

## REFLECTING, LISTENING AND CONVERSING PROCESS

### Gathering of Laity 27<sup>th</sup> November 201: Evaluation

#### 1. WHAT DID YOU FIND MOST HELPFUL ABOUT TODAY'S GATHERING?<sup>i</sup>

- **CONVERSATION** – opportunity to converse; sharing different points of view; meeting people from parishes and their experiences; ✓ honest sharing by everyone; ✓ good to see people speak from the heart. listening; sharing different points of view – we are all singing from the same hymn sheet; the honesty about naming reality as people are now finding it; group-work – sharing and listening very good; people's openness and honesty ✓✓✓ willingness of people to speak; /shared hopes and views; ✓ the chance for a frank exchange of opinion ✓; sharing of hopes and fears for the future; it was the first time I had a chance to say what I thought; hearing everyone's point of view; to hear other people's views, to share our experiences, concerns, goals and common obstacles and problems; chance to speak openly and honestly about our experience of Church and share hopes and fears;
- **INPUTS** : lay speakers – their honesty in sharing their story; good to see people speak from the heart. ✓ great inputs – honest and sincere speakers; variety of speakers – honesty, a hope for change in the Church; Fr Gerry was my light-bulb moment of hope; honest personal experience from people who contributed; interesting insights into Church in present day Ireland;

**CHANGE** ; change is inevitable; honesty in recognising the task ahead for the Church; everyone has the same concerns and all want change;

**VALUE OF DAY:** enjoyed day and personally - felt I got a lot from it; the speakers, thoughts, the reflections, the facilitators and the group meetings I found beneficial; openness, honesty and hope of this group; gain hope from the anger felt by the People of God; it started a process which hopefully will bear fruit; I felt what was most valuable was the sharing and it being drawn together and the theological reflection; learning new approaches; everything during day valuable; the fact that there was an opportunity given to hear the views of so many; the workshop was well organised; facilitator was great; good format; it enlightened me on what the diocese is enabling [us] to do;

**COMING TOGETHER:** The bringing together ✓ of the parishes as one group is important – sometimes it can feel lonely by ourselves; glad to know there are other people in the same boat; ✓ participation from parishes and their experience; meeting of group/other folk; meeting people from other parishes ✓; hearing their concerns and things that work well in their parish; feeling I am not alone with my concerns; the wonderful spirit of the gathering and the opportunity to meet people from around the diocese; getting an insight into other parishes difficulties/ideas/solutions or even hopes for the future; find out what other parishes do; having the people from all parishes present – the energy was overwhelming and gave so much hope; to hear from other pastoral councils about similar themes and problems and the ways to move forward together; ✓✓ good insight into what is happening in parishes in the diocese; good gathering of diocese – lots of energy and passion in the room;

- **BISHOP'S PRESENCE:** Value of Bishop hearing the reality on the ground.
- **LITURGY:** Liturgy as it was done [was helpful];

- **CLUSTER:** Meet our Cluster, able to speak openly and write down all our thoughts on the Church; good insight into what is happening in parishes who have embraced the Clusters; opportunity to meet in Clusters and begin relationships;

## 2. WHAT MIGHT YOU CHANGE?

**PROGRAMME:** an evening programme would be shorter; shorter programme ✓–felt it dragged a little; shorten slightly the time frame; would like to have a few more details of what the structure entailed; amount of material covered too much – not enough time to tease stuff out – less components to a chosen topic; maybe the period of time – shorter time better concentration;

**GROUP WORK:**; perhaps more structure in the smaller groups due to time constraints; suggest strong person so steer small groups to avoid getting away from the point; no enough time to discuss the afternoon questions; more time in smaller groups to discuss what happens locally and in other areas of the diocese;

**FEEDBACK:** Feedback from small group incomplete: limited feedback time? more group-work and more time would have been useful I felt we should have listened to at least 2 or 3 comments back from each group after the first group session – as part of the listening process I felt this was important; feedback from individual groups to the general gathering; more feedback from the smaller groups; feedback from smaller groups in open forum session; try to get even a brief report from each discussion group;

**LOOKING TO THE FUTURE:** Unanswered questions about how to make things better for the future? What do people recommend? Perhaps if a set of suggestions or proposals could emerge that the Steering Committee could work on?; Change will come in its own time; transparency and feedback are critical for the process to be successful; (you ask/ we tell; you listen/we hope/ you act;); allow laity to fulfill their call; revert to old Mass replies;

**PARTICIPATION:** More grassroots people from various parishes; more diversity in the group – e.g. age/ethnic;

**SPEAKERS:** Too many speakers at beginning, pretty much saying the same thing; involve more from different parts of the community;

**CHOICE OF DAY:** Saturday rather than Sunday;

**FAITH FORMATION:** there is a huge need for faith education and formation – somehow, somehow try to learn and understand my Christian faith;

**CLUSTER:** Cluster size and better training;

**CHANGE NOTHING** ✓✓✓ nothing really – thought it was well organised – compliments! Very happy with the day; can't see what to change – needed all of the involvement;

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<sup>i</sup> ✓ indicates that this was said more than once;