

Synodal Conversation with Santa Clara Graduate Program Pastoral Ministry
Student & Alumni Network and Friends
February 18, 2022
(36 participants)

What Has Been The Joy?



Church has been my constant throughout my life
All moments of life deepened and enriched by church
Universality of the Church (2x)
Sacraments
Eucharist (2x)
Liturgy
Celebrations that nurture the spirit
Universality of liturgy (2x)
Prayer (3x)
Church on a journey
Personal growth and transformation
Ability to serve in various ministries (2x)
Community (4x)
All are welcome, all belong
Dignity of the human person
Sense of Belonging (2x)
Working together/praying together
Brings joy to people
Rituals
Feeling mentored/empowered
Walking together with other seekers/faithful
Witnessing of faith in the wider community
Sense of God's love
Place to talk about my faith and my relationship to God
RCIA

Pastoral Ministries

Being a lay minister

Being a lector

Opportunities for Lay formation

Being a Eucharistic Minister

Faith Sharing Groups

Journeying with others

LA Congress

Home mass with fellowship

Involvement with Interfaith

Collaboration of clergy and laity

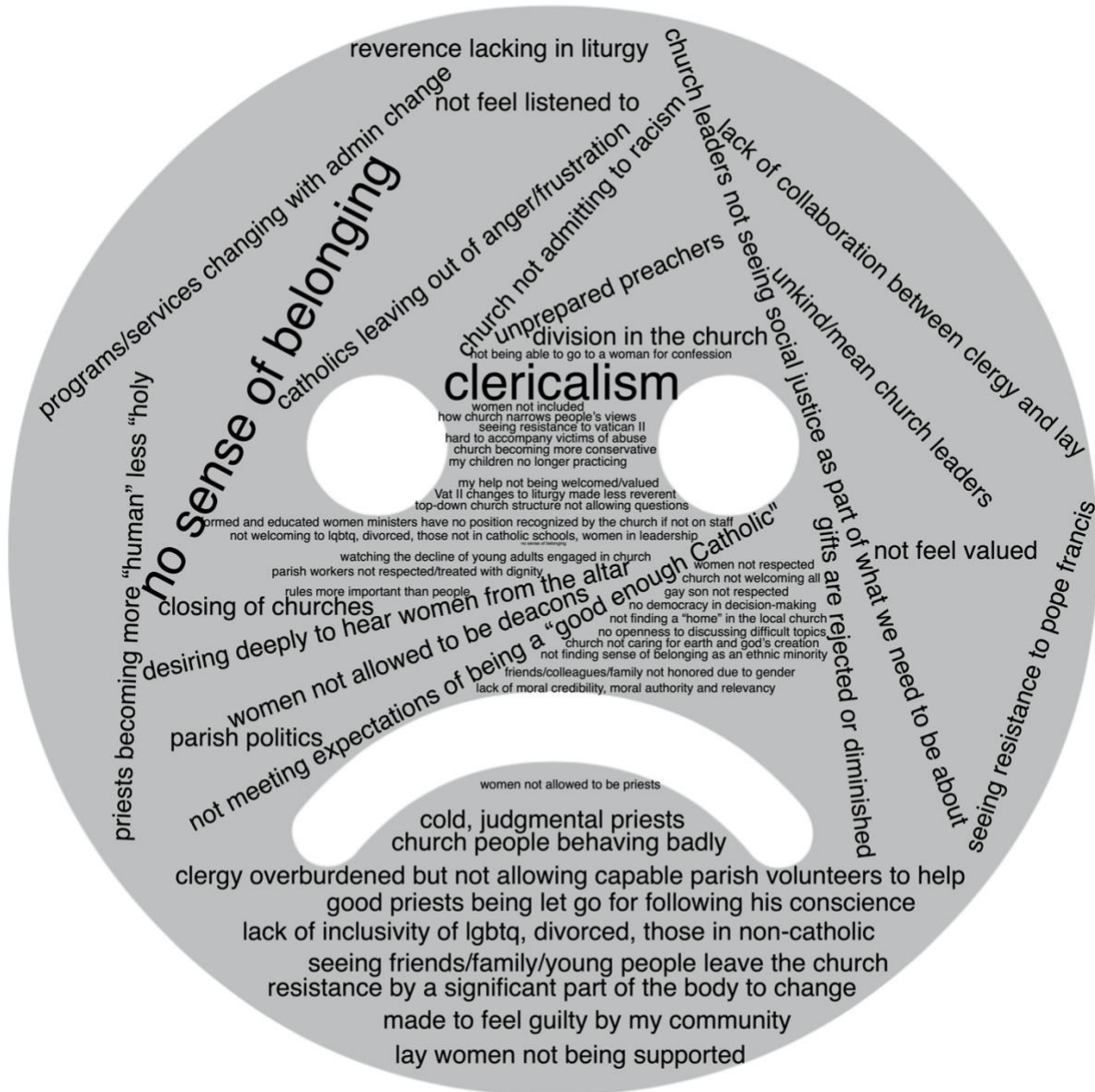
Collaboration of clergy and laity

Being personally known by the pastor

Being seen and supported

Being accompanied by mentors

What Has Been The Pains And Challenges?



Times when I don't fit in

Times when my gifts are rejected or diminished

Parish politics

Parish workers not respected/treated with dignity

Programs/services changing with change of administration

Good priests being let go for following his conscience
Priests becoming more “human”, less “holy”
Closing of churches
being made to feel guilty by my community
my help not being welcomed/valued
my children no longer practicing
Catholics leaving out of anger/frustration
How church narrows people’s views
No democracy in decision-making
Seeing friends/family/young people leave the church
Vatican II changes to liturgy made less reverent
Friends/colleagues/family not honored due to gender
Top-down church structure not allowing questions
Unkind/mean church leaders
Not finding sense of belonging as an ethnic minority
Hard to accompany victims of abuse
Women not included
Desiring deeply to hear women from the altar
Watching the decline of young adults engaged in church
Seeing resistance to Pope Francis
Seeing resistance to Vatican II
Division in the church
Resistance by a significant part of the Body to change
Lack of moral credibility, moral authority and relevancy
Lack of inclusivity of LGBTQ, divorced, those in non-Catholic schools, women in leadership

Clericalism (2x)

Lack of collaboration between clergy and lay

Unprepared preachers

Reverence lacking in liturgy

Not meeting expectations of being a “good enough Catholic”

Lay women not being supported

No openness to discussing difficult topics

Gay son not respected

Women not respected

Women not allowed to be deacons

Women not allowed to be priests

Cold, judgmental priests

Rules more important than people

Doesn't feel listened to

Church leaders not seeing social justice as part of what we need to be about

Church not welcoming ALL

Church not admitting to racism

Church not caring for earth and God's creation

Not being able to go to a woman for confession

Church becoming more conservative

Church people behaving badly

Formed and educated women ministers have no position recognized by the church if not on staff

Clergy overburdened but not allowing capable parish volunteers to help

Not finding a “home” in the local church

What Are Your Hopes and Dreams for The Church?



Women priests

When are women going to be equal?

A church that reaches out to all people and all can be heard

Focusing on needs and not church rules and regulations

Being a more missionary church

a more inclusive church as well as a wider and deeper synodality

Clergy-laity collaboration

Open to Interfaith

Synod process makes us hopeful that the church hierarchy is open to hear from ALL

A broader view on vocations

Fulfillment of Vatican II Church

Church that shows love for people

Want to see the Love of Christ embodied in our Church

Want to “open the windows and doors to the Spirit”

Want a Church in which everyone’s gifts are appreciated and put to use

Want more social justice: not just charity

Want less separation of clergy and laity

Sees hopes in Pandemic Church and Synodal Church

Growth

Unity

Healing

Inclusivity

True inclusivity of all people in call to leadership, including women

Collaboration

Homilies focused on social justice

Faith being passed on to others

My dream for the Church is my dream for the world

A church that co-creates with God