

Session 1

The first synod question asked, "What are the most significant signs of the Lord's presence in your life?"

FAMILY was obviously important to everyone that attended these sessions. Jesus' presence is found in our St. John Neumann parish family. This idea was expressed over and over in many different ways and for many different reasons.

We are connected to each other by the Jesus in each of us. We are members of one body working together, using our individual gifts. We hold each other up through personal and community prayer, mass, Eucharist and responding to the personal needs of each other. Our parish members enrich our lives and others in many ways, such as liturgy ministries, Knights of Columbus, homebound visitation, Cursillo, food pantry, prayer group, homeless shelter work, prayer chain, the Giving Manger, to name a few. These works bind us together.

Another overall theme in our discussion was prayer. The Lord's presence in our lives is enriched by personal daily prayer, adoration and formal prayer services. It was often mentioned that prayer is how we find God working in our daily life, leading us to discern and follow His will. Prayer is not just saying words, but can be expressed by frequent attendance at mass, corporal and spiritual works of mercy, spiritual relationships with spouse, children, grandchildren and parish family.

We nourish and motivate each other when Christ's presence is in our life and in those that we touch.