



St. Margaret Parish ~ Synodality Efforts

Dear Friends,

In the Spring of 2022, St. Margaret Parish participated in the parish-level phase of the *Synod 2021-2023: For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission* process. There were two primary ways (noted below) that parishioners were able to directly participate in the synodality process. Attached to this brief greeting are the results of that process.

Synod Questionnaire: In March of 2022, parishioners were asked to answer a 6-question synod questionnaire, which invited participants to reflect on their experience of life as a member of the Catholic Church (at the parish, archdiocesan, and universal Church levels). Specifically, participants were asked to reflect and share a) what are we doing well and b) where can we improve.

The responses received were shared, unedited and in their entirety, with the Archdiocese of Baltimore (AOB). A summary sheet of themes noted in the responses was prepared by the St. Margaret Parish's synod team, and accompanied the detailed responses from participants. The input of St. Margaret was compiled with similar input from other parishes in the AOB, which is the basis for the AOB Synod Report.

Please see Appendix A for St. Margaret's Input to the AOB.

Round Table Conversations: In April of 2022, parishioners were invited to participate in round table discussions as a follow-up to the 6-question synod questionnaire.

Please see Appendix B for a summary of those discussions.

Thank you, so much, to all who have taken the time to share your reflections and thoughts on how you see the Holy Spirit moving in St. Margaret Parish, the Archdiocese of Baltimore, and the global Church. Your input is vital to the life and mission of the Church going forward!

We are yours in Christ,

Fr. Kevin and Synod Team for St. Margaret Parish



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Responses from Synod Questionnaire to Parishioners Submitted to the AOB for Inclusion in the diocesan level synod process Dated April 14, 2022

Summary Points:

47 Respondents

Interest in Small Group/Round Table Conversations? 12 Yes; 14 Maybe

Themes:

- Evidence of division, hurt, and pain.
 - Essential elements of Catholic Identity
 - Ecclesiology
 - Around synod (purpose and intent)
 - Balance between doctrine/dogma and pastoral practices
- Experience of faith is deeply felt, and it is personal and communal
- People encounter God and are drawn deeper into faith in a wide variety of ways

About your experience of journeying together in the parish

Light: a) Mass, b) outreach, c) devotionals and spiritual materials mailed to parishioners, d) personal prayer, e) adoration, f) increased opportunity for confession, g) faith sharing groups (many were named), h) comfort of our rituals in these tumultuous times, i) video reflections and streaming of Mass during COVID, j) seeing God in personal experiences, k) serving

Shadow: a) More creative ways to engage youth/young adults. b) Here are two points of divisiveness/challenges, varying comments around these points were mentioned frequently: 1) How to present and accompany people re: challenging church teaching e.g. some strongly advocate for more inclusive and compassionate stance toward people who feel excluded (e.g. annulment process, LGBTQ+), some strongly advocate presenting firm stance on teachings in the face of societal pressures, 2) Mass experience (length, music, pacing, reverence, more Latin, less Latin, etc...) c) wide variety of expectations re: homilies. d) Closing church doors and suspending Mass during COVID was painful. e) Better developed small group program f) Lack of response from parish leadership on Pastoral Plan g) more intentional formation for discipleship (catechesis and evangelization)

Specific Comments: Increase Friday Office Hours, emails to parish not being responded to.

About your experience of journeying together in the AOB

Theme noted: There is a disconnect between AOB and people in the pew. (e.g. “I don’t feel connected ...” “I don’t know what they do...” ~ 1/3 of respondents left question unanswered). Division, hurt and pain noted above, continues.

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Light: a) Care of the poor (Catholic Charities, CRS, Annual Appeal), b) emails from Archbishop, c) Abp's support for Basilica, d) SM's sister parish (St. Anthony), e) being connected to other AOB parishes online because of COVID

Shadow: Two most common comments were concerning: 1) understanding the needs of young people and actively working to meet their spiritual needs and 2) significant amount of hurt over AOB's response to COVID. Other common points included: a) Catechesis and inclusion (some say need to take a firmer stand on sin, church teaching and access to sacraments, others say need to be more welcoming of those traditionally marginalized – divorced, LGBTQ+) b) perceived lack of support of and care for priests, c) leadership is not strong and d) money matters emphasized too much.

About your experience of journeying together in the Universal Church

Theme noted: some are skeptical of the synodality process and its purpose. People are conflicted about Pope Francis and his leadership. The lack of clarity re: some church teachings and inconsistent response to those who challenge, disregard, or do not follow church teaching are weighing on people.

Light: a) Pope Francis' words, actions, leadership, b) Church's role worldwide in speaking out for human rights, caring for needs of vulnerable people, defense of life in all stages. c) Rich history of Church, rooted in apostles (sacraments). d) Universality of mission and worship (fosters unity and solidarity).

Shadow: a) poor leadership within the hierarchy that is sending confusing/conflicting messages, particularly around annulments, divorce and remarriage, LGBTQ+, and who can receive communion (e.g. pro-choice politicians). b) Perceived corruption within the hierarchy. c) young people are not being ministered to well

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Actual Unedited Responses

About your experience of journeying together in the parish:

The Light: Who or what inspires and lifts you to God? What is inviting you to deeper faith? Where are you feeling drawn to walk with others within and beyond our community? What things strengthen the bonds between us?

1. Left Blank
2. God gave me a singing voice and I have belonged to the choir since 1978
3. Celebrating Mass each week brings me closer to God. Reading the church bulletin and participating in outreach activities like collecting toiletries, making casseroles or donating food help me to help God's people. I find that daily morning readings from books given to me from St. Margaret's help to set the tone for the day and help to guide me in the right direction. Quiet morning prayer of the Hail Mary and Anima Christi help me to reflect on my Christianity and connection to the Church.
4. The peace and comfort I feel when praying and reflecting makes my relationship with God deeper. Helping the poor and those less fortunate than me in the name of the Church gives me hope that other will feel the joy of having Christ in their life. Also supporting Catholic schools gives hope to future generations to better understand the love God has for his people.
5. I have met many good people in our parish. When I see them doing good deeds, I want to be part of that. Working with others in church activities has made me take a greater interest in the church.
6. The community outreach efforts, to help the poor, are a good idea--though I haven't felt able to participate due to the pandemic.
7. The need for God's guidance in this time of stress in our country and the world. We need help. We get it from our church leaders and our rituals
8. Celebrants that stay close to the Word and remind us of where we should stand in today's world with regards to our Catholic faith. There are plenty of outreach opportunities and taking advantage of those would help be part of the community and beyond. The various ways of worship (high mass, regular mass, praise and worship hour, adoration, etc) strengthens our bond.

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9. Pre Covid the sense of Family in the Parrish . I hope it can be reclaimed.
10. St. Margaret's strong outreach, accessible Adoration, and availability of confession and teaching Masses.
11. The Women's Bible Study group
12. The Eucharist
13. I think that St. Margaret parish does great work in leading us to Jesus. There are many programs, activities, etc. Our priests are good men.
14. Opportunities to help others that tap into my strengths be that in the church community or the wider secular community.
15. Daily prayer, all the efforts of the clergy to share their faith with us, people in the church who are friendly and care about us when they don't always see us at Mass, ways we can donate to others in need.
16. A homily that address the scripture of the day and how to apply it to my daily life. Seeing the generosity of other members of St. Margarets
17. My faith was strengthened when my daughter was murdered in 2012. God was with and continues to sustain me and my family through this to this day. We know that he is on control.
18. Honestly, my faith walk has been tremendously helped by the different people on the Sirius XM Catholic and EWTN Channels. I feel there are no small Catholic groups in the community and therefore no way to strengthen the bonds of the community.
19. Eucharist & Eucharistic adoration. Also the Men's group, and bible study.
20. Inspiring homilies and church missions many times help me. Any type of faith formation groups can be inspiring. Or perhaps having a retreat at our parish for women would be nice. Something that all could go to without travel expenses.
21. "My prayerfulness inspires and lifts me to God. I have found more meaning in that through various experiences at St. Margaret that are offered to parishioners. I am so appreciative of the St Margaret faith community for strengthening my worship life. Experiences that are offered are immeasurable at St. Margaret and we can take advantage of as many or as little as necessary. Serving my faith community is how I feel strengthens bonds among all of us."

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22. Books of scripture & reflection provided to parishioners. Spirit of donating to community groups. Prayer group
23. Small faith group, weekly donations and outreach to the marginalized, Hope sign that St. Margaret continues to support youth and young adult ministry, habitat for humanity panel build
24. Friday Adoration inspires and invites a deeper faith. Fishers of Men group calls me to walk beyond my own community.
25. First: the Mass is what inspires our family and lifts our souls to God. I am thankful every day for St. Margaret making it possible to worship God at Mass at multiple times every weekday. What a blessing!

This is complemented by two other things the parish has made far more available in the last two years: confession (at three different times, every week!) and Eucharistic Adoration on Mondays and Fridays. I pray this growth will continue. Mass, Reconciliation and Adoration are our families spiritual anchors.

Beyond that, small groups have been helpful for both my wife and I - not just to grow in knowledge of the Word incarnate, but to build up meaningful Christian friendships with others in our same state of life. We attend different groups that are exclusively for men or women, and we prefer that.

Service, too, unites members of the wider parish community. In that respect, Fishers of Men has been a great blessing over the past year. The parish's commitment to the poor is self-evident, and runs deep."

26. I am unsure, I wasn't borne catholic but became catholic in high school. I guess the Holy Spirit is moving me to understand and get more involved with God's word.
27. Mass and Eucharistic Adoration bring us to the heart of the Church and the heart of Jesus. Bringing our people closer to Christ should be our main focus. We need to speak the truth in love to others and live authentic Catholicism with no compromises to the truth. Speaking falsehoods to others to affirm them in their sinfulness is not loving or compassionate.
28. Attendance at 6:30 AM mass inspires me and comforts me. I am the sacristan on Fridays, and reading scripture helps me to feel connected. I am also a member of a prayer group- the members inspire me and praying with them enables me to strengthen bonds with them and the community.
29. I feel the invitation to deeper faith within the Parish through the growing number of opportunities for formation, prayer, and service. I'm thinking of the Holy Hours on Friday, the Fishers of Men outreach ministry, Fr Michael's teaching Masses and other similar events.

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Obviously just being together more often in the post-covid era we're entering into is a great source of bonding for the parish as well. I also think Fr Kevin's passion for the simple work of providing the casseroles is important and does draw us together for the purpose of serving others.

30. The Pastor, Priests, and Deacons of St. Margaret do a fantastic job preaching the Gospel, even the harder teachings on sin, sacrifice, and the culture of life. They yearn for all of us to become Saints. Great support from the Parish staff who work very hard pulling together events, executing outreach, feeding the poor, faith formation, and shepherding the constant flurry of activities. Lots of small groups flourishing calling men and women to deeper spirituality - Fishers of Men, Legion of Mary, Ladies Bible Studies, Adult Education, RCIA etc. With COVID, we now have experts in broadcasting Masses and posting video messages.

31. Who or what inspires and lifts you to God?

Anyone living out Christ's message to love others, all others.

Father Kevin and Nina's work to challenge us and coordinate us as a community and as individuals to do social justice in so many forms.

Words/actions that emphasize the commonality of man, that we are in this together, words that unify us all this helps me to see the face of Jesus in others and in myself as I try my best to love others.

Words/actions that are not angry, snarky, but calming, loving, merciful. Words that remind me of God's unconditional love and mercy, His Hope rather than fear. All this gives me courage and hope to approach God with all my brokenness. All this ultimately lifts me to God.

What is inviting you to deeper faith? My own life, where I meet Jesus every day. In the memories of the life of my daughter who lived, suffered and died but who lived knowing how to love as Jesus loves.. The life of Jesus. The Gospel message. Sharing the Eucharist in a community that celebrates the face of Christ in the diversity of mankind. All church leaders, teachers and priests who speak in ways that invite me in, that feels inclusive instead of exclusive. Plain spoken homilies that offer life experiences and shares the vulnerability of priest/deacons who speak to me, invites me into a deeper reflection of my own faith. Makes me feel safe to do so. Father Kevin and Michelle Sullivan excelled at this. Feel their approach is more inviting, and enveloping of a wider community of Catholics.

Where are you feeling drawn to walk with others within and beyond our community? Lately I am not feeling drawn to walk within my church community so I contribute to social justice efforts and walk among another church community. Beyond my church community I have been drawn to connect person to person with people in need each week, making and delivering food, making blankets, spending time with, calling and being with, exploring a community that may need/want my help.

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What things strengthen the bonds between us? My catholic faith will always remain. Jesus. the Holy Spirit. God. My relationship with all three.

32. I like the songs during Mass, but not the ones we sing... they are too long, too loud, irritating. Sorry, I wish we could get all to sing like they mean it,
33. Our 2 associate pastors are wonderful examples of preaching the truth. It makes me want to be a better Christian and to embrace a life of prayer and service. In the last 2 years I attend morning Mass at least 3 times a week. Have joined a local Catholic Men's group and become a reconciliation usher. These role models are what has been lacking in my Catholic journey.
34. St. Margaret's does a good job with their community outreach, casseroles for the poor, gift cards at Christmas and Easter, food collections, and various other collections for the poor and needy.

The priests are not afraid to preach the true faith of the Church, even when they know there will be push back. They need to continue and increase this. The parishioners need to hear what Jesus teaches. The road to heaven is narrow, and few chose it. The priests/deacons have 8-10 minutes a week to fight against the evils of society. Society has 10,070 minutes a week to push their agenda. Would appear the priests/deacons are at a huge disadvantage.

The parish support for respect life is good. Baby bottles, diapers and various other collections conducted throughout the year.

Eucharistic processions around downtown Bel Air are a good public demonstration of our faith and support for life.

Eucharistic adoration on Mondays and especially Fridays are spiritually beneficial, and they include the opportunity to go to confession.

The Fisher of Men group combines fraternity, prayer and public outreach with projects to help the needy.

Exodus 90 groups for men, assist them through Lent to reorient their lives to Christ.

The opportunity for daily 6:30 Mass.

35. First of all, thank you for giving me this opportunity. I appreciate Father Kevin's invitation to participate in the Synod.
- My love for the Trinity inspires, lifts and draws me into a deeper relationship to God. The Holy Spirit draws me into scripture and the need to help others understand it. As a Eucharistic Minister of Holy Communion, I need to take Jesus to others, particularly in assisted living facilities. St Margaret school keeps the otherwise aging population younger. Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation are readily available at St Margaret's parish.

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The terrific clergy and the dedicated holy men and women of St Margaret strengthens the bonds between us.

36. Sunday readings and random acts of kindness by coworkers, family and community.
37. The depth and variety of Outreach opportunities is appreciated. Being notified of needs in the community allows me to feel closer to God and my neighbors, even during busy times. The "Connecting the Dots" reflections in the bulletin provide a reminder and more insight on Sunday readings, especially since I tend to read them mid-week. When I was part of the Walking with Purpose group, I felt more connected to others in the parish. (I was not able to participate in a group this year, but hope to soon.)"
38. Monday Eucharistic Adoration is one way my faith is strengthened. The faith community that I have is very important. It developed when my children attended SM-School. The other parents we met that had similar faith and values created a strong 'village' that exists to this day.
39. Deep caring for one another, wanting to share the best of our world, and a God's strength fellowship with humanity ... That's what a pray for.
40. The sacraments.
41. I enjoy Fr Michael's Teaching Masses. I am a product of the CCD program and don't remember being taught about the parts of the Mass.
42. Left Blank
43. I enjoy the activities that help community and those in the faith. Continue them please and advertise them more.
44. The legion of Mary helps us to become what we promised at Baptismal. And touches on all of these points. We are not perfect but we try. There are organizations that are evangelization such as the Fishers of Men. Also the Tuesday night events at New Life Charismatic community are good at evangelization. We are called to be saints at our baptism. The Legion of Mary is a pathway to /evangelizing and helps us to become our baptismal promises. Can we do more to promote, somehow the various organizations here at ST. Margaret to achieve this. Ecumenism: We share our food, the thrift store. Are there things we can do to bring the area Churches together? Christmas caroling, feast, picnics - we can invite other churches. St. Joseph (parish) had an ecumenical meeting often -- all the pastors, clergy would participate.
45. The mass celebration lifts me up and inspires me (if the music is engaging, if the celebrant is joyful and vibrant, if the homily is meaningful and challenging). Father Michael's

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celebrations are inspiring, especially with contemporary music at the Mission. Opening myself to prayer and the holy spirit invites me to a deeper faith. Our centering prayer group has been very supportive of my faith development, as well as other small faith sharing groups. Serving with others on ministry teams has greatly strengthened my relationship with other parishioners.

46. Desire to learn the scriptures more deeply. Desiring peace and learning what the Bible teaches about resting in Him. Would love adult Sunday school and a more robust small group structure to build the network of relationships to learn and grow in Gods Word.
47. Eucharist. Sacraments. Good preaching like Father's Matt & Michael. Confession especially. Catholic Charismatic Renewal Movement of the Holy Spirit. Cohesive family and its faithful members. Fellowship; members of CMF, New Life Charismatic Ecumenical Christian Community, Lee Way, Bible Study, Contemplative Prayer Group, Diocesian Miracle Healing Team. Fishers of Men Group, retreats. Presenting LISS. Feeling drawn to sidewalk evangelization.

The Church has in recent decades, since the start of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal Movement in 1957 at Duquesne University, accepted this move of the Holy Spirit. About 1,500,000 Catholics have experienced the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, and the Life In The Spirit Seminars (LISS), the basic experience of this renewal of the Sacraments of Initiation. [REDACTED] mentioned that the LISS should be a basic part of the Diaconate Program. And also normative in all Seminaries. The Holy Spirit has been the almost hidden Third Person of the Trinity. The famous Malines Documents promoted by Pope Francis are the basic magisterial and theological basis for the Church's understanding of this move of God, a current of Grace for the Church. Every parish should have the LISS ongoing.

You do.

SILENCE. I don't know [REDACTED] if I express my viexpressed my feeling about the expressions of prayer adequately. The 3 main expressions of prayer I usually like to use as mental, meditative and contemplative. The ACTS acronym seems to be under the 1st expression. Contemplative may be the most imp, where we try to "be, and know that I sm God." These three main expressions do not seem to be learned well in the diaconate program, in seminary, in schools, or in typical mystyogia (sp?) in parishes. Contemplation may being recovered in the past 50 or 60 years, but we have barely touched the surface. Although some monk orders have preserved it, notably the Cistercians. Tx for your patience, [REDACTED]

Re: Parish

The Shadow: What disappoints you or leaves you apathetic or even put off? Where do we need to be more intentional? Where can we do better?

1. Left Blank

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2. My grandchild is. A lesbian and when I am told not to love her to the fullest, I get angry
3. The treatment and exclusion of the gay community in Church saddens my heart. Especially the young people who are living their truth are treated with disdain, told they are going to hell and scared away from the Church that nurtured them as children. God loves all the children he made in his image, why can't the Church?
4. Not meeting the needs of the younger generations , only a handful of marriages take place at St Margaretschurch. Most couples would like to get married on Saturday evening. If 4 pm mass was moved to the mission, Catholic marriages could take place in the church. Also the current rules related to annulment are driving people to other faiths. The Catholic Church in my generation has always played the guilt card. This has driven people away from the church.
5. I am disappointed with the attitude towards the gay community. More should be done to make them feel wanted in the church. Also we need to show more respect for divorced people. Attitudes and people change over the years. The church needs to be more forgiving in this area.
6. I don't find the Mass all that stimulating. There's nothing wrong, per se--it's just not my style of music and worship, in general.
7. When the priest ignore what is going on in our daily lives and in the world. We need Religious leaders to help us understand why God lets bad things happen to good people. It's OK to talk to us about local and national problems while we are thinking about God and the latest fund raiser
8. When celebrants rush through the mass, and specifically the Consecration; the fear of having masses shut down again; negative comments from parishioners that want to be Catholic only when convenient. We can do better by sharing the same messages, keep holy the sacraments, and step outside the box of comfort.
9. Frs Mike & Matt's Arrogance in extending the length of 4 o'clock Mass or any service they are involved . Their bullying reminds me of the predators of my youth.
10. Feel good homilies are nice, but leave you yearning for something more. We need more instruction on Catholic doctrine and dogma.
11. See some things as going backwards
12. The Pope

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13. I feel that the hymnal used at the Mission leaves a lot to be desired. Many people do not sing. I think that this is because most of the hymns are not familiar. The hymnal used at the church is much better. Also, the order of worship should contain all the words of the psalm. We have cantors with beautiful voices but it is difficult, if not impossible, to understand the words of the psalms. Fr. Kevin has told me that there is not enough room to include all the words. I think that we could make room by eliminating the words of the Sanctus. Most people already know those words.
14. Disappointed when homilies are religious word salads. Drawing from personal experiences I find to be most enlightening.
15. Left blank
16. Homilies that become political. Using Latin in the Mass is surprising. We left that years ago.
17. Nothing
18. I am disappointed with the knowledge, given past experiences, of being taken seriously when commenting about various Church issues. I still think, overall, I have no say and the parish still has too many "clique" groups of people. If an email is sent, it would be nice if it was addressed and not just ignored!
19. Office hours on Friday's seem too short for me.
20. "Ridiculous sermons which DO NOT EMPHASIZE GOD'S LOVE. People need ideas about how they can transform their EVERYDAY LIVES. PRACTICAL WAYS. NOT TALKING ABOUT HOW HOMOSEXUALS NEED TO GO TO A PLACE WHERE THEY CAN BE REHABILITATED!!!! Didn't Christ say all are welcome! Didn't He say to love one another. Where is that message?"
21. I personally am not apathetic or put off by any issues within our parish, and I do not feel qualified to say where the parish can or should do better.
22. Homilies often lacking in spiritual depth or just read by the priest or include reference to a social issue. I want the homily to enrich my understanding of scripture and offer ways I can be a better Christian.
23. While I love the Eucharist, I am concerned that our liturgies do not challenge us to be Eucharistic people— people of care, compassion and understanding that support the dignity and sacredness of all people. Homilies are often negative and don't uplift the goodness of the people while inspiring us to more fully do the work of the gospel. Atmosphere where LGBTQ+ are not welcomed. No mention of racism, sexism, immigration, poverty and violence that systematically detract from the dignity of God's human creations.

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24. n/a
25. "First and foremost, the parish should focus on excellent liturgy, and cultivating reverence among the faithful. Perhaps the 10:00am Mass could be treated as a "high" Mass, with all of the "smells and bells" that the Church lays out in Sacrosanctum Concilium. We must strive every day to restore a sense of the sacred, led by our spiritual fathers. Some of the small groups with which we have been involved have, over time, turned into seedbeds for heresy. The parish should be more cautious in which events / groups it supports, and more intentional in forming small group leaders.
26. Our priests need support from our pastors, bishops and up the line. They are called to speak the truth however hard it might be at times. It is easy to stand up and say "not to kill" but hard to say your second marriage is not recognized by the church; having sex outside marriage is wrong; gay relationships are sinful. The church needs to protect the priests from the social media movement.
27. The parish response to COVID was a bit extreme. We needed a place to come to get closer to God and to get away from the fearmongering of society. There were plenty of places outside of the Church to get information on COVID and to make adult decisions about the virus. We didn't need to be preached at to "stay safe". The Churches role is to be concerned about the safety of our souls, not the safety of our bodies. We can all have different opinions about how to handle the virus, but a priest's, bishop's or even pope's opinion is not more relevant than anyone else's opinion.
28. It is a Patriarchal organization. You have no control over this, but the Diaconate should be open to women.
29. I'm not really apathetic or put off about anything in the parish.
30. Faith formation and attracting young adults is the biggest drawback I see and hear weekly. St. Margaret does a great job with the school, but all Catholic communities continue to lose our youth to the culture and more "entertaining" Christian options. We have a beautiful Liturgy and of course the Eucharist, but we need to do more and learn from our Christian brethren how they bring youngsters into the fold and learn to love Jesus. I don't claim to know the answer, but I frequently hear Mountain Christian and local Young Life ministries do it well. They seem to rely on smaller groups with competent youth leaders who encourage fun, Scripture studies, and developing personal relationships with the Lord. We need to learn how to do that, and keep our eyes open for young energetic leaders to develop their talents to serve the youth.

We have wonderful musicians and voices at St. Margaret, but we need to make the music more contemporary and moving for our youth, and frankly our adults. Something along the

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lines of the music Deacon Danny does at Adoration events and Kevin McNamara does for New Life. It would be a good trial to approach (not copy) what the Church of the Nativity in Timonium does with their music program at one of our Masses. Some bass, guitar, percussion, keyboards, a good sound system, and upbeat/contemporary music would better engage our youth and most adults than solo organ/piano music from centuries ago.

31. What disappoints you or leaves you apathetic or even put off?

The trend of politics entering into my church.

The right wing conservative lean that is thinly veiled by some priests and, at times deacons.

The trend of my church becoming a one or two issue church.

The loss of addressing sensitive issues such as LGBTQ with love rather than hate.

The feeling given from deacons and some priests that you can't be a democrat and catholic at the same time. That if you vote Democrat you must be for abortion.

The snarky, thinly veiled anger I heard over and over again in homilies that encouraged a self-righteous state of mind with those sitting in the pews and then I began to hear its echo in conversations with some parish members.

The trend to tell us who is saying mass so we can avoid priests but allowing the priests to continue to represent Jesus' message in twisted and hurtful ways. I could never encourage my children to come and hear this. It is not Jesus' message.

The trend to pound into us weekly, our sinful broken state and need for confessions. Fr Mike used to say you don't have to come to confession weekly! We do have our own line of communication with God too! The trend to make us feel the need to SEE THE PRIESTS for our personal experience of confessions even for minor infractions.

Where do we need to be more intentional? Our outreach is the saving grace of our church. I believe an in-reach to do small kindnesses, meals for the sick in our own parish, as the school community does would help school families bond to the church parish in a more personal way.

Where can we do better? Stop making it the business of homilies to judge others, any others. Go back to focusing on the love, the tremendous, powerful love of God, the merciful forgiveness of Jesus, the power of the Holy Spirit within each of us to live a better life, love a little better day by day.

32. Left Blank

33. A place that is open to private prayer at any time on the campus. As a former elementary student the school uniforms look tacky and too casual.

34. The biggest dark spot for the Church and it was not just St. Margaret's but all Catholic Churches, was the closing of their doors during the pandemic. Denying the sacraments to the people. This was scandalous. There is FAR too much concern placed on my physical health, which is finite, instead of my eternal health, which is infinite.

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Even if the churches were forced to close, which I believe to be unconstitutional, I heard and/or saw little to no push back against these measures from pastors and bishops

Although the priests/deacons do a good job professing the faith, there is room for improvement. The pull of society is very strong, and much of what society claims is false and evil. This must be countered. The people must be told what is right and wrong in plain English, and then because of free will they can decide. There is too much fake compassion preached, do whatever you feel is right. This leads people to make the wrong decisions.

I do not know if this is done at St. Margaret's or not, but if local Catholic politicians that publicly support abortion are presenting themselves for Communion, after being warned about the sacrilege involved in this action, Communion should be denied. Giving Communion to politicians supporting abortion is in direct violation of Canon law.

Attendance at St. Margaret's has steady decline over the last 10 years. People are leaving the Church in huge numbers. The closing of churches for 3+ months and the continuation of live streaming Masses have led many to the conclusion that attending Mass in person is not important.

The parishes need to stop fearing legal liability for things that they do, for example, closing churches for pandemics and weather. People need to be free to make their own decisions and then accept responsibility for them, and not be looking to sue someone for their decisions.

35. I am not disappointed by any means. My perception is that St Margaret parish serves their parishioners and the outer community very well.
36. Persistent evil and crime
We can continue to reach out to the poor and set good examples to others
37. Unifying the church and bringing more young adults and families into it in a meaningful manner is crucial. I'd like to see more Bible studies geared toward parishioners of all ages, but especially the young. I'd like to see more activities that are faith-based to involve families with very young children. COVID restrictions have definitely hampered this. It is time to make this a focus.

I dislike how social media has been used to separate church members and misinterpret doctrine. I'm not sure what can be done, but it is a point to consider.

Due to health concerns, I cannot attend any services that utilizes incense. I truly wish the use of incense was removed from all services. (I appreciate advance warning for when it will be used. Thank you for that!)

38. Music liturgy focused at our young. The 11am Mass never lived up to what I thought it should be. Including some contemporary christen music, either played on instruments or

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from recording would be nice. Using the projectors to better engage the congregation both before and during Mass would be welcomed.

39. In a month and a half I'll be 80!

I miss, almost grieve for, the Catholic Church Mass as I've experienced Mass years ago (dignity) and as I experience it now. I cannot understand attending Mass in 'blue-jeans' and a 'halter-top' with 'tummy' showing. Talking openly (like a Town Hall meeting) before Mass begins. These things disturb me because they show disrespect for the Mass and God.

40. Some of the homilies make me feel that I will never be worthy of God and will never go to Heaven. The music has become old and stale. Most of the people around me do not seem to know the songs and do not join in. It is way too solemn. Music should always be reverent but people need to feel lifted up. I understand that it is currently Lent and there is a different type of music. However, there is very little making a joyful noise. I am actually considering joining a different parish because of the demanding homilies and the slow and heavy music.

41. More chicken dinners

42. Left blank

43. I wish the priests would prepare homilies for the youth and not the elderly. My children tell me that all the time. Your mass is your future do not forget it.

44. I don't know

45. I haven't seen much of a response from parish leadership on the report from the Pastoral Planning team. Thousands of parishioners responded to surveys and many participated in focus groups. This comprehensive report included specific recommendations on how the parish can improve. I fear that this document may just collect dust on a shelf and the parish will miss an opportunity to renew itself. There needs to be increased efforts to reach out and meet the needs of youth (especially post-confirmation youth) and young adults with families.

46. Would love adult Sunday school and a more robust small group structure to build the network of relationships to learn and grow in God's Word.

47. 30 or 40 decades of poor exegesis. Bishop Lori emphasized ongoing adult spiritual education. This decade-old lake must be strengthened, in parishes and especially in Seminaries where the root of poor teaching is found.

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The Spiritual Warfare, constant battles the Church has to confront (look at Ukraine) has been neglected since the end of the 2nd world War. Many Catholics do not believe in hell, or a state of life apart from God. Many, including Priests and Church leaders, do not believe in an evil presence which we call the devil, and evil spirits. Devil is the father of lies, and best one he pulls of is th convince us he does not exist. This also starts in our Seminaries and is wide spread. The Pope is aware of this and has required Diocese to return to having exorcist. Many helps in this area have been founded in recent years.

Evangelization. Low expectations of inspiring every Catholic to be a missionary disciple, to be always prepared to share the gospel, always.

About your experience of journeying together in the AOB:

The Light: Who or what inspires and lifts you to God? What is inviting you to deeper faith? Where are you feeling drawn to walk with others within and beyond our community? What things strengthen the bonds between us?

1. Fr Michael's homilies and talks inspire me. The Holy Spirit is drawing me to delve deeper into my faith. Lenten Missions and retreats are great ways for our community to strengthen our faith.
2. My faith in the Church and God is what carries me through the bad times
3. Left blank
4. Our pastor, Msgr Kevin Schenning inspires me to be involved in the Church which makes me feel closer to God. His words and actions make you want to get involved and strengthen your faith . His passion in helping the poor makes me proud to be Catholic, which I turn draws me closure to God.
5. Left blank
6. I'm not sure, frankly, what the Archdiocese does.
7. Reaching out to help the poor
8. Left blank
9. Fr Kevin . The Lay run Noon Stations.
10. Understanding our faith better leads us to appreciate and cherish our faiths traditions, like the rosary prior to Mass, worthy reception of the Eucharist.
11. Nothing really

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12. A priest or deacon who speaks from the heart
13. I much more think of myself as a member of St. Margaret parish and as a Roman Catholic than as a person of the Archdiocese of Baltimore. This is probably my fault, but it is true nonetheless.
14. Left blank
15. Left blank
16. I appreciate homilies that discuss the readings of the day and how I can apply those readings to my daily life.
17. Left blank
18. I refer to my answers to the same questions concerning the parish.
19. Left blank
20. Left blank
21. Left blank
22. "The Catholic Review online. Missions and prayer services"
23. Catholic Relief Services, Catholic Charities — these organizations meet the corporal and spiritual needs of people — all people regardless of race, creed or lifestyle
24. N/A
25. (Most of our interactions with the Church come at the local parish level.)
I am grateful for the Archbishop's support of tradition (and Tradition) especially at the Basilica of the Assumption. The Anniversary Mass at the Basilica was a major spiritual highlight for our family in 2021, as has been the institution of perpetual Adoration in the city. Our city, our state, our Church and our world need more of Jesus.
26. I am unsure, I wasn't borne catholic but became catholic in high school. I guess the Holy Spirit is moving me to understand and get more involved with God's word.
27. Our diocese has so many beautiful churches and shrines that are wonderful places to renew our faith. We also have many programs to feed the poor, care for the sick, and perform the other works of mercy.

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28. Left blank
29. Within of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, I feel drawn to walk with others in faith through the Lenten Appeal and through the communications from Archbishop Lori and the pastoral care he provides through them.
30. The Archdiocese of Baltimore executes the mission of Christ - educating the clergy and laity, feeding/sheltering/educating the poor, helping the unborn and families, fighting bad and supporting good legislation. Faith Fest from a couple of years ago was excellent.
31. Left Blank
32. The program to make sure all are being fed in our community.
33. Rosary rallies and processions. Adoration. Hearing at morning Mass about the saint feast day and related stories wants me to look deeper and get more information on a particular saint.
34. I have little direct involvement with the Archdiocese, so I will combine my general comments about the Archdiocese and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)
- The Archdiocese has many fine charitable organizations. My wife and I have benefited tremendously from Catholic Charities from where we adopted our six children, now grown.
35. "It is basically the same as above. My love for the Trinity inspires, lifts and draws me into a deeper relationship to God. The Holy Spirit draws me into scripture and the need to learn more and help others understand it. The Lenten Mission led by Bishop Bruce Lewandowski will increase the bond between the Archdiocese and St Margaret parishioners and me. The Faith Fest was terrific a few years ago.
- Adoration: There is an abundance of times of Adoration from different parishes throughout the diocese. The Knights of Columbus or Fishers of Men seem to spread the word but the Archdiocese seems to be quiet on these events. Publishing these events will offer us a chance to visit Christ in other parishes. Publication will offer those passing through the high-speed and stress of interstate travel a chance to slow down a bit and visit our Lord in peace.
36. Kindness of priests, friends other community members
37. The Archbishop's messages which are sent by email help us feel more united as an Archdiocese.

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38. Who or what inspires and lifts you to God?...a sense of a bigger purpose for my life.
What is inviting you to deeper faith? The daily readings and reflection video's from the Laudate app. The Wednesday homily of Fr. Barron (upcoming Sunday Mass).
Contemporary Christian Music. All of these exposures to God are available on-line if one knows where to find it. Perhaps we can use some of this or at least inform the community of their existence. Where are you feeling drawn to walk with others within and beyond our community?.....Sometimes it is outside of SM. During the pandemic we started watching Nativity Masses on line. If they are hosting an interesting series, we might sometimes go there. We have also been introduced to St. Ignatius Church in Baltimore where inclusion of LGBTQ is promoted.
39. We must pull together during these difficult times, reach out to and genuinely care for one another HONESTLY and not just for 'show'. Concern and caring must come from deep within.
40. The Archdiocese is doing an excellent job reaching out to the most vulnerable population.
41. The friendliness of the clergy and staff.
42. Left blank
43. I have no connection to the archdiocese. I am not from Baltimore and do not have a history to community. I will be helping several church's start and strengthen their BSA troops which is the best way to grow a community
44. Partnering with our sister parish, St. Anthony's
45. The Catholic Review is often inspiring, especially the essays written by Father Breigner. Also, volunteering at Our Daily Bread was inspiring. It was an opportunity to serve others and also to meet people from other parishes and well as the hard-working staff.
46. Left blank
47. Left Blank

RE: AOB

The Shadow: What disappoints you or leaves you apathetic or even put off? Where do we need to be more intentional? Where can we do better?

1. Politics during homilies and divisiveness with Covid
2. Left Blank

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3. Left Blank
4. That the Catholic Church does not allow priests to be married. This gives the impression that they do not understand the modern family, which is the majority of the congregation. The Catholic Church is missing out on so many good men that could serve the Church and it's people.
5. Left Blank
6. I'm not sure, frankly, what the Archdiocese does.
7. Asking for money for too many different causes. Once a year is enough
8. Left Blank
9. Priest inserting their political beliefs in sermons. usually contradictory of accepted trends.
10. Too many parishioners just go thru the motions. They don't understand their faith and as such feel drawn to more Protestant beliefs and actions.
11. Unsure
12. The leadership of the Church
13. No answer.
14. Left blank
15. Left Blank
16. Homilies that become political in nature. Using Latin in the mass.....we left that a long time ago
17. Nothing
18. No clear direction from the hierarchy of the church, making me believe the hierarchy is more concerned with "optics" then with talking about the actual teachings and truth of the Catholic Church.
19. Left Blank
20. Left Blank

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21. Left Blank
22. more inclusive of all: immigrants, blacks, gays, lesbians, etc.
23. More attention to those marginalized and those our Church has often been perceived to disregard and/or disrespect— LGBTQ+, divorced and remarried. A more visible and more substantial role for women. An intentional outreach to young people— not just to fill the pews but to walk with them as they struggle and seek to find purpose and meaning for their lives. Understanding the realities of day to day for young people, who truly are search for a meaningful spiritual life, but are not going to just accept the instructional Church.
24. Leadership that did not fighting for keeping the Church open and access to the Holy Eucharist during the pandemic. If our faith is not considered essential to our leadership, then how are the civil authorities going to hold any religious freedom as essential?

We as the Church also need to DEMAND that the vaccines that are being produced are done in a way that is not utilizing abortion tainted products. If not now, then when will the Church stand up for preventing fetal tissues and stem cells from being utilized/harvested?"

25. My family and I were very frustrated with the sacramental lockouts during the early months of the pandemic. It's easy to say now, of course, with the benefit of hindsight. I recognize that. And it is surely true that much of what is clear today was muddled and scary back in March 2020.

But still, it felt like the Church abandoned her flock in a moment of need, succumbing instead to fear of what which can kill the body, but not the soul.

It will take time for that wound to heal.

26. Our priests need support from our pastors, bishops and up the line. They are called to speak the truth however hard it might be at times. It is easy to stand up and say “not to kill” but hard to say your second marriage is not recognized by the church; having sex outside marriage is wrong; gay relationships are sinful. The church needs to protect the priests from the social media movement.
27. I personally know of two cases where an "investigation" into a potential abuse case and mishandling of a church employee, was "investigated" without even speaking to the victims. Even though they say that the priest abuse scandal is past us, there is still the attitude that there "is nothing to see here". I question how much money to paid out under the table to hush people up.
28. Left Blank
29. I'm a little put off by the Church's inability to lift up the brokenness of Baltimore City.

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30. "1) The lack of full Catholic teaching by Bishops. The love and mercy of God is always stressed, but the dangers of sin or supporting sin are de-emphasized.
- 2) Taking money from the Government to balance budgets during COVID. It only reinforces the hierarchy's reticence to provide clear teachings about the evils in our culture and holding political leaders (especially the Catholics) accountable as Jesus and John the Baptist did.
- 3) Lack of visibility, in general, on decisions made in the diocese. Accountability where money goes, why whistleblowers seem to be punished and perpetrators left unpunished, why gift money is taken from alleged sex abusers. I certainly don't know the full stories, but the lack of visibility and full disclosure from those guiding the flock is disheartening."
31. Left Blank
32. Please go back to singing Christmas songs ,as In traditional ones. We need to get parishioners singing louder with a little more meaning. Do not care for the loud songs chosen..and some of them go on forever..too long.I love our sacrament of the Eucharist and how it is presented. The volunteers are special People..
33. That associate priests only last for 3 years vs 5. We invest in them and they are taken away too quickly in my opinion. Also to not criticize good priests who are preaching the way, the truth and the life and then being called in to explain themselves. The archdiocese should have their back not condemn them. It is tough enough doing their vocation without the political correctness that comes from archdiocese.
34. Archbishop Lori closed the diocese's churches before the government force him to. He has never issued an apology for this action. There was no public demonstration that he was fighting these closures and pushing back against governmental overreach. Many archdiocesan priests refused to administer the sacraments for fear of their own death from Covid. This is unconscionable and goes against thousands of years of Catholic traditions where saintly priest put their lives on the line to administer to their flocks.

It is my understanding that Catholic Charities no longer has an adoption program. They were run out of business because of the corruption of society and the homosexual lobby.

Ever since it was revealed that Archbishop Lori took money from the disgraced bishop in WV, and his weak stand on homosexual issues, my wife and I no longer directly support the Archdiocese annual fund drive. We give to several charities directly, such as Catholic Charities and St. Vincent de Paul Society.

As a group, it is my opinion that the vast majority of US Catholic bishops are morally weak and men of little faith. They openly support the homosexual agenda and corrupt politicians and their political party, while censoring and relieving of duties of more orthodox

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pastor/priests who are willing to teach and preach the true faith. The bishops are more concern with money, prestige and their next promotion. They are our shepherds, but they care little of our spiritual wellbeing.

Many bishops refused to speak out over the last two years as statues of saints were destroyed. This is a sacrilege.

Most bishops will not refuse Communion to Catholic politicians who strongly and publicly support abortion.

The USCCB is at least 40% funded by the US government. This leads to vast corruption, because they are unwilling to bite the hand that feeds them. They look the other way with regard to many evils that the government does.

Because of this funding, the USCCB is very much supportive of open borders. The Catholic church is one of the main organizations that is getting funds to take care of the illegal immigrants streaming into the US. The Catholic church should not be benefitting from violating immigration laws. If a country does not have a border, it is not a country. There are lawful ways to immigrate to this country and they should be followed. The laws could be changed to make it easier for honest, law abiding, hardworking people from around the globe to immigrate to the US, but this is up to Congress. Unfettered immigration is a threat to the stability of the country. My six children are all immigrants to this country. The naturalization process was tedious and expensive, but we followed the rules.

The US Catholic Church has experienced a steady decline of the number of Catholics over at least the last 60 years. What corporations wouldn't fire their executives if they experience a similar decline in their customer base? However, the USCCB, commissions another study, or institutes some feel good program, or more banal music, and thinks that will fix the problem. They keep trying to make the Church fix into society, instead of fighting against society. They then appeared mystified as to why no one is coming to church? If the church looks like society, why bother going. It is a waste of an hour on Sunday morning. Another reason for the support of illegal immigration, is that many of these people, at least on paper, are Catholics, so the bishops hope that bringing all these "Catholic" into the country, might stabilize their falling numbers. Does not appear to be working.

Communion in the hand was improperly allowed within the US.

Like the parishes, the archdioceses need to stand up against the evils of society. There should be far less emphasis on "social" justice, which has very little to do with justice.

35. Thank you for asking us to participate in this survey thereby opening up an way for us to talk to the Bishop.
36. Continue to pray daily for guidance
37. I'd like to see more themes for how we can live out the Gospel in today's world. How do the readings relate to today's challenges?

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38. This is likely a non-starter, but we need to be more inclusive to the LGBTQ community. Our young see this first as a social justice issue. Many faithful and active Catholics find that if they have an LGBTQ child, that there is no place in the Church for the child, which suddenly make what they may have called 'home', seem 'unfamiliar'.
39. Honestly, I wish I knew how to reach into the depths of many young people today. They seem more attached to their cell phones than to God. Perhaps the cell phones are less demanding of many of today's youths.
How can The Church reach more young people? I don't know. Starting with 5 and 6 year-olds when they have a more open mind is a good thing in my mind. I love seeing the little kiddos walk up for their blessing at Communion time. Big question... Are there any Catholic Day Care centers here in the parish?
40. The Archdiocese seems to pay little attention to those in the general church community. Money is asked to be given but no one from "headquarters" doesn't come to the churches.
41. I would like for Fr Michael to talk about confession one Sunday. I feel like I am a young child when I go instead of a 73 yr old communicant.
42. Left blank
43. The fear or laziness of priests to work on the future of the church. The hell with money if the average age of your church is 80 years old. The organ or bathroom is useless if there is no one using it in 5 years.
44. not sure
45. Having written a thoughtful letter to Archbishop Lori expressing serious concerns, I am extremely disappointed that I received no response at all from his office (not even a form letter acknowledging that it was in fact received). We do receive written acknowledgements when we make contributions to the Archdiocese.
46. Left Blank
47. Teach how to evangelize.
Clear headed, solid, spiritually correct teaching On contemporary issues has been lacking for decades and we need to face up to discussing and teaching and sharing and loving around the issues of abortion, euthanasia, the LGBTQ plus realities, Marriage, humane Vitea and the government and the state's place in religious education and human rights (politics)

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About your experience of journeying together in the Universal Church:

The Light: Who or what inspires and lifts you to God? What is inviting you to deeper faith? Where are you feeling drawn to walk with others within and beyond our community? What things strengthen the bonds between us?

1. Left Blank
2. Mass, the Sacraments, and the emailed support strengthen me.
3. Left Blank
4. The current staff at St Margaret's Church is an inspiration to do God's work. I know God is with me while on earth. The nice feeling of helping people in both small and big ways in the name of Christ motivates me to stay engaged. The over all mission of St Margaret's Church strengthens my bond with the parish.
5. Left Blank
6. Helping others is a goal I admire.
7. Pope Francis makes me feel good when he speaks up for human rights
8. Left Blank
9. The Faith in Christ my Parents instilled in me.
10. As mentioned before, our parish opportunities for Adoration, Confession and outreach brings us together.
11. Feel Pope Francis is trying to put things in right direction
12. The Holy Spirit
13. I am inspired by the work of Catholic Relief Services.
14. Left Blank
15. Left Blank
16. Left Blank
17. Community Bible Study

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18. There is no "journeying together" when the hierarchy of the Catholic Church is not on the same page.
19. Left Blank
20. Left Blank
21. Left Blank
22. Pope Francis is an inspiration and true leader. His writings are inspirational .
23. Pope Francis — his lifestyle and his writings. A man of mercy and mission. Religious women who work with immigrants, poor, disenfranchised populations around the globe. E longing to a universal Church comprised of every race, nationality, ethnicity as the Body of Christ. Pope Francis speaking out for the people of Ukraine and working with world leaders for peace.
24. Seeing and hearing of the faithful around the world who have stood strong and close to their Catholic faith through the pandemic and now in helping the Ukrainian refugees. Take a hard look at Samaritan's Purse as an example. (yes, I know it's not Catholic, but you asked about the Universal Church).
25. (Most of our interactions with the Church come at the local parish level.)

In many ways the Church is embracing Her roots, becoming more like a field hospital for sinners, to paraphrase the Holy Father. This is a good thing and helps to make the Catholic faith more attractive to non-Catholics and those who have drifted away.
26. I am unsure, I wasn't borne catholic but became catholic in high school. I guess the Holy Spirit is moving me to understand and get more involved with God's word.
27. Many of the people of God are clinging to the faith in these turbulent times, sometimes without proper leadership. The Magisterium throughout the two millennia of the Church is what keeps me grounded.
28. Left Blank
29. The Catholic Church in the world lifts me up when I think of the Mass being celebrated in so many places. The outreach of so many catholic institutions that serve the poor is also uplifting and unifying.
30. The Authority of the Church started by Jesus Christ and passed down to His apostles. The witness of the apostles and martyrs who went to their death rather than deny the Truth of

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Christ. The desert fathers and monks who sacrificed and fasted to pray for the faithful and sinners. The Saints and the Doctors of the Church who inspire us with their lives and teachings. The Eucharist and the Sacraments. Catholics today, especially good priests, who inspire us showing their love and courage to speak the truth and spread the Word.

31. I'm not sure but I hit next and all my answers disappeared... in summary... What I thought were strengths at ST Margaret were Fr Kevin and Nina's coordination of outreach efforts, social justice efforts - hands on opportunities.

Fr Kevin's life stories. Connecting to us as a trying people. Words that lifted us up, reminded us of God unconditional love. That we are all in this together, offering a feeling of inclusiveness not an us vs them. His nonjudgemental words gave us courage to go to Jesus in all our brokenness.

We come to you weary and broken from life. WE need to hear, be reminded of that ever present merciful love, that's a given, even if we miss holy days, even if we don't go in person to confession on a weekly basis or attend daily mass or even attend mass at all. WE need to believe in that kind of God.

I am drawn to work in ecumenical ways with other churches.

32. The sacraments

33. That the Catholic Church takes its history and traditions from the apostles. That the Trinity is in charge not man. Pleasing the masses was not the focus as in other Christian denominations. We are the church that Jesus started.

34. The Catholic Church has a rich history of faith, traditions and teachings spanning almost 2000 years. It is the bride of Jesus Christ and the devil cannot prevail against her. But that does not stop the devil from trying. She has many saints, that all followed her teachings and fought their contemporary societies and leaders, many times sacrificing their own lives. By not following their example, the Church dishonors them.

35. I have been formulating this response for a long time. I pray to St. Joseph (particularly during his novena), the Most Chaste Spouse, to help me respond. It is clear to me that this society today has a serious lack of chastity, a sin that is "pleasing to the eye." A chaste person is ridiculed every day by media, colleges, trans-gender and other trends. The Church did a terrific job dedicating 2021 to St. Joseph. The church even added St. Joseph's name to accompany the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, to the daily Eucharistic Prayers a few years back. I particularly applaud Father Donald H. Calloway's first edition book "Consecration to St. Joseph." At year's end, THE CHURCH STOPPED WITH NO FOLLOW UP. The Church respects the word "virgin/virginity" using the word in the all the Eucharist Prayers which we hear and pray daily at Mass. We then pray for the Pope, Bishops, and Clergy (strength in faith and vow of virginity). We missed the perfect opportunity to dedicate this year (2022) to HOLY FAMILY. I am certain St. Joseph is asking

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for this. We need to pray for our fathers and mothers (strength in their faith and vows of chastity) and the faith and virginity of all children. This is one of the greatest sins of our time and we don't seem to recognize it and we never pray that it end! Amen.

36. Left Blank
37. I'm not sure that I feel universally connected, but it may be because at this stage in my life I cannot pursue possible connections.
38. Pope Francis inspires me.
39. Fellowship and Common Cause (for the good of all) and in today's world ... SAFETY. Especial important is the safety of our religions. Without our religions we go down! We must respect each other's religious beliefs.
40. Our missionaries.
41. Left Blank
42. I feel a great connection to our Catholic faith in the way our church defends life from conception to natural death. The outreach to the poor and the challenge that we as Catholics continue to work, pray, and advocate for all life strengthens our church.
I am thankful that the living stations of the cross will be presented again this year. My adult children participated as teenagers and my daughter was a director for several years. I believe it connects our young people to their faith and to their parish in a way that leaves a lasting, permanent mark. We need to continue to find ways to connect our youth to our parish. I am thankful for Kristin Rupprecht's ministry.
We often attend 11:00 mass at the mission. I am inspired and encourage by the young people sharing their gift of music through the contemporary music at that mass.
Bishop Lewandowski's mission this week is an amazing blessing to our faith. Thank you to everyone who planned for this beautiful Lenten mission.
43. The pope is awesome. I hear him and understand him. Maybe it is because I come from the same culture. Every time he pushes the envelope, it is very clear and I become more faithful.
44. Pope Francis does a good job of bringing the world into focus. This is good and I hope it continues. It is important. Praying together for example the consecration of Ukraine, brings us closer together and connects us to the rest of the world, lifting us up to God.
45. Prayer, celebrating mass, and serving others.
46. Left Blank

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47. Left Blank

RE: Universal Church

The Shadow: What disappoints you or leaves you apathetic or even put off? Where do we need to be more intentional? Where can we do better?

1. Left Blank
2. Left Blank
3. Left Blank
4. See above answers
5. Left Blank
6. Abuse by clergy, and the Church's history of covering it up, is a great concern. I have, in times of need and in times of doubt, have sought the guidance of the clergy, and have often felt greatly helped. But knowing that at least some of the clergy do commit abuse, I'm think I'd now be less likely to seek that assistance.
7. The in-fighting within the church. Some are resisting any dis ussion of changes such as women priest and married priest. Also, the history of protecting bad priests and bishops
8. Left Blank
9. The entire dishonest , greedy , self serving Roman Catholic Church Hierarchy
10. Teach the Catechism and reinforce it via homilies, prayerful music and parish activities.
11. Loss of young people from their faith
12. The Church Leadership
13. I am put off by the hesitation on the part of many bishops to condemn Catholic politicians who are pro choice. I think that those politicians should be discouraged from seeking to receive the Eucharist until they abandon their pro choice position.
14. Left Blank
15. Left Blank
16. Left Blank

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17. Nothing
18. What disappoints me is the mixed messaging from the Pope on down!
19. Left Blank
20. Left Blank
21. Left Blank
22. Some of the bishops and archbishops are too traditional and exclude those who need the church the most.
23. Divisions within the Church that seem to be politically motivated and don't seem open to dialogue and discussion for a deeper understanding. The difficulties Pope Francis has encountered with some of his reforms. The place and role of women and the need for a great racial diversity among bishops and cardinals.
24. n/a
25. The Western world is confusing and noisy place, and increasingly hostile to Catholics and Christians. We need more clarity from the Vatican on matters of dogma, doctrine and morals.

As for the synodal path: I worry that, in striving to create a Church that journeys together,"" we are letting the sheep lead the shepherds. It should be the other way around.
26. Our priests need support from our pastors, bishops and up the line. They are called to speak the truth however hard it might be at times. It is easy to stand up and say "not to kill" but hard to say your second marriage is not recognized by the church; having sex outside marriage is wrong; gay relationships are sinful. The church needs to protect the priests from the social media movement.
27. In general, the leadership in the Church since Pope Francis became pope has been appalling. So much of what he says is so ambiguous. I don't understand the Synod's purpose. The German cardinal in charge of the Synod has come out in favor of blessing same-sex unions. How can we expect anything good to come out of this when the leader of the Synod is against what the Church has taught for 2000 years and which is in the Bible much farther back than that. It's most disturbing that the pope encourages this dissent. I think that the real purpose of the Synod is to push these things: blessings on homosexual unions, divorced and remarried receiving communion, married priests, women priests, artificial contraception okayed, pro-abortion politicians receiving communion okayed, the LGBT agenda affirmed.

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All of these things deny the truths of our faith which have already been established. We don't need a Synod to bring up the possibility of changing things to have our "teachings" deny the truth. Look at the leadership of this Synod to see where they are coming from. It's not good. May God help us!

28. Left Blank

29. The obvious answer to what makes me feel put off by the Catholic Church in the world is the sex abuse scandal. That continues to be a wound and a scare that sets back the good of the church in the world.

30. The Pope and Bishops sowing confusion with silence, unclear teachings, and undefendable actions. The cowardice and lack of willpower to do all we can to stop the murder of children and defend human life. We show daily we really don't care. The Vatican laundering money and funding projects under the radar. American Bishops cozying up to political leaders, especially democrats, accepting money and prestige for their silence. Jesus taught excommunication is sometimes necessary, but no Church leader has the guts to use it on political leaders who openly oppose Catholic teachings. American Bishops who cancel priests that speak the truth and allow sexual predators and those who break their vows repeatedly to remain. Not acknowledging a predatorial homosexual problem in our Church hierarchy, clergy, monasteries and seminaries, so therefore we don't need to fix it. Seminaries that turn away orthodox Catholics in order to foster a homosexual-leaning clergy. Catholic Universities that openly oppose the faith.

We need to clean house, but it will only get worse in the near term. We need a one and done approach to abuse - they need to be handed over to the authorities and stripped of the priesthood immediately. I'm in favor of the clergy being allowed to be celibate or married, like those Jesus called to be the first Bishops of the Church. This would reduce the temptation for abuse and allow married priests to be an example of how to live out the married life/Humane Vitae faithfully. Our former Anglican and Episcopal priests who are married speak the Truth as well or clearer than many celibate priests.

31. "What disappoints you or leaves you apathetic or even put off?"

The trend of politics in church, the judgemental and thinly veiled snarky angry words I heard too often in homilies by some new priests, that emboldened a self righteousness in parish members that felt unhealthy. I felt beaten up.

The focus on just one or two issues, the feeling that if you voted Democrat you were going to hell. As Fr Matt said, Jesus came to not unite but to divide. I disagree - there are other more loving ways to live out a life that more accurately resembles the slow hand of God. NO one knows what is in each others' hearts. Stop the judgemental speeches. You are not presenting Jesus' message to us when you do so.

Publishing who presided over which mass gave me no comfort in the knowledge that Jesus' message was still being presented in a twisted way at my parish.

APPENDIX A

I grew weary of the focus on the monument of our church, our sacraments, our traditions, rituals while all this was going on...instead the focus should have been on the meaning Jesus put behind it all and words of guidance and encouragement on how we can live out that message in our daily actions as human beings.

I grew weary by the weekly pounding of our broken sinful state.

We are a grieving, trying people. We know our brokenness.

We come weary week after week of trying very hard to live a Christlike life. Between my husband and I, we personally have well over 100 human trying beings in our immediate family. We are older and have seen and heard it all. And God has been there for us all, guiding us, loving us, forgiving us, and encouraging us to come to Him.

We needed the balm of our loving Lord who is speaking to us through the Gospels and Eucharist.

I have loved St. Margaret Church for a very long time and this wasn't easy to share. There is an overwhelming goodness in this church and I continue to pray for its future.

I felt beaten up too often and had to go elsewhere.

32. Left Blank

33. The message should be the same and consist. So called Catholic politicians who are pro abortion should be counseled and if they do not change then be excommunicated. Abortion should be the number one priority and be combated on every level. Stop persecuting the Latin Mass. Alter rails need to be reintroduced at post Vatican II churches. Receiving Christ on the tongue as well.

34. Ever since Vatican II, roughly the span of my lifetime, the Church has been trying to ever more conform itself to society. This is wrong. The Catholic Church must stand against society. Many souls are at risk.

This Synod on Synodality, is an accident waiting to happen. The ground work has been laid by the Vatican by saying the Holy Spirit is going to speak through the people through this process. The Church then goes out and "listens" to the poorly catechized people of how they want the Church to be changed to conform to their perverted ways. There will be a lot of responses from "progressive Catholics" to change the rules or adapt to society's stance on homosexuality, gender, climate, woman priests, married priests, social justice, vaccine mandates, and whatever other heretical options these people might have. Then the Vatican will claim, the Holy Spirit has spoken and we must change. Nonsense!!! As I said above, the Church has a long history of tradition and teaching. It has worked well for 2000 years. The people need to listen to the Church, not the other way around. The gospel and sacred traditions are clear. The Vatican, cardinals, bishops, pastors and priests need to follow these teachings and traditions and to lead their flocks accordingly. Also, opening this Synodal process to those outside of the Catholic church for their opinions on how to change the Church is insane.

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The Pope needs to clearly teach the true faith. Many times, the Pope has made statements that are ambiguous at best and refuses to clarify. This needs to be corrected, especially when his statements are twisted to go against Church doctrine.

The Church needs to concentrate on the salvation of souls and not on things that are outside their authority, like climate change, vaccine mandates, etc.

The Pope needs to correct those cardinals, bishops, and priests that are not teaching the true faith and are bordering on heresy, if not outright heretics. Instead, the Pope appears to promote those in opposition to Church teaching and sanctions those that try to uphold the traditional Church teachings, e.g., the recent demotion of the bishop in Puerto Rico is a good example.

The Pachamama, a pagan idol, episode in the Vatican was idolatry and a disgrace. Allowing the German Catholic Church to give Communion to divorced and remarried, without an annulment, is a clear violation of the word of Jesus. Allowing the German Church to “bless” same sex unions is another.

The corruption in the Church, homosexuality and financial, is a major scandal and must be rooted out and extinguished.

The refusal to publicly renounce world leaders that support abortion and other evils is destructive to the Church and sends the wrong message to the faithful. Allowing individual bishops to decide whether to deny these individuals Communion is arbitrary. A sacrilege/sin in one diocese is a sin in another. Clear statements on Church teaching should be made for the universal Church and applied uniformly across the board.

Placing limits on the Latin Mass, which was the approved Mass for centuries, and the Mass that most of our saints lived with is unacceptable.

The misinterpretation of the Vatican II documents has led to many of the current problems in the Church. Many of these changes have been attributed to Vatican II when they have nothing to do with what the documents actually say.

The Church also seems to be promoting a “One World” government. She seems to be also taking advice from people, e.g., Jeffery Sachs, Gates Foundations, etc., that are in open opposition to what the Church teaches and its sacred traditions.

Allowing woman to be members of what use to be minor orders of Holy Orders which were only available to men. Allowing women to have votes with the Cardinals on Church issues.

The Church needs to return to its teachings and sacred traditions and take a stand against the evil that runs rampant in society.

35. Thank you for asking us to participate in this survey thereby opening up an way for us to talk to the Holy Father.

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36. Left Blank
37. Practices that do not promote involvement in the liturgy. Doing something because it has always been done.
38. We need to do a better job at apologetics. The more we can understand and defend our faith, the stronger in faith we can become.
39. You're doing fine 😊 How about a dress code for Church ... It shows respect.
40. The Church's standing on birth control and divorce.
41. Left Blank
42. "I pray that our church will explore ways for vocations to be more inclusive and have often wondered if it is time to consider that priests be allowed to marry? I know that some married Episcopal priests were allowed to continue their ministries after converting to Catholicism. One of these priests, Fr. Steven Sutton, baptized our children in the 1990's when we were living in Perry Hall. His ministry was a blessing to my family.
- We are often blessed to have our adult children and their families attend mass with us. The grandchildren are ages 1-4 and we all work together to keep engaged and to minimize any disruption. In the last few months, we have attended some masses that stretched to 90 plus minutes. This is especially challenging to young families and I think it discourages them from attending mass.
43. I see the priests are not always understanding his message so they state something else. I have been many homilies and they miss his mark. Maybe just maybe, the priests should sit in the pews.
44. nothing comes to mind
45. The Church is still too concerned about rules, doesn't stretch itself to be more inclusive, and is still focused on top-down management. Parishes should be more independent, priests should not be performing administrative work but tending directly to the flock, and upper management should be more accountable. It's time for Vatican III!
46. Left Blank
47. Left Blank

APPENDIX B

Synod Questionnaire Follow-Up

April 22, 2022 ~ 7 pm in the AEC

Attendees: 12 persons

Introduction:

As a follow-up to the synod questionnaire, St. Margaret Parish held an evening of round table conversations.

Two primary take-aways from the synod questionnaire were: 1) division in the parish and 2) engagement of young families and young adults.

After an overview of the results of the parish synod questionnaire responses, 3 focused conversations were held. Below is a summary of those discussions:

I. Conversation 1: Healing the wound of division

Both the synod and pastoral planning process has shown that there is division in the parish and the Church. It is fragmenting the body of Christ and causing pain and distress. What are some ways we can heal this wound?

- LISTEN: Promote activities where people can listen: small faith groups and universal service-oriented projects.
 - Conversations need to be on-going
 - Begin by promoting what we hold in common
 - Facilitated by a skilled and welcoming/trusted person
- ACCOMPANY and CATECHIZE: divisions re: church teaching — enter into dialogue with divided groups to help facilitate a better understanding of the “why” regarding moral teachings. Meet people where they are while holding firm to the Truth.

II. Conversation 2: Evangelization, engagement, and the spiritual needs of young families and young adults

How can we better understand the spiritual needs of 21st century young families and young adults? What are some best practices or new and creative ideas for engaging young families and young adults on the road to Christian discipleship?

- Family oriented service projects
- Whole family faith formation
- Liturgy: Life Teen Mass, Family liturgy, thematic preaching with discussion after Mass
- Blog where people can ask questions
- Small groups for all ages
- Childcare
- Monthly faith forums: Possible topics: Mary, Eucharist, Sacraments in general, saints, Prayer, Our Father, discuss a Gospel, The Psalms, St Paul and his letters, What is the Church?, salvation history, Creed, Lenten themes-prayer, fasting, almsgiving, Sacrament of reconciliation, etc.

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- Living the liturgical seasons as a family/community.
 - Book club during Advent and Lent
 - Faith forum topics connected to the season. (i.e. Lent- emphasis on the disciplines of fasting, prayer, almsgiving... and the importance of Holy Week...guiding parishioners through each day from Palm Sunday-Easter.

III. Conversation 3: Gather the fruit

Reflect on your experience of the synodal process (including tonight's round table conversation). Where does the voice of the Spirit resound? Consider: What has been confirmed? Where are we invited to change? Where is there consensus? Where do you feel the Holy Spirit inviting us to deeper reflection?

- The main concern from the table discussion was centered on Church teachings. The fear: synodal process following the “spirit of the age” and not the “Holy Spirit”. So there is a concern that this might lead the hierarchy to conform to today's culture rather than follow Christ's teachings.
- Concern over politics from the pulpit dividing the community unnecessarily
- Focus on what we have in common
- Think outside the box
- Focus on what we have in common; what holds us together.
- Break down the silos and better equip and empower the laity in missionary discipleship and evangelization