

## LISTENING SESSION COMMENTS/CONCERNS RE; CHURCH

Summary of comments pertaining to similar themes and concerns

<b>CHURCH'S RELEVANCE AND MEANING</b>	
Desire for fellowship/social interaction	87
Encourage opportunities for laity to voice opinions and be listened to	68
Encouragement of adult religious education/study of Scripture (e.g. Walking With Purpose)	50
Utilize technology for information/inspiration/podcasts (need for and improvement of)	39
Low Mass attendance/the failure to explore why	29
Respect for/education about sacraments	23
Exclusion of LGBTQ community/desire for ways to include	22
Effect of partisanship/politics divisions on Church	22
Concern that Institutional Church doesn't value opinions of laity/feedback may be ignored	21
Desire to restore Church to a safe and welcoming environment	12
Acceptance of people where they are/utilize their gifts	10
More emphasis on teachings of Jesus	9
Concern for divorced Catholics/inclusion, etc.	7
Concerns regarding nostalgia for pre-Vatican II ways (Latin, e.g.)	5
Lack of guidance by leaders re: challenges of modern society	5
Concern for not offending (e.g., political correctness) at expense of biblical tradition & roots	5
Take politics out of USCCB	4
Desire for more Catholic retirement communities	4
Desire to keep emphasis on Vatican II and its implementation	3
Diminishing number of Catholic schools	3
Keep healthy sense of ecumenism	3
Need for liturgical renewal/music	3
Finances	3
Over-emphasis on rules	3
Shifting attitudes towards same-sex marriage and abortion separating from orthodoxy	3
Narrow view/ over-emphasis on abortion	3
Not enough emphasis on the unborn	2
Lack of understanding of real presence	2
Desire for interaction with other parishes	2
Exclusion of non-Catholic Christians from receiving communion	2
Keeping/guarding orthodoxy	2
Church's concern for stewardship of creation	2
Lack of concern for singles/couples dealing with infertility	2
More evening services on Saturdays & Sundays	1
Lack of diversity in parishes	1
Promotion of lay religious orders	1
Concern about missing family members who have left the Church	1
Outside speakers for inspiration/education	1
More concern for persecuted Christians in world	1
<b>YOUTH</b>	
Concern that Church lacks relevance to youth and younger generations	16
Keeping young people interested/involved	5

<b>WOMEN</b>	
Desire to see women in ministry/priesthood/diaconate/preaching/leadership roles	74
Women in general not respected as equals	5
Lack of appreciation for religious women and their contributions	1

<b>CHURCH LEADERSHIP/CLERGY</b>	
Those who expressly indicated positive experience of Pope Francis	43
Concern about dwindling numbers of priests	36
Sexual abuse scandal; lack of remorse; poor handling by hierarchy	33
Desire to allow married clergy	15
Lack of transparency by bishops/loss of faith in their leadership & moral authority	10
Collaboration and consultation with laity on the part of clergy	9
Clergy need to be more visible/approachable	7
Concern about clericalism/elitism in clergy	7
Lack of relevance to current issues/problems in society by hierarchy	6
Irrelevant/poor homilies; should be more relatable	5
Archdiocesan leadership pompous, out of touch	4
Misplaced emphasis on irrelevant concerns, e.g., metal vessels, archaic wording in liturgy	2
Should not have politics in the pulpit	2
Disrespect/lack of support for Pope Francis	1
Lack of concern for parishioners' individual needs	1
Use diaconate more effectively	1
Poor relationship between parish and Archdiocese	1
Accountability/term limits for pastors, bishops, e.g.	1
Concern for hierarchy listening to the voice of laity and these reports	1