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.