

(Youth) Synod Listening Session
5-17-2014
Notre Dame High School.

- 1) Name one thing that makes you proud to be Catholic
 - Corporal works of mercy that we do in our diocese
 - I am provided opportunities to serve
 - That our religion has existed since the beginning of time
 - Great to be part of a strong community...and world-wide
 - Being Catholic calls me to be greater than what the world calls me to be.
 - That I will be saved after this life and that Jesus is always there for me.
 - Our faith is based in truth. We use faith and reason and don't make things up.
 - It calls me to step out of my comfort zone and love others, not just myself.
 - We all share the same beliefs
 - Gives me a sense of comfort
 - That we are not living this life alone
 - That we are always given a second chance when we screw up through confession
 - Because of our Sacraments: especially Reconciliation and Eucharist
 - We are always united
 - Because of our Sacraments
 - We all believed that Jesus died for us on the Cross
 - Its great to know that there's someone out there who loves me unconditionally
 - Because of all the amazing Saints who came before us and set the example for us
 - Because of the universality of our faith
 - My faith has always been there for me
 - That we are never alone and that God loves us unconditionally
 - Because we have the Vicar of Christ to guide us in the teachings of the faith
 - Because we have an amazing Pope

(Bishop Question)

- What type of service do you really enjoy?
 - Working with the elderly
 - Assisting the poor
 - Working at soup kitchens and feeding the poor and hungry
 - Midnight run
 - Helping other youth
 - Working with special needs people
 - Writing letters to soldiers who are suffering

- Working with the younger kids through spiritual mentoring
- Rehabilitating homes
- Working with underprivileged children
- Mission trips to other countries
- What the type of service that makes you the most uncomfortable?
 - Moving stuff t Church
 - Social work
 - Doing apostolate and evangelization in my personal life
 - Bringing Christ to people every single day in everything I do
 - *BISHOP SAID: Ministering to people who are dying.*
 - Serving food to the homeless when they are angry and pushy, etc.

2) In your opinion, what is one thing the Synod should discuss (and why)?

- Helping college-age students to live heir faith in a liberal, secular world.
- Make the Church more modern without compromising our beliefs
- Discuss having women priests
- Improve youth groups
- Improve the Confirmation classes
- Open up more to the younger people that are fun and engaging
- Improve the CCD programs
- Keep us involved after completing the Sacraments
- Get more of us to attend Church
- Improve religious education
- Open up the Church to the gay community
- Better prepared lectors
- How people dress when being a Eucharistic minister
- Work on how to defend the faith and God
- Encouraging parents to send their children to Catholic school
- Perpetual adoration
- Having more charity projects available
- Develop a personal relationship with God in Confirmation classes
- Outreach to those who are gay and feel disenfranchised
- Eucharistic reverence
- The lack of availability of the Sacrament of Confession
- Service projects for youth will bring more of them into the Church
- Have a place in which the youth feel more engaged and welcomed at the Mass
- Tap into the skills that kids have
- Our faith needs to be lived more than just going to Church on Sunday
- Encourage those who only go to Mass on Sunday to get more involved.

(Bishop Question)

- What is the primary reasons your friends are not coming to Mass?
 - Parents wont bring them
 - Theyre to busy
 - Too many rules
 - Social perception that it's not cool to go
 - They might be intimidated by the Church
 - Seculare society discourages us to go to Church and do other things
 - Bad things happened in their life and they think God hates them
 - It's boring
 - They call us hypocrites
 - It's down on the list of priorities
 - Because they are afraid they'll be judged because of their sexuality
 - It's not worth my time
 - Best friend is terrified to go because she's gay
 - Make it more accessible to the youth
 - Mass is too often not "done well"
 - Because they are doubting their faith
 - People are lazy
 - The mentality that they have too many unanswered prayers
 - They question the existence of God because of tragedies in their life
 - Because we too often focus on scandals and negative things
 - Sports
 - People don't realize the significance of Mass
 - Because families are not going every week and therefore they don't take it seriously
 - Too hard to be a Catholic
 - Confirmation is graduation
 - Some are shameful of what they've done

How many of you have gay/lesbian friends?

- The majority raised their hands

How many of them have doubts about their faith?

- Majority raised their hands

IDEA FROM BISHOP

- *I would like to prose to the Synod the creation of a Catholic Youth Core*
 - *Service*

- 3) If you had one wish to change one thing in the Diocese, what would it be?
- Make Catholic schools more affordable
 - Improve the CCD programs
 - More programs for kids 3-4 years old
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 - Increase Holy Families
 - Let us go to Church more often than once a week in school
 - Change the perception that the young people are the future. They are now the Church.
 - Decrease the amount of liability forms, etc. that the diocese requires
 - CCD for High School and College students.
 - The Church is too involved in politics
 - Increase reverence for the Eucharist.
 - Some tabernacles are hard to find in churches
 - Increase in services for youth
 - Catholic schools should accommodate kids with disabilities
 - Incorporate more teen Adoration
 - Youth group for middle school students
 - Make confession more available
 - Increase the availability of (single-sex) Catholic school education
 - Improve the songs in Mass
 - Hat each parish has enough money to survive
 - Less boring homilies
 - Bring in *Catholic Underground*
 - Bring in *Theology on Tap*
 - Communication – we often have no idea what’s going on in other parishes throughout the diocese.
 - More opportunities to be with other Catholics my age
 - Encourage the High schools to make daily Mass available.
 - Have someone in charge of Youth Ministry in every parish
 - Update he music for the youth
 - Homilies that speak to teenagers
 - There’s no funds for all these ideas in parishes that cant afford them
 - More consecrated people inviting others to Church
 - More availability of the Sacrament of reconciliation
 - Having better preaching for the youth
 - More bilingual opportunities
 - Increasing the excitement of the Eucharist
 - Have the category of “Youth Ministry” added to the options to choose from when sending in the form for the ABA
 - Encourage kids to have a spiritual director. Have more priests available.

- The youth don't know what the teachings of the Church are on sex. Teach them about theology of the body
- Counseling services for people who have lost their faith
- 4) How can we use technology for the advancement/advantage of the Diocese/Church?
 - Witness talks through webinars and get them on the internet for others to view
 - Apps about Jesus to catechize them
 - Use social media
 - Record our parish's mass so that the homebound can be part of Mass and then bring them communion.
 - Using Twitter more often
 - More unified online presence for all parishes, i.e., Facebook, etc.
 - Diocese of Bridgeport App
 - Have one for the Youth
 - Tape events that your parishes have so that parishes with less resources can see them and feel part of it.
 - Use video chatting to communicate with people from our faith from around the world
 - Use it in such a way that people will "find" the Church
 - Communicate what technology we already have much better
 - Smart board use in religious Ed
 - Create an interactive tool to answer questions about the catechism in laymen's terms
 - We need sound bites from the Bishop on Twitter
 - Tape talks so that people can easily access them
 - Use a smart board more often.
 - We use Instagram in our youth group to catechize
 - Online prayer chain
 - Technology for those who have disabilities that limit them from experiencing all the aspects of the Church
 - Make websites much more interesting
 - A library that will be available to the youth
 - Have a youth liaison about what is going on in social media

Msgr D. Question

- Should we use e-books more often?
 - YES
 - It would be cool if we use it

BISHOP

- What is the principal way in which you communicate?
 - Texting
 - Facebook

BISHOP Question

- Who could put down their “technology” until dinner tonight?
 - Most raised their hands
- Who could till next week?
 - Most did not raise their hands

Trying to figure out if we are becoming slaves to technology.

5) Open forum – any comments that you would like to present to the Bishop.