



**Synod  
2021  
2023**  
For a synodal Church  
communion | participation | mission

## **St. Anne Synod Summary Report**

April 26, 2022

### **Top Themes**

The listening sessions at St. Anne were conducted in the first part of 2022. The co-leaders of the Synodal process were Rebecca Cortes and Marty Hillary, each of whom recruited other parishioners to lead Listening Sessions. The listening session questions that all participants were asked to reflect on were:

- A Synodal Church journeys together. How is this “journeying together” (shared faith experiences) happening today at St. Anne?
- What steps does the Holy Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in and improve our “journeying together” at St. Anne?

St. Anne listening session participants brought up 3 major themes: Community, Communication (for both St. Anne and larger Catholic Church), and Faith (mainly regarding the larger Catholic Church). In this report, each theme is represented by participants expressions of areas of strength and areas for growth and, as close as possible, using the words or phrases expressed by participants.

### **Community**

#### Areas of Strength:

- Young adults feel a strong sense of community (“Fr. Colin is very supportive of young adults.”)
- Fr. Colin is welcoming to new parishioners
- St. Anne has a long history of community among parishioners, and we don’t want to lose that.
- There is a sense of honesty and trust at St. Anne

#### Areas for Growth:

- Make welcoming and invitations intentional (e.g., establish welcoming committee for new families; parish leadership taking on a more visible role in welcoming parishioners to Mass and other events)
- Opportunities for social gathering to create sense of belonging (“Relationship with Jesus begins with our relationships with each other.”)
  - Pancake breakfast
  - Ministry fair
  - Holiday bazaar
- Leverage laity talents to relieve pressure on church leadership to do everything and to reduce perception that St. Anne has a “top-down” leadership style.

- Preach to promote a stronger sense of inclusion, acceptance, diversity and tolerance of wider community outside of St. Anne
- Make connections with other Christian and non-Christian faith communities on Queen Anne (“St. Anne’s used to be a leader [in social justice]]in the greater Queen Anne community.”)
- More visibility of women in leadership roles at St. Anne and the larger Church
- Stronger connections between the church and the school (Build a bridge of a variety of connections)
  - Provide regular updates in parish bulletin about school events – sports, debates, anything that parishioners can do to show their support for students
  - Increase parishioner awareness of school as ministry of church
  - Bring back youth-led Masses
  - Have more Masses for students so adults can share this time with students
  - Support for non-Catholic families at school
- Make formal small groups feel less exclusive (e.g., show parishioners how to start their own small groups around grief and loss, social justice)
- Create opportunities for multi-generational connections
- Find opportunities for older parishioners and long-time parishioners to have more involvement in parish activities (“We feel left out.”)
- Reduce perception of division between young adults and everyone else (“Church feels segregated.”)

## **Communication**

### Areas of Strength

- Fr. Colin’s vision for St. Anne (Need follow-up!)
- Fr. Colin’s communications about church finances
- Appreciation for weekly Flocknote messages
- Appreciation for weekly bulletin

### Areas for Growth

- Address grief and loss of pre-covid community to demonstrate support of a transition to “new” community (What can church leadership do to support greater sense of unity within the parish?)
- Better and more frequent communication about parish-wide events (“Communication must be consistent, accurate, inclusive, and inviting. Use bulletin, Flocknotes, email, announcements, etc. to full extent.”)
- Seek and communicate opportunities for parish involvement in social justice issues
- Address lack of transparency:
  - There remains mistrust of Church regarding sex abuse scandal
  - Provide regular updates about parish vision to reduce appearance that things are just happening without any input from parishioners (i.e., Manage changes in parish)

- To reduce perception of exclusivity, explain to parishioners why some people are invited to participate in small groups
- Explain Church's position on social issues to reduce perception that Church lacks transparency (e.g., Story about priest whose baptisms were invalidated because of a wrong word used during the sacramental process.)

**Faith**

Areas of Strength

- Fr. Colin's homilies are inspiring and promote a deepening relationship with God
- Online Mass during Covid was important to keep community connected, even remotely
- Appreciation for online faith formation (e.g. Wild Goose) during Covid
- Appreciation for Hallow app

Areas for growth

- Faith formation workshops like those that former leadership provided on a regular basis:
  - Development of faith
  - Being Catholic (Catholic social teaching) in current times
  - Saints
- Invite faith-filled speakers from outside the parish
- Invite deacons and women religious to provide homilies
- Connect homilies to personal life situations, current events in society, and in the larger Church
- Explain and connect homilies to the *process* of growing in conversion (don't assume that everyone is in the same place on their faith journey)
- Connect homilies to serving the wider community (i.e., social justice) in addition to focus on individual relationship with Jesus and God

Number of listening sessions = 12

**Age range of participants**

Ages	20-30s	40-60s	65+	UNKN	Total
Count	12	11	33	4	60

**Ethnicity**

White	Chinese	Vietnamese	Black	Hispanic	Asian	Multiracial	UNKN	Total
50	1	1	0	3	0	1	4	60

**Gender**

Female	Male	Total
37	23	60