

Sacramental Life, Rituals and Devotions

- Sacramental life is very important
- Promotion of the importance of the sacraments is required
- Comfort is found in celebrations like the Easter Vigil
- Church traditions and culture as well as the use of signs and symbols such as rosary beads is valued.
- Some come to church to receive the sacraments only
- The Sacrament of Ordination and the need for a non-discriminatory priesthood that permits the ordination of male, female, non-binary, single, married persons was mentioned in almost every session
- The need for more attention to increasing vocations: priests, deacons, religious was a common thread
- It was suggested that anyone who wishes should be permitted to receive the Eucharist, not just Catholics. Catholics should be aware of circumstances permitting non-Catholics to receive Eucharist

Leadership

- Trust in the church and its hierarchy has been eroded
- Modernize the views of the church as it relates to science and medicine - for example invitro- fertilization
- Provide new and increased opportunities for leadership roles for women
- Ensure equality of opportunity for men and women
- Modernize and review church policies
- Hold people in authority accountable for their actions
- Permit priests to marry
- Ordain women.
- Ordain female deacons
- Recognize/bless same sex marriages
- Recognize divorce. Annulment is a long and expensive process
- Enhanced outreach to youth, to the LGBTQ2 community, to those who feel alienated, to lapsed Catholics

Social Justice

- We need to acknowledge scandals such as indigenous issues, atrocities of residential schools, sexual abuse, and the need for associated settlement agreements
- We need to be more accepting and welcoming of all peoples: LGBTQ2 community, the homeless, the needy, the poor, the marginalized
- Concern was expressed over the wealth of the Vatican while small churches struggle for survival

Ministry of Jesus

- Provide increased opportunities for leadership roles of women
- Ensure equality of opportunity for men and women
- Hold those in authority accountable for their actions
- Modernize – move forward on how the academic community views science and medicine
- Permit marriage ceremonies outside of church buildings
- Enhance outreach to youth, to the LGBTQ2 community, to those who feel alienated, to lapsed Catholics
- Accept and welcome all peoples: LGBTQ2 community, the homeless, the needy, the poor, the marginalized, those in same-sex relationships
- Ordain women
- Concern was expressed about the opulence of the Vatican while small dioceses/churches experience financial difficulties
- Appreciation was expressed for/of the opportunity for a synod on synodality

Unity

- Mass provides a sense of being together
- Being part of church provides a sense of community and belonging

- Our faith unites us because we believe the same things
- The Church provides a history that binds us to our parents and grandparents
- Universality of church and its celebrations throughout the world is a unifying factor.

Involvement of the Laity

- Church needs to become more transparent and be active in involving Christ's faithful in decision making
- Clergy need to work harder at becoming involved with the laity outside of Mass
- Dialogue is needed
- Many things we value have been lost - family values, family prayer. Families are not involved in Church
- The synod should have happened earlier

Catechesis

- Educating youth and others about God, the Church and the sacraments is not working well
- Promoting the importance of the sacraments is essential
- Providing a better understanding of what it means to be Roman Catholic is needed
- Reducing discrepancies in the way individual priests interpret and relate Church policy is required
- Offering Bible study, missions etc. would be helpful for youth and adults
- Considering on-line opportunities for evangelization
- Committing to a public relations strategy would be helpful
- Explaining the current laws and regulations regarding same sex marriage ordination of women and other moral issues is required
- Communication of the church's position on abortion in extenuating circumstances is needed



Report on the Synodal Process

It was with gratitude to Pope Francis that the Diocese of Grand Falls began its Synodal Journey on the Solemnity of our Diocesan Patroness – Mary, the Immaculate Conception.

The committee began by familiarizing itself with the concept of SYNOD, the history of synods in the Church, the Holy Father's vision of a Synodal Church and the documents produced as guides.

Once familiar with the process, the committee set out on its journey. 48 listening sessions were held throughout the diocese with almost 700 persons participating. Based on responses heard and recorded, it was decided to create two reports: one to be forwarded to the Atlantic Region and a second to be used at our own diocesan and parish levels.

The following is a condensed of the parish responses to our synod meetings that were forwarded to the Atlantic Region.

In the coming weeks, you will be provided with the report of our own diocese and parishes in your weekly Sunday Bulletins.