

The OLPH Synodal Synod Report

Dear OLPH Community,

On Monday, March 21st, we hosted a bilingual Synodal Synod meeting in the school gym. This was an opportunity for our parish members to discuss ways in which we as a parish have journeyed well together and in which ways we can improve. I want to thank everyone who participated. I especially want to thank everyone who attended the preparatory meeting the week before and I want to thank everyone who brought food and drinks. I am humbled by your generosity.

After reading through your feedback, I have identified 5 themes that I think would be helpful to share with our community.

1. Youth ministry
2. Becoming a more welcoming community
3. Improving in Parish Leadership
4. Ministry to the elderly and disabled
5. Improving our Parish's use of Technology

Now let me explain a bit of what was said regarding each of these themes.

First, youth ministry was the most popular theme we saw. Parishioners want to see more youth events and youth ministries because they are the future of the church. One table mentioned the importance of using technology well like social media because that is where the youth are at. Social media platforms can be used to invite the youth to events and ministries. This brings up the topic of what events do we have for the youth? What ministries do we have for our youth? One parishioner suggested hosting a youth dance. The point is this, hosting youth events will attract more youth to be present in our community.

Second, we received feedback that we need to grow in becoming a more welcoming community here at OLPH. We can become a more hospitable community by being open to new encounters and friendships with parishioners we do not know or who are new to our community. There is a desire that we have better hospitality because hospitality feels very distant. Priests can certainly be hospitable but responding to this is not only in the hands of the priests. Ministry leaders are in a great position to help us be a more hospitable community. It seems to me that something as simple as donuts after mass give parishioners the opportunity to mingle and meet each other. Of course other things could be done instead and the different ministries and their leaders are in a good position to help us brainstorm and come up with ideas and implement them to create a community more open to encountering other people, new people.

Third, we received feedback that there needs to be greater unity among the different ministries here at OLPH. Rather than a spirit of competition the different ministries can work together by sharing ideas and information. Looking for opportunities to work together would be good. For example, if two different ministries co-hosted an event they would grow in unity and break down the barriers that seem to be separating the different ministries from working together. Whatever is done in the future it is certain that our leaders need to lead from a place of humility and love of neighbor. We need to model patience and set good examples through our

actions and attitudes. Our Lord taught us to treat each other as we would like to be treated. He also said “Love one another as I have loved you.” And he came not to be served but to serve.

Fourth, it is important to remember the homebound in our community. It is easy to forget the people we do not see when we come to Church. This is why the ministry of bringing communion to the homebound is so important. If you are interested in this ministry please let us know.

Lastly, there is a desire for an improvement in our parish technology. Parishioners want to see an improved website and as mentioned previously they want to see that our parish has a social media presence.

Thank you for your patience as we worked hard to bring our Synodal Synod process to completion. May God continue to bless our OLPH community and may our efforts bear good fruit.

In Christ,
-Brother Paul Maxey

Approved by Msgr. Lorenzo Miranda
May 25th, 2022