parish participate happily.
- It's good that we are having meetings with the priests and the respective group leaders.
- We count on a Priest who celebrates the Mass every week and he is the Leader of our parish.

We are currently doing but needs improvement in the following:

- At times we cannot participate in the plans and decisions our Parish undertakes, however, if we are informed of such decisions, we will feel part of the decision making thus making it easier to commit.
- Reaching out to local parish communities (i.e., outside the camps, St Joseph parish)
- We propose that the Priest call the parishioners to a meeting to let them know the needs of our Parish, in order to encourage and involve them in the different services required in the Parish, p.e. set the altar, Adoration of the Holy Sacrament, Ministries like Music, Reading, Communion, etc.)

We are currently not doing but we should be doing:

- Consider ways to sponsor more families into the camp for various weekend/weekday services.
- Welcome new families, lookouts to identify new commers, networking so that more families can attend holy mass and parish activities.
- Consider arranging transport for contractor employees and females who cannot attend masses from local communities.
- Parishioners should be able know how or where to access information and contact details of the different parish groups and their contact details, e.g. Parish Council.
- Create the Adoration of the Holy Sacrament Ministry

Suggested next steps:

- None

Additional Comments:

- None

- **Discerning and Deciding**

(Summarize the responses to questions under this topic, maximum 2 pages.)

We are currently doing great in the following, and should continue doing:

- Involving the community in the Synodal process.
- Guidance of the member in accordance to the Church teachings.
- At the moment, the decisions are made by the Priest and sometimes, the Priest have asked some parishioners about some proposals to make the decisions.

We are currently doing but needs improvement in the following:

- Hearing Gods word.
- It would be good if more time was allocated to brief and prepare the Parish on what is expected of them during any major events or processes that are happening in the church around the world, e.g. Synod.
- Many are confused and feel overwhelmed by the Synod process. Not enough explanation was provided to the community as a whole.
- This would relay to all parishioners the importance of this active participation in the life of the church. That their voice matters and counts.
- We propose to improve the communication between the Priest and the community, and the Priest can delegate tasks creating groups and choosing leaders for each Ministry, and have a monthly meeting to give feedback, planning and evaluating the work done.

We are currently not doing but we should be doing:

- Prayer in deep meditation.
- We are not doing the Ministries meetings, neither, the choir rehearsals, adoration to the Holy Sacrament, preparation for Reading Ministers and catechists.
- Catechism for families led by the Priest and we would like to suggest to do more engaging activities with families (parents & children) to increase the interest between the families.
- Monthly meeting with the Priest in order to elect / appoint leaders for all the Ministries.
- Have one or two members of the DH CCD Ministry come to the other camps to give the guidelines to the catechists.

Suggested next steps:

- Practice prayer with meditation and asking the Holy Spirit to guide all our thoughts and with a humble heart.
- Prayer for all Priests.

Additional Comments:

- None

- **Forming Ourselves in Synodality**

(Summarize the responses to questions under this topic, maximum 2 pages.)

We are currently doing great in the following, and should continue doing:

- Our CCD program is a very good one that is also followed by other parishes internationally. It refers to scripture and the Catechism of the Catholic Church.
- Our kids are also well prepared for their Sacraments.
- We learn by watching others perform, we have great examples and individuals leading.

We are currently doing but needs improvement in the following:

- Additional activities like workshops or family day retreats for parents and children to journey together.

We are currently not doing but we should be doing:

- Forming a youth group either to meet weekly or twice a month for all age groups. Younger kids maybe once a month.
- A structured formation course, maybe online for all Catechists. A course that gives a foundation on our faith and ideas on how to teach the students in a fun and engaging way.
- Parents – How can we engage our parent community, what support do they need?
- A mini parent student workshop or meet at the beginning of the start of the CCD year. So we can also get their input on what they want and how they can support their children during the year.
- The needs of our Parish are not told to the parishioners so this contributes to the small group of servers.

Suggested next steps:

- None

Additional Comments:

- Ensuring that catechists and parents have the resources, education and support to address any questions and challenges posed by students relating to our faith in the present time and in the future. This is because it is of great concern as our faith is becoming diluted with what is currently happening and the new ideas the world has to offer.
- There is a potential that our children, especially the youth, can be easily diverted or swayed if they are not strong in their faith.

Additional Overall Comments

- Our synod discussion focused on 2 things:
 - a. 1) the next generations of Catholics - many youth around the world are not practicing their faith
 - b. 2) priest and nuns - where will the next generation come from
- In our discussion, we researched other Christian religions that allow marriage for their religious leaders. Is this an option for the Catholic church? Is this based on power/money so it can stay in the church? If allowed to marry, would more men and women decide to peruse this life?