



# Synod Gathering

3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> June 2011

## Summary of Consultations

Parish Surveys / Regional Meetings (Feb / May 2011)

Parish Pastoral Councils (Feb 2011)

Clergy Deanery Meetings (Feb 2011)

Curia Staff Day (Nov 2010)

# Parish Issues - Summary

## ***Integration of Catholic Faith and Life***

- Being in and of the contemporary world
- Supported by guidance in faith
- Guidance on life outside the Church
- Inter faith dialogue

## ***Sustainability***

- Lack of vocations
- Ageing Clergy
- Ageing Congregation
- Long term future
- Financial leadership
- Financial Resources

## ***Relevance***

- Engaging wider population (families, youth, aged, disengaged)
- Mass attendance
- Living faith in our day to day lives
- Life beyond Mass
- Negative public face of the Church
- Church engagement in social/ global issues
- Link to community issues
- Future of the Church
- Stasis
  - Malaise
  - Stuck...not moving forward
- Homilies
- Understanding of faith
  - Education
  - Re -education
- Lack of relevance to people's daily lives
  - to families
  - to youth

## ***Leadership***

- Clergy sustainability and stability
- Declining vocations
- Collaboration and Involvement of all community (clergy, youth, ageing)
- Lay involvement in leadership
- Decision making
- Lay formation- laity in ministry
- Public voice and direction about social, moral and Social Justice Issues reflecting Church teaching
- Succession planning for future leadership
- Leading change- new Parish identities
- Ability to communicate and respect all
- Decision making in respect to finances
- Role of women
- Capacity of priests to reach housebound
- Credibility of faith leaders
- Challenge of language and culture with International clergy
- Stability of Parish Priest placements – being able to build relationships with the community
- Leadership Development

## ***Engagement***

- Participation
- Stronger links between school and parish
- Mass attendance
- Church engagement of all demographics
- Distance from traditions/rituals of Mass
- Engagement with families

## ***Participation***

- Engagement of non participants
- Inclusion of estranged and marginalized
- Declining numbers of volunteers
- Inclusion and participation of all parishioners (youth, families, ageing, multicultural disabled, group functioning in the parish)
- Connection between school students and parish life
- Sense of belonging
- Support for couples getting married

## ***Youth***

- Engagement / re engagement
- Validation of youth as an active/ growing ministry
- Relevance of faith for young people
- Faith formation- knowledge of faith
- More challenges
- Social interaction
- Inclusion
- Lack of presence
- No forum for expression/ dialogue
- Lack of encouragement
- Don't connect through school
- Lack of services (band practice, homework)
- Voice isn't heard

## ***Community***

- Welcome and sense of belonging and acceptance
- Integration of School community & Parish
- Inclusion of all groups- multicultural, youth, ageing
- Attention to needs of the elderly
- Retaining and increasing congregation
- Solidarity
- Hurt and bitterness
- Ecumenism
- Engagement of
- Outreach to

- People centered
- Connecting groups within the community
  - Ageing, youth, families, singles, sick, disabled
- Prayerful

### ***Outreach***

- Reach marginalized
  - within the community
  - outside the community
- Lack of awareness and need for support
- Need for respect and compassion
- Support for families/ young families within the community
- Reaching out
- Living the Gospel

### ***Stewardship***

- Outreach to non practicing Catholics and to those in need
- Social Justice
- Ageing and disabled
- Lay- priestly
- Finance
- Mission
- Direction of Church teaching in modern/ contemporary times

# Key Issues Clergy Deanery Meetings

## ***Formation***

- Adult faith education
- State school catechesis
- Catholicity of Catholic schools (secondary)
- Youth evangelization
- Clerical formation and spiritual renewal
- Formation programs for seminarians

## ***Engagement***

- Un-churched
- 80% don't attend church
  - Low reconciliation numbers
- Poor involvement of youth in parish life of some parishes
- Connecting with Catholics in state schools
- Challenging and engaging un-churched families

## ***Vocations***

- Lack of local vocations -quality and quantity
- Clergy morale
- Overseas clergy & stability of parish

## ***Facilities/ Resources***

- Ageing buildings
- Dysfunctional parish plant
- Effective use of diocesan finances to enliven and support parishes

## ***Relationships/ Trust***

- Unity and diversity among clergy
- Lack of trust of the faithful in the structures of the Church

### ***Leadership/ Communication***

- Lack of good models
- Lack of openness to potential for lay leadership
- Implementation of subsidiarity
- Lead Christ back to the centre- servant leadership- humility
- Not utilizing the skills, gifts and talents amongst clergy to assist in realizing the Vision
- No clear decision making processes
- Lack of clarity re role descriptions
- Poor leadership processes
  - Lack of thorough and ongoing consultation
  - Hasty implementation of decisions without adequate conversation, planning and buy-in
  - Poor communication resulting in a lack of understanding of the thinking behind decisions
- Lack of collaborative leadership model between clergy
- Lack of clarity re lay ecclesial ministries
- Lack of genuine communication and collaboration

### ***Relevance in 21<sup>st</sup> century***

- Reluctance to accept role of church by some. People are spiritual, but on their own terms
- Clericalism
- Secularisation- life style
- Lack of ownership of church in Australia
- Secular media driven society

### ***Catholic Voice***

- Need for a more outgoing church
- Effective communication

### ***Public Perception***

- Dealing with arrogance in the higher leadership in our church
- Roman centralization
- Hurt- healing
- Lack of real ownership of diocesan programs by clergy and parishes
- Need for people to accept and live out - 'they are the church' (not us and them).

### ***Sense of not moving-***

- Inactive parishes
- Low energy
- No vision
- Ageing parishioners



# Summary of Issues from Curia Staff Day

## ***Integration of Faith and Life (Relevance)***

- Strategic action for ecological sustainability.
- Engage Catholics in a meaningful/ fulfilling way throughout their lives.
- Bringing the Gospel alive in a creative, contemporary way.
- Relevant purposeful youth ministries.
- Use contemporary technologies to encourage participation and build credibility and relevance in the community.
- Treatment of “conscience.” Help people deal with moral issues.

## ***Catholic Voice***

- Catholic Voice in society.
- Poor image of the church in society.
- Clear open communication by the church on critical issues.

## ***Outreach***

- Stronger emphasis on action for Justice and Catholic Social Teaching.
- Continued focus on evangelizing Broken Bay Agencies.
- Need an honest analysis of why Catholics are not attending mass.
- State more clearly our focus on reaching the 80%.
- Schools are often the interface between “disenfranchised Catholics” and the church.

## ***Leadership***

- How do we conceptualize leadership?
- Offering support for Clergy, opportunities for formation.
- Explore opportunities to develop leadership.
- Adopt a planned and strategic approach to accessible and affordable formation of lay leaders.
- What model of leadership do we propose, implement and develop?

## ***Community***

- The centrality of human relationships in Mission.
- Continue to explore vocation and ministry.
- Gathering in community, other than Eucharist.
- Acknowledge position of schools in connection to “disenfranchise Catholics”.
- Inclusive approach for the whole of the Catholic Community.

## ***Other***

- Build connections between agencies.
- Collaboration and relationships with people of other faiths.