

Plenary Council Discussion Group September 18th 2018

What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?

- ✚ to speak up. Not just keep going as we have been and to listen to one another.
 - Asking for accountability
 - Holiness
 - Individual Bishops must commit individually.
 - revive plans from 1992 and Social Justice statements 2000 & 2010 for women in the Church.
 - Lifelong appointments are absurd.
- † To honestly and in humility and non-judgementally try to see where we have failed and give most efforts into what we see as good for the future that we trust in the Spirit to empower the new ways.
- † That a respect for everyone, to take responsibility. Belief that God lives in each of us. That in the end all is imitation and that this imitation given to all. The Gospel call to discipleship is the same as it has always been.
- † We are called to be open.
- † Children are meant to be open to 'The Church'.
- † If we are all open, then 'The Holy Spirit' can talk and work through us.
- God is asking us to care for each other in Australia both materially, emotionally & spiritually. If we can carry this out, others will be drawn to our religion by our good works and helping each other.
- Be accountable for our actions: Holy Bishops – unconditional love.

Other general comments made:

- ✚ There should be a TV commercial and other marketing Australia wide for ALL Australians to make them aware of the 2020 Plenary Council.
 - "I feel there is no need for change".
 - Mass attendance or going to Mass is 'food' for the soul.
 - Accountability and we must have and take consequences for all actions
 - Bishops to be held accountable. More transparency. Women need to have their voice and importance be recognised.
- † Called to the same God and go the distance that they can to be called.
- † Not to be judgemental in our assumptions, look positive towards the future.
- † Discuss things in a very hopeful and positive way. A positive outcome is to enliven the Church.
- † Outcome to be 'We encourage the lay people to...'
- † We are all called to be 'Holy'; Holy- word changed to 'good', 'being the best we can be', 'a disciple'.
- † The 'Holy Spirit' wants to get in contact with people to allow them to feel inclusive of what's going on.
- Value of religious ways towards each other – community.
- We as Catholics are being judgemental about 'Why are people not at Church?'.

Thinking About the Future:

- ✚ Hope, that common sense prevails, The Church listens to people and accepts change is good – not just for the sake of change. Times have changed and will not be held back in tradition and its order.
 - The Plenary Council may change the current Catholics, but the Church won't grow. And it will only cater for those who attend church.
 - Loads of faith filled people. Have respect for the things you can't see, but the love of God is not aside.
- † There's too much Catholic bashing and we do not acknowledge the 'good- that we actually do' enough.
- Other religions practice their faith – which Catholics do not do well – serving each other.
- We need to live our religion.