



ARCHDIOCESE OF PORT OF SPAIN

SUMMARY OF PARISH SYNOD SYNTHESIS/REPORT

Name of Parish: SANTA ROSA/MALABAR CLUSTER

HOW ARE WE JOURNEYING TOGETHER AS A PARISH?

Recalling our experience as a parish community	
What experiences of your parish community stand out for you?	<p>Mass holds us together and togetherness exists while we are in Church. However, we do not reach out or show concern to parishioners when they do not come to Church.</p> <p>Parish Priests assist in the development of our faith.</p> <p>Internet technology stream Mass and share information especially during the Pandemic and Lockdown kept us together.</p> <p>There is a small percentage of Youth involvement in Church activities, they should be given more responsibilities.</p>
What joys did these experiences bring you?	<p>Getting involved in Ministries and participating in special projects strengthen and deepen bonds among us.</p> <p>The fellowship from interacting in Cluster celebrations helps grow our religious life.</p>
What difficulties or obstacles have you encountered in your parish?	<p>Some persons who have in leadership roles in the church are self-serving and use their position to dominate others.</p> <p>Sometimes Priests are not easily accessible or are not available for pastoral care.</p>

<p>What wounds or hurts have you encountered?</p>	<p>Homilies chastise and do not offer encouragement to live lives as good Catholics.</p> <p>Young people's voices aren't heard and they aren't including in decision making process.</p> <p>We are losing our youths after confirmation as they don't return to their community after attending confirmation classes.</p> <p>Exclusivity exists within ministries of the church, and they don't fellowship with other ministries outside of their group.</p> <p>Being ostracised because of your vaccination status when churches were reopened.</p>
<p>What do these wounds/hurts tell you about your parish?</p>	<p>We lack community spirit. Parishioners need to be more open, friendly, and encouraging with each other as well as showing respect for each person to build camaraderie and togetherness as a parish/cluster community.</p> <p>There needs to be greater focus on pastoral care for people in groups/ministries and also parishioners not involved in any group/ministry.</p> <p>More outreach is needed because we are social beings and we need to feel as if we belong in order to truly participate fully in something.</p> <p>We need to add personal touches where necessary to show that we genuinely care.</p>

HOW IS THE HOLY SPIRIT GUIDING US TO MAKE OUR JOURNEY BETTER?

<p style="text-align: center;">Gather the fruits to share</p>	
<p>In these experiences, where is the voice of the Holy Spirit speaking most to you?</p>	<p>Parishioners need to be friendlier towards one another; they need to genuinely learn to CARE about other people and be compassionate. Catholics are too cold and closed during their times of communal prayer.</p> <p>Parishioners need to learn more about their faith. Encouragement and opportunities for learning their rich faith must be provided.</p>

	<p>Clergy and Leaders need to not just be in charge, but develop true empathy and compassion towards parishioners.</p> <p>GENERALLY, WE NEED TO CARE MORE</p>
<p>What do you think the Holy Spirit is asking of us?</p>	<p>Faith formation MUST happen within Catholic Communities. People do not seem to be having a real encounter with our Living God. We need to have real ENCOUNTERS with God.</p> <p>Faith formation programs need to be reassessed and reformed.</p> <p>We need to be more hospitable as a whole. Create opportunities for fellowship.</p>
<p>Where do you think change is needed?</p>	<p>Our regular gatherings are for Mass. The only speaker at Mass is the Priest/Presider. The encouragement and inspiration to have a deeper relationship with God must come from the Priest/Presider. HOMILIES must convey the Word of God AND inspire discipleship.</p> <p>Mass hosts need to be more than just announcers. They need to experience what is happening in the Parish rather than simply reading it in a file, and this could bring more of a sense of welcoming community.</p> <p>Priests need to be more engaged with all parishioners. He needs to be interested in his flock. When groups meet at the Church, visit them for a little while, and show that you care. All of this grows WARMTH. People will follow the example. Priests cannot be so distant and busy.</p> <p>There was a time Priests knew parishioners by name, even where they sat at Mass. They used to even visit families. Now they are too busy.</p>
<p>What steps can be taken to bring about this change?</p>	<p>Bring back the practice of Families processing with offertory gifts at Mass.</p> <p>Have St. Rose's kitchen at different Masses each month. (tea, coffee, juice, slice of cake, or sweetbread or donut)</p>

	<p>Encourage fellowship after Mass. Don't run away and don't chase people away. (Don't blame Covid-19. This was necessary before Covid)</p> <p>Reintroduce Home Visitations/Outreach: Let those open to it or wanting it, know that they can request a visit. Establish a phone contact where they can leave their requests.</p>
<p>Whose voices are left out? Who is being marginalized?</p>	<p>Youth: Training for Leadership. Mentorship, YouthSpace</p> <p>Shut-ins: They can best tell how synodal our Church has been and can be.</p> <p>Men: Revamp Men's Ministry. Men stay in the background too much.</p>