

FROM APOSTOLIC VICARATE OF BRUNEI: A SYNTHESIS OF THE SYNODAL REPORT

A. IN GENERAL

275 responses were sought from Catholics, the lapsed and Sunday School Children.

B. THE FEEDBACK

- Thriving faith of the people despite being small and in a Muslim majority country.
- Appreciation for the freedom to go for Mass, and to practice their faith freely.
- The community is there mostly at Mass and have little connection among themselves. There are some cliques. The BM & Mandarin groups felt left out.
- there is appreciation for the three parish priests who serve and care for the 3 parishes and for the children, for their listening skills towards peoples voices, ideas and suggestions. Team work is needed amongst clergy and laity.
- sadness felt with the passing of their shepherd Cornelius Cardinal Sim.
- The expat community felt very welcomed and supported in the community.
- need for more spiritual programs (in the native languages) for the laity.
- to promote Adult Faith Formation and Bible Studies programmes.
- to analyze and bring lapsed Catholics back to the Church.
- renewal in leaders and parents, needed in being role models.
- to improve in listening skills and service, to recognize gifts and talents, to be charitable, for service & support of the community, to evangelize and encourage all.
- To help in vocation discernment and promotion.
- Young people felt unconnected with a church that does not reach out to them much. A need to look and form them as future pillars of the Church and to be rooted in faith and in Church. More time and investment into building them, engaging in open communication on the Catholic faith, in their journey from teenagers to working young adults and into adulthood.

CONCLUSION

There is hope that the fruits of the Holy Spirit discerned through this consultation process will lay the groundwork for the church to achieve greater synodality. ✠



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INTERNAL CIRCULATION ONLY

BUL 35/2023

Newtbec

26 & 27 AUGUST 2023

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH

21st Ordinary Sunday

SALT OF THE EARTH AND LIGHT OF THE WORLD:
COMMUNION (INCLUSIVE), PARTICIPATION (CREATIVE) & MISSION (BRIDGE BUILDING)

(continuing the summary of the Synodal report findings, to Rome, by the Conference of Bishops of Malaysia - Singapore & Brunei.)

MONTHLY FOCUS:
JOURNEY OF RENEWAL

FOCUS EVENT:
AGGIORNAMENTO (1976)

FOR THE DIOCESES
OF MALAYSIA:
THE CONCLUSION



Efforts to maintain harmony, integration, respect, and religious tolerance amidst a multi ethnic and cultural landscape, illustrates the Synodal journey of the local church towards becoming vibrant, caring and progressive. This will draw more to come forward in service.



FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SINGAPORE:
A SYNTHESIS OF THE SYNODAL REPORT (SUMMARY)

A. Over 6 mths from 2021-2022 - 16,898 Catholics responded to the Synodal questions.

B. 7 themes were identified and discerned further. The areas of focus in order of Priority are:

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|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Discipleship & Christian Living | 2. Formation & Education |
| 3. Liturgy, Prayer & Spirituality | 4. Relationship |
| 5. Governance & Structures | 6. Parish Life |
| 7. Evangelisation | |

C. Synthesis

- deep desire to be better Catholics, have a stronger faith life, with a better relationship with God and His people.
- that faith formation can be better strengthened.
- that we become a more welcoming, transparent and non-judgmental Church.
- Two polarities are present - (1) the Church is too hierarchical and rigid needing flexibility and (2) wanting to see more reverence and tradition than modernism.
- Communities have good structures - and if well organised, could form and build meaningful relationships amongst all to strengthen the faith journey.

CONCLUSION

An Archdiocesan Pastoral Council will be formed to take a deeper look at the recommendations working towards coming up with a pastoral plan by December 2022.