

SYNOD ISSUES
Saint Thomas Aquinas
Mar-May 2022

Vatican Issues

Role of Women:

More involvement of women- females as deacons.

If priest allowed to marry, may understand marriage struggles better.

Women deacons would be helpful.

Marginalized Communities:

We need to find a way to include some type of formal and celebrated union between people of the same sex in the church.

Need to accept marginalized – divorced, gay, single.

Role of Leaders of Church:

Priest and other leaders in the church must know (be taught) that they do not have more knowledge just because they have a title.

Diocese Issues

Education:

Would prefer Tepeyac classes during daytime and closer to parish

Building Community:

Need to accept marginalized – divorced, gay, single.

Need to build the community. Bishop needs to ensure the diocese is aware of lifting of dispensation of tv mass.

Interest in online all though not actual community based.

Role of Leaders of Church:

Priest and other leaders in the church must know (be taught) that they do not have more knowledge just because they have a title.

Parish Issues

Communication:

Language is an issue. Individuals don't feel comfortable in mass' not in their native language. People are not always welcoming or friendly to individuals of different language.

Announcements need to be earlier, sometimes not enough time to prepare/plan for event.

Outreach:

Be more welcoming. Refer to church as family. Possibly send out greeting cards to encourage individuals to return to mass.

Education/Formation:

Need better communication of the order of the mass. Some parishes still kneel during the Liturgy of Eucharist. Do we need more uniformity. Are the differences relevant.

What is taught is not relevant.

Accountability of catechists.

We must never teach God as a punisher.

Catechists must approach lessons in different ways.

Approach lessons in different ways.

Growth and scripture classes during the day – not necessarily every week, once a month would be nice.

Need to keep youth involved, relevant, practice, kids' "Bible" while parents listen to homily.

We need formation that more accurately teaches every generation why we do things instead of just doing it because that's what we do (parents included).

Youth:

Bring back youth. Encourage youth to attend mass and participate in ministries. Must accept and acknowledge the youth. We need to invite the youth in order for church to grow and involve them in more activities. Listen to their need and sharing in their music.

Need to keep youth involved, relevant, practice, kids' "Bible" while parents listen to homily.

More youth activities(service hours).

Youth dinner.

Youth choir.

We need a youth choir.

Empower young adults instead of pursuing faith.
Children's church/liturgy at all masses to be held before gospel.
We need to have a bazaar again to bring youth in.
We need things for the youth to do around the community.
We need a Young Adult Group.
We must empower young adults instead of presuming things about their faith and involvement in church.

Role of Leaders of Church:

Ministry leaders should empower each other instead of judging each other because we have different opinions.
Priest and other leaders in the church must know (be taught) that they do not have more knowledge just because they have a title.

Music:

Increase music selections. Create English Spanish choir so mass would have more bilingual music.
Upbeat music maybe less music.
Youth choir.
Exciting music/ Instrumental music.
More upbeat/bilingual music.

Building Community:

Need to accept marginalized – divorced, gay, single.
The church needs to be more accepting of the LGBTQ+ community.
Maybe breakfast once a month with different ministries.
There is a small town 6 hours away and friends are excited to attend. They serve doughnuts. Both young and old are in front. Lovely music.
When growing up community is more prevalent, now music, liturgy and homily is emphasis.
Bring people together in some way. Need call to action.
Involve folks, bring food cans.
Priest used to leave parish with a question 'How are you...?'
Recognition of gospel in reading rather than relating to current events.
We need to have a bazaar again to bring youth in.
More community activities/gatherings/opportunities to know people.
Outside service/ mass in the park.
Bazar/Craft Fair/Live music
Open invitations to attend mass.
Invite people to join ministries, have individuals in ministries asking others to join in.

Showing service by demonstration/ modeling, adult altar servers.
Spirituality should be valued over doctrine.

Mass Service/Holiness/Reverence:

Times of adoration during the day, a holy hour.

Increase reverence for mass, i.e., phones going off during mass. Offer open auditing of RCIA and other courses so individuals can learn various protocols of mass.

Parents need to have better control over their children's electronics.

Church was a big part of life. Our parents instilled in us a reliance on God.

However today, young parents are not instilling these same values on their children. In addition, electronics are a distraction. Church is no longer an integral part of the life of youths.

Morning mass – if not all year at least during Lent on Fridays.

Make service faster, youth need things to go faster.