



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, including Parish Core teams, Small Faith and Youth groups. 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 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,
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<https://www.bellarmino-chapel.org/about-us.html>



For a synodal Church
community | participation | mission