

Where we have been and where we are going, invited by the Holy Spirit.

What were common or important themes that emerged from the listening sessions?

- establish a spirit of openness to groups in all aspects of the church and parish life; people on the margins, young adults, children, LGBTQIA+, different cultures, all ethnicities; empower and equip the laity
- a church that responds to liturgical and social issues in a manner consistent with our faith and responsive to diverse values and perspectives real equality in the church: women priests, married priests and a church hierarchy that looks like and represents all our communities of people
- what draws us to the church: eucharist, liturgy, connection, service, welcoming, hospitality
- desire for more social events to encourage active listening, participation, and spiritual growth - rebuild sense of community and acceptance
- gratitude for new priests and their leadership toward building community and fostering reconciliation

Which particular stories or real-life experiences were shared related to the way our church currently journeys together?

- recognition and acceptance of our special needs and homeless population among us
- opportunities to give input and feedback about issues and problems in our own parish
- welcoming families or individuals who have been turned away from other parishes because they are LGBTQIA+ or unmarried with children
- outreach to the Afghan family our parish is sponsoring this year
- opportunities for spiritual growth by participating in the various social ministries of the parish
- special needs gentleman being able to carry the cross on Good Friday; escorting the priest out at the end of Mass; ushering
- time given monthly by the pastor to reach out and talk to fellow parishioners on a specific topic during Mass in order to build community
- pastor inviting fellow Jesuits who live in a nearby residence to become members of the parish
- pastor including the children during Mass

What dreams, desires, and aspirations for our Church were expressed by participants?

- welcoming, inclusive, and accessible church with ASL signers at more Masses
- more involvement of the laity in decision-making
- a Church hierarchy that is open and responsive to the needs and desires of its people, such as the ordination of women as priests and the reinstatement of married priests
- increased participation by young people and families
- seek to understand why young people have left the Church or are not participating
- make the Church more relevant and desirable to young people
- opportunities for youth and adult faith formation to deepen one's spirituality
- parishioners' discernment of their gifts and using them to serve the parish and the broader community
- development of a true sense of community by getting to know one another and being available to serve one another
- connect and journey in hope together
- being more inclusive of women in general and LGBTQIA+ folks
- more women homilists
- be more inclusive of different cultures

What challenges or opportunities do these reflections pose as we journey together?

- mission at St. Leo should focus on acceptance
- engagement through prayer and service
- being open to new and different ways of doing things; serving the marginalized
- be accommodating, inclusive, and welcoming to ALL, including those with special needs, those we may not know, different cultures
- the patriarchal hierarchy is problematic; put more women in leadership positions
- more lay participation
- keep politics out of church
- COVID challenges have impacted togetherness, feelings of community, and the return of some parishioners, but we are starting to come out of it
- recognize the need for providing opportunities for developing relationships; create opportunities for people to talk with and listen to one another
- attract and engage young adults and families
- continue the healing process from past hurts

What did participants share related to the question of "what steps does the Holy Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our journeying together"?

- more opportunities for lay people to provide input and participate in decision-making in our local church and the greater church
- create a welcoming atmosphere in our parishes by recognizing and appreciating the various cultures in our parishes and the greater church
- continue with emphasis on social justice issues in our parish and the greater church, which enable us as individuals to grow in our spirituality
- recognition of the spirituality and leadership of women
- removal of barriers to marriage in the church
- need to allow for women priests and married men
- review and revise canon law to reflect our current society
- make space for strong relationship building
- full acceptance of those with special needs
- listen with the ears of our hearts more female homilists
- encourage people to come together again through the magnets of receiving the Body of Christ and offering fellowship

How many listening sessions did you have?

5

Did you have different listening sessions for different groups?

- three were in-person for all parishioners
- one was on Zoom for all parishioners
- one was for our L'Arche community, a group of developmentally delayed adults who live in community with able-bodied adults (we went directly to them)

Did you seek to invite unrecognized voices? If so, how?

- We invited people via a Facebook page that has a wide variety of members.
- We invited L'Arche individually to be sure they got to participate.
- We also invited the staff from Nativity House and the Catholic Worker Community.
- We also invited our LGBTQIA+ community through our Pastoral Care commission.

What other methods, structures, or approaches did you use in your plan?

We wrote letters to 42 individuals/groups, inviting them to participate and asking them to encourage others to attend. We advertised through the bulletin, Facebook, announcements, and our weekly online newsletter.