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Name of person submitting the report:

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Name of parish or group that the report is being submitted on behalf of:

St. Augustine's Parish

Deannery/Group

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Please describe the context of your group discussions, including number of participants and aspects of diversity.

We had a parish survey with 5 questions for which we received about 40 responses. Respondents were regular church goers, likely age 30 and up
Group meetings - there were 5 group meetings mainly older regular parishioners. One group had several young adults. Another included a parishioner of Filipino and one of Kenyan background.

In your group's discussion, which points of view seem to be held in common on the experiences of Church? Include other points of view were mentioned less but are noteworthy?

-mostly positive – a place of peace, comfort, growth

- formed values and lifestyle
- Recognition of the treasure we have - love of Eucharist, liturgical year, communion of saints, scripture, celibate priesthood and consecrated life, mystical body/part of a worldwide body, relationship with Jesus Christ
- many liked traditional mass, eucharistic adoration and reception of eucharist on the tongue.
- a source of community and belonging for many, but sense of judgement, rejection and hurtful experience for some because of divorce, sexual orientation etc.
- often the important experiences are not so much within the parish church building but with other events such as breakfasts, Cursillo, Challenge, Alpha, bible studies, prayer groups, Waupoos, NET, CCO, volunteering etc. - People make the church. They shape our Christianity and our relationship to God.
- Welcome, acceptance and encouragement draw us in and help us to take our place within the church and give us the sense of belonging.
- masses offered in other languages help immigrants to feel more at home
- perhaps it is normal for young people to wander and question before making faith their own and returning

What did participants have to say about areas where the Church is in need of healing and conversion?

- Priests are the heart of the church but are often isolated. They need community as well.
- Church scandals - Sex abuse and residential schools – admit to wrong-doing and make amends -shouldn't be secret – justice and reconciliation need to be seen to have been done
- sense of watering down of church teachings since Vatican II.
- Feeling judged – fear of rejection and lack of acceptance because of sexuality, divorce, marital status etc.
- Ghettoization – only associating with those who believe similar things – staying within the Catholic bubble
- Communication- we often do not know what is going on at neighbouring parishes – leads to little collaboration
- Division and polarization not only among denominations, but within the Catholic church as well – fracture often along political lines.
- We celebrate the “big” events but are lacking when it comes to providing something to keep people in the in-between times.
- Missing knowledge and teaching. Many Catholics do not understand their faith, the mass scripture – homilies are important for teaching
- synod is timely – people need to be listened to – clericalism and top-down religion does not seem to value the grass roots
- sometimes the same people hold positions rather than inviting others to help
- diocese seems MIA in supporting the parishes

Through listening to the dreams, desires, and aspirations for the Church expressed by participants and through discernment, in what ways is the Holy Spirit guiding the Church to grow in synodality.

HOSPITALITY AND WELCOME – most often mentioned – more happens when we know each other - participation in mass and communal participation in social and charity events

- Diocesan Central registry of program offerings of conferences, retreats, bible studies, etc.
- inter-parish collaboration e.g. outreach, refugee work, food insecurity, sacramental prep.
- need to be open, welcoming, compassionate, humble – church as a safe place - acceptance of who we are is part of the path to conversion.
- balance ritual and tradition with letting the Spirit loose.
- diocesan days
- Communal acknowledgement of sin - response to scandals – make reparation
- need more teaching moments to know our faith better, to learn evangelization, be able to speak of the hope within us, recognize signs, wonders, healings – regular explanations of the parts of the mass and other aspects of our faith instead of assuming everyone knows or remembers. Catechesis must continue.
 - a safe environment to mentor and be mentored for continued discussion and learning. Be fertile ground where the difficult questions can be wrestled with, without judgement
 - encourage small Christian communities
- prayer request/help line
- back to basics – encourage rosary, novenas etc.
- more leadership from diocese to remain independent and open during pandemic
- national collection- re: settlement for residential schools
- offer palliative and end of life care to counteract isolation and MAID (possibly Horizons of Hope?)