

Session 2

The second synod question asked, "What are the biggest challenges or questions you face in responding to the Lord's call?"

- Discerning God's call and God's will
- Hearing the needs of others and responding
- Finding time, diminish distractions
- Seeing the good in others
- We need to be taught how to live faithfully
- Making God a part of every decision
- Not being able to go to church during Covid
- We need to learn how to evangelize
- Abortion – allowing people to continue to receive communion
 - US Constitution conflicts with our Catholic faith
- Death Penalty conflicts with our Catholic faith
- Life is hard to live according to the Catholic Church
 - How do we find balance
- Converts – struggling with finding answers about their faith
 - Must deprogram from previous religious beliefs
 - Don't know the Catholic faith enough
 - Afraid to share it
- Knowing how to pray and how to prepare for mass
- Adult children not practicing anymore, not bringing grandchildren to church; going to non-denominational churches
- Not knowing the word of God
- Being influenced by society
- Unclear messages from leadership in Rome; relaxed on Catholic teachings
- Making faith and church a priority – finding time for prayer and scripture; tuning out the noise
- How to evangelize our children at home
- Hard to talk to neighbors about faith
- Need more instruction to learn more about our faith
- How to be a disciple and how to know what our mission is
- How to move forward after Covid
- Non Catholic religions make faith easy, convenient and entertaining
- Abuse scandals
- Politics
- Mixed messages about what is right
- Trouble just surrendering to God's will and not try to control it myself
- Not sure if I'm doing what God wants me to do
- How to reconcile conflicting viewpoints

- Being afraid to step out there and fail, fear of being ridiculed
- Following political correctness while keeping our faith
- Complacency vs self discipline, focus on Christ
- Making participation a priority – at mass, in ministries
- Need priests to be more attentive to people/children
- Need multi cultural communication/unity in sharing faith
- Getting complacent – not doing enough in ministries
- How to cope with email, facebook, media, etc that distracts from prayer
- How to live out the Gospel among different beliefs/religions
- How to cope with Catholic rules that we disagree with
- How to promote unity amid language barrier, negativity, acceptance

There seemed to be two recurring subjects of conversation regarding challenges. One was centered on how to learn more about our faith and church doctrine. This came from both seasoned and newly converted Catholics. The second subject was how difficult it is to focus on our faith, especially keeping our children focused when our environment is so extremely fixated on the opposite.