

# #61

**COMPLETE**

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Page 1: Local Synodal Session Summary Form

## Q1

Host Community (e.g. parish, school, religious community)

St. Vincent DePaul Church, Philadelphia

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## Q2

Date(s) of Session(s) (MM/DD/YY)

April 12 through May 9 2022

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## Q3

Total Number of Participants (combined total for multiple sessions)

54

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## Q4

Participant Composition - Age (estimated percentage)

Under 30	6%
31-50	13%
51-70	31%
Over 70	50%

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## Q5

Participant Composition - Gender (estimated percentage)

Male	38%
Female	62%

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## Q6

### Participant Composition - Ethnicity (estimated percentage)

Black or African-American	19%
Caucasian	76%
Hispanic/Latino	5%

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## Page 2: Local Synodal Session Summary Form - Themes of Feedback

## Q7

### Topic 1: Joys and Concerns about the Church from the people of God: Question 1: What fills you with joy about the Church?

Liturgies that connect with good participatory music, reflection & participation by the Laity #####

Opportunities to get involved in Ministries particularly Social Justice Ministries###

Having every group and culture feel a part of the Community and the Liturgy and being part of a living Vibrant Faith Community where we can connect with each other###

Welcoming Diversity especially the LGBTQ Community and those on Margins ##

Hearing the Word as it applies to daily life##

The Pope and his leadership style

Welcoming Children ! Mary! Listening Sessions! Receiving the Body & Blood of Christ! Diversity! Learning more about the power of the Liturgy!

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## Q8

### Topic 1: Joys and Concerns about the Church from the people of God: Question 2: What concerns do you have about the Church?

Lack of Women in Leadership roles. No women deacons, priests, or Bishops###

Church hierarchy does not listen. They may have listening sessions but their minds are already made up. There is no openness to the wisdom of the laity##

Church leadership suffers from a severe case of Homophobia and does not minister to the LGBTQ community instead discourages their participating in being part of the People of God####

The Church covers up its past sins regarding Racism, Child Abuse##

Church hierarchy playing politics with the Body of Christ##

Clericalism and training future priests in a closed and hierarchical model

Lack of Sermons that speak of Justice as Jesus did

Church can stay stuck in past models long after they are useless in relating to people today

Church Hierarchy often doesn't take a prophetic role in areas of Social Justice. Rarely seen on protest lines.

Concern about money over ministry

Racism in the Catholic Church

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## Q9

Topic 2: Listening Aspect of the Church Question 3: In what ways or moments has the Church encouraged you to speak up? How does the Church listen to you or hears what you are saying?

On the local parish level through retreats and councils and forums##

Local Clergy will often listen even that can be improved#

Most groups agreed that the larger Church (Archdiocesan) does not want us to speak up but rather to agree and listen . This was experienced in the closing of schools and parishes, women's rights and the pastoral needs of the LGBTQ community##

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## Q10

Topic 2: Listening Aspect of the Church Question 4: How can the Church create greater opportunities for people to be heard?

Have more listening sessions like these both locally and especially on the Diocesan level. Some groups and their needs are totally shut out##

The voice of Young Catholics need to be listened to more intently even if it is diverse #

Women need to be listened to seriously and not just paid lip service and given remote roles##

The Archdiocese needs to listen to the LGBTQ community and their spiritual needs esp. the Trans community##

When forums are held feedback should be given and not a "I heard you attitude" when in reality there was no listening.

Get rid of the hierarchical model and take on more of a synodal model

There should be the encouragement of regularly scheduled parish forums each year

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## Q11

Topic 3: Accompaniment/Journey Question 5: How can the Church help you and others to grow in your relationship with Jesus and your relationship with the Church?

Remove all gender barriers in the church#

Have more decision making done by Lay Leaders#

Have the Liturgies become more vibrant and inclusive of different styles and cultures, where everyone is encouraged to celebrate.

Encourage both in parish and diocese more intermingling after our Eucharistic celebrations.

Teach & Train our priests to have sermons that relate to the world and the issues that folk are facing in the world and not some esoteric theological or philosophical point.

Allow Women priests and married priests.

Greater focus on the Social Teachings of the Church and on Social Justice issues as Jesus did.

Do more to Love and Serve the People of God.

Encourage the formation in every parish of prayer groups and small Faith Communities.

Publicly repent of the sins of Racism , Homophobia and Sexism in the Church

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**Q12**

Topic 3: Accompaniment/Journey Question 6. What can the Church do to support people on their faith journeys?

Begin listening more deeply and intentionally to our youth and young adults and their Faith Needs

Listen! Listen! Listen!!

Support women's equality

Be more humble and less Authoritarian

Encourage prayer, particularly lay led prayer

Allow opportunities for the Laity to preach

Have a greater Care for the Earth

Be more technologically savvy

Promote Ecumenism locally and on the Archdiocesan level

A variety of Cultural expression in the Liturgy particularly in music.

Encourage Spiritual Direction

Stop telling us what we need to do and start listening to what we need spiritually

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**Q13**

Facilitator submitting summary contact information

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