

# Synod Survey Summary

05/23/2022

St Mark Catholic Church

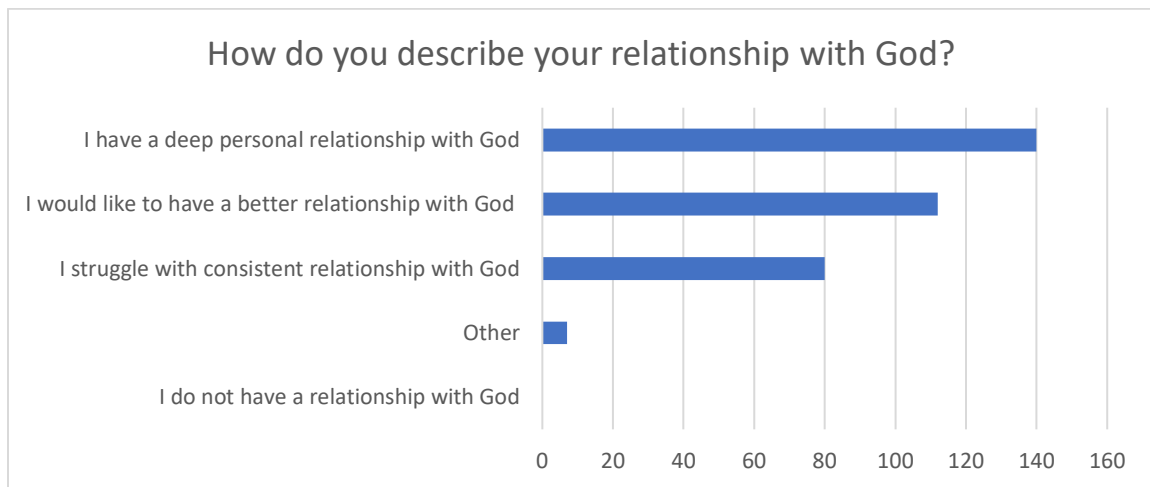
Huntersville, NC

## Demographics

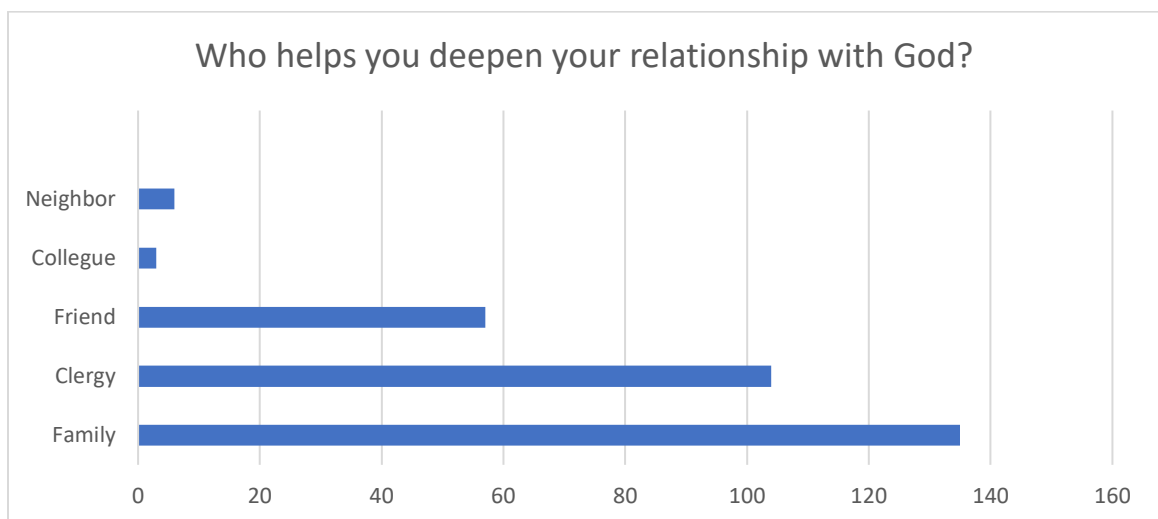
This Survey had a total of 305 respondents. It was advertised in our bulletin, website, social media and survey in pew cards for 4 weeks. 75% of the respondents were 45 years and above, 68% were female, 86% were Caucasian, 93% Attend mass every Sunday or more frequently and 100% of them were Catholic.

## Questions

### 1) How do you describe your relationship with God?



### 2) Who helps you deepen your relationship with God?



### 3) What practices help you grow and nourish your faith?

The top three answers were Liturgy, Sacraments, and a Personal prayer life followed by Rosary, Adoration Scripture reading and participating in Parish activities and ministries.

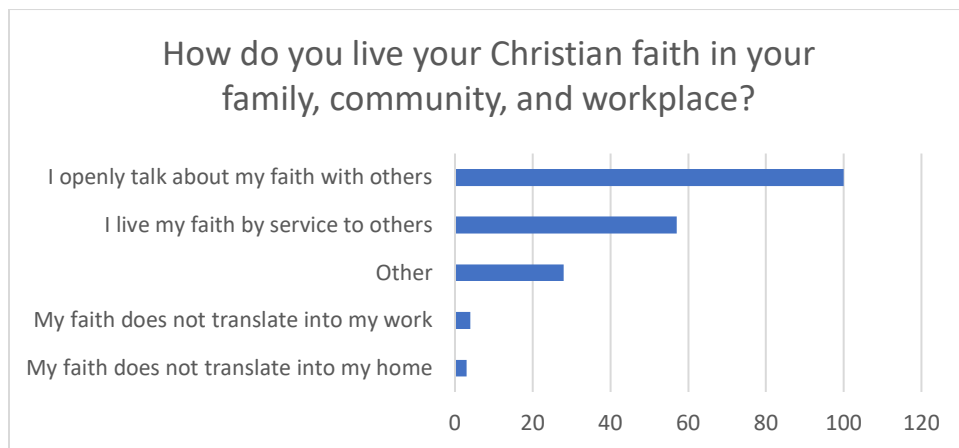
### 4) How do you envision God's relationship to you?

83% responded as a loving Father who interacts with his children

### 5) Do you regularly seek the Lord's direction in both small and large things?

81% said they always/usually consult God with another 18% sometime consulting God on their decisions.

### 6) How do you live your Christian faith in your family, community, and workplace?



33% comfortable openly talking about their faith with others

65% live faith by example and in service to others

## **7) How does St. Mark parish participate in the Church's mission to evangelize all people?**

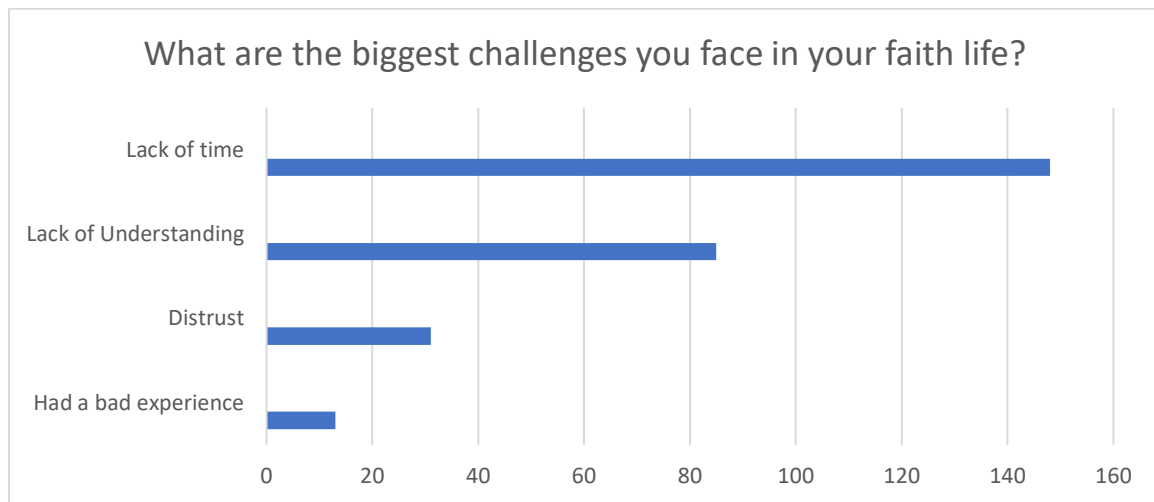
This question by far that the largest amount of comment and the most information to go through. There were 215 responses. They varied from both extremes of opinions held towards St. Mark. Many comments listed successes, and others provided opportunities.

Comment breakdown was 110 positive, 45 negative and 45 mixed opinions, 19 were miscellaneous or not pertaining.

The positive comments highlighted our Liturgy, reverence, and the Mass. Priests and their homilies are appreciated along with Sacraments and Adoration. The charitable works, service opportunities and outreach to the community were highly regarded. Our ministries, especially Small Groups, were highlighted as positives. Speakers, Parish Mission and Hispanic ministries were also highlighted.

The negative responses were widely varied. A few common themes were the difficulty to participate in the Mass with Latin music, the parish's co-vid response, lack of connection with the priests and feeling unwelcome or lost in the size of the parish. Other themes have been expressed elsewhere in this document, but lack of opportunities for seniors and children's programming reappeared.

### 8) What are the biggest challenges you face in your faith life?



Time management and a need for greater adult catechesis were a large part of these responses. This showed perhaps a need for resources about time management and catechesis

### 9) How would you describe your relationship with St Mark Parish?

61% of responses were steady, strong, or good. Another 20% described their relationship with St Mark as growing. Many of the negative responses were political in nature or disagreement on COVID.

### 10) How would you describe your relationship to the Roman Catholic Church?

96% of responses were steady, strong, or good.

**11)What would you need to improve your relationship with the parish or Catholic Church?**



33% of responses were that no improvement was necessary. Comments had a wealth of suggestions from bible study topics to the desire for spiritual direction. There were no prominent suggestions that stood out above others.

**12)Are there particular groups St Mark does not serve that you would like offered?**

Here the top answers were senior activities, providing resources and a loving attitude to families with children and individuals in the LGBT community, basic classes for reverts, addiction counseling, post High School/ Young Adult activities, infertility, and adoption resources.

**13)Does St Mark parish offer a spirit of welcome and inclusivity to all in the community?**

67% responded that St Mark is both welcoming and inclusive. Another 31% felt that St Mark as welcoming but not inclusive or not welcoming and inclusive. The size of the parish was a suggested factor that makes it difficult for new people to feel included. There were multiple comments about improving the welcoming atmosphere at Mass and being deliberate at getting to know one another. Some groups are perceived as being cliquey.

**14)At St Mark, people are aware of their baptismal calling to reach out in faith and evangelize in their everyday life.**

64% of response were agree or strongly agree. Of those who left response (51) a number of them questioned how well evangelization and our baptismal calling is understood among parishioners

**15)How important is the Holy Spirit in your life?**

97% felt that the Holy Spirit was at least somewhat important in their life.

**16)Do you feel the Holy Spirit calling you to participation in the life of the Church?**

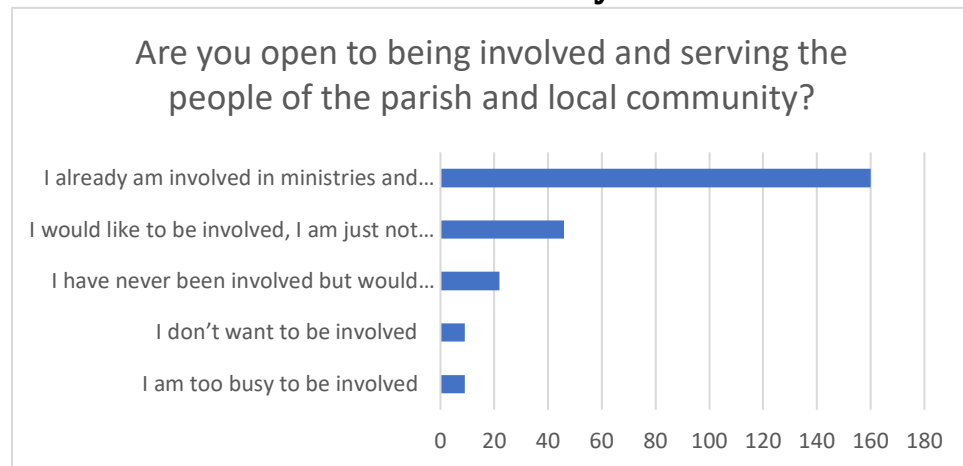


Although the majority of responses were affirmative. It is interesting to note that 23% of the responses were seeking assistance or not understanding how to fit in to the parish.

**17)Does St. Mark provide help with your faith journey and drawing closer to God?**

Top responses were Mass/Adoration/Sacraments, Clergy, Small Groups, MWOJ, and other programs that St Mark offers including Welcome and the Parish Mission. Some suggestions of respondents felt a lack of attention for the elderly and wanted homilies to be more focused on realistic challenges faced by parishioners.

**18)Are you open to being involved and serving the people of the parish and local community?**



Although 60% of responses indicated they are already involved, another 25% indicated they would like to be or are open to be involved but need some help figuring out where.

**19)Have you ever participated in a retreat or deep spiritual activity that had an impact on your life?**

Many responses indicated profound experiences at retreats given by the parish and elsewhere. 28% of respondents had never attend a retreat or deep spiritual activity that had an impact on their life.

**20)Have you ever felt the urge to share the joy of the Lord with someone outside of your family or church community?**

Although most responses were yes 20% of responses were no. A number of them express that they did not feel comfortable or did not know how to share their faith.