



Bellarmino Chapel

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SYNOD ON SYNODALITY **Summary and Recommendations**

In 2021 Pope Francis called for a universal Church Synod to be concluded by 2023. Pope Francis wants to hear from the entire Church about how we should carry the mission of the Church forward in our times. The People of God at Bellarmine Parish have responded to Pope Francis' request. Our whole community is discerning what the Holy Spirit is saying by answering the following four questions:

1. *What do you love about our parish?*
2. *What would you like the Church to know?*
3. *How should the Church evolve?*
4. *How can the Church realize its mission to minister to the poor and marginalized?*

There was an overwhelming reply of 174 respondents to our online questionnaire. In addition, 60 individuals participated in our virtual parish listening session. The responses were placed thematically into a database and commonality of themes was tracked. Along with this document you will find a complete list of the top thematic responses to each of our questions.

Our interpretive analysis identified the following themes that Bellarmine respondents considered to be of the highest importance to strengthen the mission of the Church today:

- **Inclusivity** - ensure everyone has a voice; welcome the marginalized – the poor, LGBTQ+, youth, women
- **Women** - expand equal leadership roles/restore to the diaconate/ordain as priests; ordain married men
- **Abuse** - toughen accountability within hierarchy/patriarchy; end clericalism; stop demonization/judgment/shaming of individuals
- **Transformation** - strengthen the Vatican II vision; include laity in the decision-making processes of the Church ensuring transparency and communication; shed irrelevant ideals
- **Christ Centered** - focus on our loving God; follow the healing Gospel to bring about inspiration and redemption
- **Faith in Action** - reinforce this as the central element of the Church's mission by promoting a culture of encounter and solidarity

Respectfully submitted by,
Bellarmino Parish Synod Committee
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<https://www.bellarminochapel.org/about-us.html>



1. What do you love about our parish?		
	Ranking	# of Responses
Faith in action/Social Mission	1	124
Liturgies/sacraments/music	2	116
Inclusivity/Focus on whole person	3	76
Ignatian spirituality/Deepening faith journey	4	66
Adult education/Small groups/Retreats	5	50
Staff and pastoral leadership	6	45
Positive energy/Strong participation	7	43
Identity/Community	8	39
Access to sacraments/daily Mass/ministry	9	18
Openness/Communication/Transparency	10	16
2. What would you like the Church to know?		
	Ranking	# of Responses
Allow women in leadership and to be ordained as deacons and priests	1	74
Modernize/Move past resistance to change and irrelevant ideals	2	55
Centering on Christ/God's love as focus	3	47
Expand inclusivity	4	46
That many have left the church	5	37
Concern regarding clergy abuse and those affected	6	34
Hierarchy is an obstacle	7	33
Continue living out Vatican II ideals	8	32
Making sure all have a voice/Human rights	8	32
End Patriarchy/Misogyny/Clericalism	10	28

3. How should the Church evolve?			Ranking	# of Responses
Allow women in leadership and to be ordained as deacons and priests	1	93		
Expand inclusivity	2	42		
Modernize/Move past resistance to change and irrelevant ideals	3	41		
Center on Christ; God's love and core gospel themes as focus	4	37		
Ordain married men and women	5	35		
LGBTQ+ included and in leadership	6	33		
Hierarchy is an obstacle; democratize bishop selection; allow local autonomy	7	26		
Increase youth engagement	8	25		
Make sure all have a voice (including those who have left the church or on margins	9	19		
Empower healers and promote unity, rather than demonization; shame; judgment of the "other"	10	18		
4. How can the Church realize its mission to minister to the poor and the marginalized?	Ranking	# of Responses		
Change focus from mass attendance to faith in action	1	25		
Centering on Christ; God's love as focus; solidarity; common good	2	23		
Live with the poor; culture of encounter	3	22		
SVPD and other social mission	4	22		
More inclusive and lessen marginalization by church	5	18		
Making sure all have a voice; listen to marginalized	6	15		
Condemn/confront unjust structures which keep people poor	7	13		
Not valuing wealth over the common good	8	11		
Continuously be aware of what the needs are of the poor and marginalized; education on this	8	11		
Embrace Pope Francis' vision - field hospital; smell like the sheep, Laudato Si	10	10		