What Has Been The Joy?

- being a eucharistic minister
- dignity of the human person
- personal growth and transformation
- witnessing of faith in the wider community
- place to talk about my faith and my relationship to God
- universality of the church
- church on a journey
- sacraments
- walking together with other seekers/faithful
- pastoral ministries
- universality of liturgy
- being personally known by the pastor
- RCIA
- prayer
- eucharist
- liturgy
- celebration that nurture the spirit
- sense of belonging
- collaboration of clergy and laity
- working together/praying together
- home mass with fellowship
- faith sharing groups
- being accompanied by mentors
- journeying with others
- my constant throughout my life
- feeling mentored/empowered
- opportunities for lay formation/involvement with interfaith
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