

PARTICULAR ISSUE NUMBER 1

To understand and value the spiritual treasure that the Church has to offer in today's world

1. Our treasure is the Blessed Sacrament reserved and given to us in Communion.
2. Increase the importance of action and not become a “comfortable” church –emphasise “good works” and doing – faith without works is dead. Do things with our treasure to make it meaningful.
3. In order to help people participate in the basic action of the Mass (not just hymn and response participation) could the priest occasionally say a comment on what is actually happening e.g. “As the bread and wine is offered we offer ourselves” or “As our life-substances (bread and wine) are changed into Jesus, we give our lives over to Jesus now, to be changed to become more like Him”. Or at Communion...”God now gives back the gift we gave Him, but now it is changed – God shares Jesus with us”.
4. Instead of Hymn after Communion a decade of the Rosary in October.
5. Children of the school to read a short biography of a saint or social reformer or heroic Christian instead of a Homily in November.
6. Give everyone at Mass an equal opportunity to praise God and appreciate their Spiritual Treasure by using soft music, no microphones and the leader encouraging people to participate – Let the People Sing.
7. Pray – and build community. (small communities meeting in homes). Tell our stories and pray. Have a PRAYER FESTIVAL – on different Diocesan levels. Make known and celebrate the answers to prayer we've had.

- 8.** TREASURE POT. Invite parishioners to write their treasure on cards and stick onto large poster of POT. Keep for two weeks up near altar. Invite people to take card before Mass and label pot at offertory procession. At the end of two weeks invite parishioners to take one treasure card (not their own) that is a FOUND Treasure for them to pray about.

PARTICULAR ISSUE NUMBER 2

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.

1. Give simple and effective courses and strategies to our lay leaders to assist them in their mission – to provide time, energy and resources to enable the formation of our lay leaders.

PARTICULAR ISSUE NUMBER 3

To respond to, engage with, and animate the spiritual hunger of young people.

1. Invite, encourage, enable all parish ministers who have children (of whatever age) to help them with their ministry (in appropriate ways). E.g. parent and child share a Reading (6 ways of doing this were listed).
2. Provide care and support to parents – sponsor an ongoing project to provide (a) regular visits to parishes by carefully selected speakers (b) Encourage regular meetings of parents on a parish level to discuss mutual problems. (c) Expand Family Group activities (d) Encourage and promote Family Prayer (most basic need). Catholic schools could participate in the Project. Needs to be Ongoing and closely monitored – not a “once only”.
3. have activities for young adults e.g. Pizza and discussion night after 6pm Mass or a half dinner night (cheaper).
4. Have a small home- group meetings (and a Home Mass if possible) for Sacramental preparation – where parents are enabled to interact with their own child in the group setting. Let parents share with other parents how they speak of their faith to their children. Let parents share in the group what has worked for them. Let parents tell the other parents why they go to church, etc. Parents evangelising parents in these groups – not academic instruction that parents can read for themselves.

PARTICULAR ISSUE NUMBER 4

To nurture the mission, ministry and vocation of the priests and people of the Archdiocese.

1. Developing a sense of Community e.g. spend 5 minutes talking – introducing yourself to people at beginning/end of Mass - especially someone you haven't met before.
2. Helping the elderly in various ways e.g. assisting with small but vital things like buying groceries, running errands, helping with chores they can't manage, having a cup of tea and sitting down, reading to the visually impaired, taking them to medical appointments.
3. "Phone Buddy" for someone no longer able to attend Mass.
4. Form groups in the parish which meet one night a week to break open the Sunday Gospel with their Pastor. People could be rostered for this. They could bring their life experience to the gospel, and this will help the pastor make a homily that engages with his congregation. Lay people can give a life witness to the gospel.
5. Bible Scripture discussion groups e.g. "Little Rock", but for shorter periods – 3-4 week courses.
6. Training of lay ministries to include "communion in the home" for the housebound i.e. everyone trained as a Eucharistic Minister be invited to take Communion to the housebound.
7. Parish groups to speak about the work of their group for 2-3 minutes after Communion – rostered throughout the year.
8. Parishioners/Family profile each week in Newsletter (written by Family)

9. Urge people to sit closer to front at beginning of Mass. Fill up seats to give a better sense of closeness and community.

FOOTNOTE

Some issues sent in by the parishioners are not able to go forward in the Synod process as they are outside the Archbishop's authority to address. They are as follows:

1. (a) Reconciliation. The Third Rite of Reconciliation (at Easter & Christmas) was reaching out to encompass emerging believers and "half-baked" Catholics. It tapped into something very Australian and was succeeding as an evangelising tool. Can we have it back? Let's organise support for the 3rd Rite as an Australian cultural tool and lobby for it in Rome.

- (b) To attract people from within and without – take a pro-active approach to arguing in favour of the 3rd Rite of Reconciliation – and demonstrate that the local church can respond to local issues rather than be engulfed in a globalised "one-size-must-fit all set of practices.

2. (a) Flexible Priesthood. That the local church should be vocal and active in supporting dialogue regarding (1) an inclusive priesthood that will accept and support women and (2) a flexible priesthood that will explore more appropriate models of priesthood (eg part time priests – perhaps 3 days a week or fixed term priests – for say 10 or 15 years and married priests.

- (b) Remove the barrier on married priests/create women priests.

3. Issues of sexuality and re-marriage (address the basic issues of contraception, sexuality, remarriage. Two generations of women have been alienated by the non-inclusiveness of the "Church" in these areas and have "moved on".

These issues were clearly those of most concern to parishioners.