

SYNOD 2003

PARISH GATHERING REPORT

NAME OF PARISH:

Herston, Ashgrove and Newmarket Parishes (HAN)

PLACE OF PARISH GATHERING:

Consultation Process at each Mass in the three Parishes during November 2001, and Action Strategy Voting in the Parishes during March 2002

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No. IN ATTENDANCE:

Over 300 Parishioners responded in November 2001 and about 50 responded in March 2002.

PARTICULAR ISSUE 1:

The Synod is charged with finding creative and effective ways to:.....

Understand and value the spiritual treasure that the Church has to offer in today's world.

Promote adult faith development opportunities through better understanding and use of resources in the Archdiocese.

Develop and promote spiritual meditation and prayer sessions throughout the Archdiocese at specific venues on a regular basis.

Develop programs and activities that bring out and nurture a sense of community within Parishes.

Develop and support reflection and conversation processes to encourage people to share their sense of community, belonging and purpose that being a Catholic or Christian provides them.

Develop simple, practical "how to" resources for a number of areas of Parish life (including Social Justice, Being a Welcoming Parish and Ecumenism)

Provide and promote a series of events to develop a Catholic "frame of reference" or position on particular social justice or other key issues.

(Please list in order of support they received at the Parish Gathering each action strategy, leaving a line between each strategy and drawing a line under the 3rd and 10th action strategies. Please start a new page for each particular issue.)

PARTICULAR ISSUE 2:

The Synod is charged with finding creative and effective ways to:.....

Respond to the spiritual hunger of people today, including emerging believers, Catholics unconnected to a church community, and those who have no religious faith.

Develop programs to regain contact with those who have gone through the Sacramental Programs (Baptism, Communion, Confirmation, Reconciliation, Marriage) over the past few years but are no longer active within the Parish.

Build stronger links between the Catholic Schools and Parishes within the Archdiocese.

Explore, develop and promote diversity in the format and delivery of the Mass and other liturgies and encourage tolerance of this increasing diversity.

Develop programs and resources to enable Parishes to build their relationships with the broader community within their local area (eg business or community partnerships)

Establish, staff and resource effective regional structures within the Archdiocese (perhaps Deaneries – 10 to 15 Parishes) to address issues too large for single Parishes, which require a more local personal approach than the Archdiocese can provide.

Develop a guest speaker program for the Archdiocese including sports personalities (eg Andrew Slack) and visiting celebrities.

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PARTICULAR ISSUE 3:

The Synod is charged with finding creative and effective ways to:.....

Respond to, engage with and animate the spiritual life of young people.

Develop effective structures and partnerships between Catholic Schools, particularly “the Colleges”, and Parishes to assist communication, resource sharing and improved linkages in youth spiritual development.

Develop resources and processes to assist Parishes to foster communication and understanding between older and younger Parishioners (eg. “Bridging the Generation Gap” Mass)

Develop regional resources and facilities to provide youth Masses and liturgies, with attention to music, readings and homilies.

Establish an ongoing youth consultation process that enables the leaders of the Archdiocese to listen directly to the concerns and issues of youth.

Develop and fund programs and processes to enable Parishes or Regional areas to employ Youth Ministry Co-ordinators to assist in involving and valuing the youth of the Parishes.

Develop and promote a Youth Mentor program across Parishes and the Archdioceses to highlight young Catholic role models.

Develop and organise a “showcase” youth Liturgy on a regular annual basis at a large Brisbane venue.

Develop and maintain a “chatroom” on the web for the youth of Brisbane.

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PARTICULAR ISSUE 4:

The Synod is charged with finding creative and effective ways to:.....

Nurture the mission, ministry and vocation of the priests and people of the Archdiocese.

Provide assistance to Priests and Parishes in reviewing and refocusing the role of the Priest in Parish life to ensure concentration on sacramental, spiritual and pastoral needs of the community, and ensuring adequate support for the Priest for administration and organisation of the Parish.

Identify and develop programs to increase the number and effectiveness of lay ministries in our church. Develop, train and commission lay people to take on increasing functions (eg. preparation for Sacraments).

Facilitate the sharing of the particular skills, capabilities and expertise of Priests and Religious between Parishes in a regional area.

Support Parish conversations on the role of Priests in the future; address issues of resistance to change (local parish structure, Priest resources); and prepare Parish communities for increasing participation of lay people.

Develop regional or Deanery based structures to provide higher levels of administration and resource support to Parish Priests.

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SYNOD CONSULTATION – PARISH GATHERING

FACILITATOR’S FEEDBACK (optional)

Aspects of this process requiring explanation or comment are:

During November 2001, a range of consultations were held at each Mass in the three Parishes of Herston, Ashgrove and Newmarket. Parishioners were led through a process that enabled them to discuss the four main Synod issues. They were asked to write their comments and feelings on the four Synod areas and to propose Actions Strategies for the four Synod issues.

Over 300 Parishioners responded to the written task in November 2001. The responses from the Parishioners, as well as input from other meetings within the Parishes, were collated. The output by Synod Issue was posted on the Notice Boards of the Churches of the three Parishes over the following 6-8 weeks.

A team of Parishioners reviewed the collated outputs and an Action Strategies list was compiled. Parishioners from the three Parishes voted on the proposed Action Strategies in March 2002. About 50 responses were received from Parishioners.

The Parish Councils of the three Parishes, the HAN Synod Committee, Fr Clem and the Parish Staff have been overwhelmed by the quality and depth of the responses received from Parishioners.