

## AN EXAMEN ON THE CHURCH FOR THE SYNOD

### What is your experience of "journeying together" at St. Ignatius?

- That of coming home to the Jesuits I have long known and admired (friends and mentors like Tim Healy, Jim Loughran, Joe Sellinger, all +). The parish presents a thoughtful, humble, and kind way to live and share the Catholic faith.
- I feel at home here in a community of believers of various genders, races, ideologies, even as the readings, prayers, and homilies may make me and my conscience uncomfortable. My faith grows through the Mass, as well as the NYE service, weekend programs and even the e-zine. All of these provoke me to consider newer, deeper ways to love God and neighbor. I appreciate that we pray for murder victims each week.
- Being a parishioner at St. Ignatius means that prayer and attending mass are not enough in themselves, you must go out into the world and live the good news. I am inspired by Fr. Jim, Deacon Andrew, and Deacon Paul and so many fellow parishioners including Sue Dexter Cesare. Our bonds are deepened when we encounter difficulty together, whether it be a seemingly impossible political landscape or the dire news about our planet.
- As a relatively new member of the parish, I have been welcomed wholeheartedly to participate in the Interfaith Committee. Helping organize this year's New Year's Eve Interfaith Service has been a pleasure, but I'm most excited that our effort to expand the role of the Interfaith Committee will be initiated next year as we participate in the Institute for Islamic, Christian and Jewish Studies (ICJS) Congregational Leaders Fellowship program.
- Despite moving away from Baltimore City, St. Ignatius has continued to be my parish. It's refreshing to meet other like-minded Catholics who value social justice above simply "saving the babies." Our pastor does not shy away from touchy subjects and addresses them head-on. I've been able to create lasting friendships and can discuss my faith with leadership and friends.
- Transparency and candor for sharing broad values and changing norms yet respect for tradition and spirituality!
- A homily that is relevant and the passion and dedication of committee members is inspiring. When I am able to combine my faith and dedication to protecting the environment, I feel encouraged to work with others. The fact that St. Ignatius provides a platform to address this objective is heartwarming and refreshing.
- Walking in the door of St. Ignatius for Mass consoles and inspires me. When I leave, I always feel closer to God. I am not musical, but I am inspired by our

music and when our priest or deacon sings a part of the Mass. It feels good and natural, not forced. And once you hear a Jesuit homily, there is no going back. Our clergy and parishioners have created a palpable aura of Grace.

- Exquisite Gospel preaching by Pastor. Good parish administration by Pastor and Council. Great Parish Ministries, such as Peace and Justice and Embracing God's Gifts, each of which requires strong outreach by parishioners. Street persons' weekend feeding ministry (Loaves and Fishes). A very good musical program.
- One of immense gratitude. Thanks to the Jesuits combined erudite approach to the gospel and church history and their absolute commitment to social justice as a pivotal tenant of faith, I can again be a Catholic. I am grateful to the multiple ways in which St. Ignatius provides members opportunities to become involved in the parish and on a larger scale social justice as a Catholic.
- It is my experience in the "local" church (foremost St. Ignatius but also other parishes that I attend occasionally) that is the reason I "stay." The goodness and work for justice of the people of the parish, through the various ministries and under the leadership of a pastor who encourages us, deepens the bonds among us.
- The homilies are brilliant. Speaking out against social sin and for justice through the liturgy gives it added meaning and reflects the teaching of Jesus more accurately than is common in Catholic parishes on Sunday.
- I am inspired by those at St. Ignatius who feed, provide for and advocate for the poor. My faith is deepened by our parish's openness to LGBT and engaging discussions which prompt me to examine my own racial biases. I am especially drawn to issues of environmental justice and am grateful for our the support of our pastor (and archbishop) social and environmental justice issues. Liturgies are deeply inspiring.
- The homilies are plainly understood, always arising from the Commandment to Love All: all neighbors and our triune God. In accord with the Commandment, the abundance of ministries, the presence of lay liturgical ministers, and uniform mask-wearing in an unrelenting pandemic are efforts to serve parishioners and all of God's family.
- The sense of journeying together at St. Ignatius seems ingrained in almost all aspects of the Parish. From the liturgy to the social justice ministries, to the friendships we develop, all are part of a very deeply established tradition of trust and friendship. If someone wants to be part of it, they can easily choose so.
- The many ministries allow me to participate in the teachings of the church such as peace and justice, esp. racial injustice, feeding the hungry, care of the

earth, environmental issues and women's involvement in the church. I like the diversity, and everyone is welcome attitude. The homilies are always insightful and relate the Gospel readings to the issues we are dealing with in the present time. So helpful in getting us through these tumultuous times.

- I feel consoled by a continuous sense that St. Ignatius is my spiritual home in Baltimore! This is despite the fact my physical Mass attendance at St. Ignatius hasn't been regular since I registered at the parish in 2017. I feel that people at this community (parishioners and staff and clergy alike) genuinely care for each other and are willing to welcome others where they are.
- Uplifting and beautiful liturgy, deep faith commitment of the entire congregation, buttressed by the teachings of Ignatian spirituality. Active faith and active hands. Wonderful leadership in education. Great selection of active committees.
- I have been inspired by Fathers Bill Watters and Jim Casciotti who constantly exhort us to look beyond ourselves to help others - especially the poor and those in need. At Saint Ignatius I have encountered companions in the Justice and Peace Committee who continue to challenge me. The outreach to educate the poor through the Loyola School, St. Ignatius Academy and Cristo Rey is particularly significant.
- Saint Ignatius is a place of welcome. It is a place where the Catholic faith is put into action for the greater good of all. A gospel-based faith that leads and inspires by example and not by words of judgement.
- I appreciate the clear and consistent message to all of us to live our faith not simply observe it. As a divorced Catholic with LGBTQ+ family members, I feel welcomed as a full member of the community, not as someone less than. The opportunity to participate in the Spiritual Exercises was a tremendous gift that both deepened my faith and gave me tools to continue to discern my calling as a layperson.
- We were recently married at St. Ignatius. Our pre-cana sponsor couple helped us to broaden our faith and think critically about Ignatian Spirituality. They were inspiring in sharing their experiences of marriage and their own journey through their faith. I'm also appreciative of the variety of ways St. Ignatius offers us to give back to the community.
- Father Jim and Father Bill have been the major force in my spiritual life since I was a member of Old St. Joseph's Church where they served back-to-back as Pastor in the late 1980's. Since my days as an undergraduate at Georgetown University, I have been a follower of Ignatian Spirituality. My faith has deepened and grown largely from their guidance. Their influence on my life of faith is immeasurable.

- I recently joined St Ignatius. I was drawn to this community because of how it is welcoming to all. As a new member I am inspired to act out the charisms of my faith rather than judge others based on old biases help by some Catholics. I have always been called to walk with others where they are and lead them to God through my actions. St Ignatius gives me many opportunities to do that.
- I am encouraged by the openness of St. Ignatius to the issues in our church -- Bishop's issues, Gay issues, and openness of the faith community to all.
- I have been inspired by the commitment to justice at St. Ignatius. It is largely what drew me to the parish when I moved to the city and left a county parish that had many beautiful things about it but was phobic of justice. There is a lot of hard work that goes into pursuing justice, and I appreciate the respectful dialogue and research that goes into advocacy and outreach. This has deepened my faith.
- I am almost always mesmerized by the thought-provoking messages of the homilies. During the week, I recall and dip into my "inspiration and recovery box" in my brain. I am so glad and adamant that St Ignatius parish reminds ALL of us how important it is to walk with God. As I've grown older, my desire to be close to my Lord and God has gotten stronger...I truly crave my Lord. I know what it's like to attend a church where social issues are not discussed, and I clutched to my faith and felt His presence...St Ignatius' atmosphere soothed my soul! Pleased remain intentional re serving the poor, homeless, addicted and helping the powers-to-be in Baltimore realize their responsibilities as well. What a jewel we have in St Ignatius as struggle through this challenging time!
- Shared faith, intelligent and inspiring homilies, mission of St. Ignatius.
- I have found that St. Ignatius really does foster a sense of community. For me, that has been a unique experience; in previous parishes I would come and go in anonymity. People share their faith in an adult way.
- It's amazing how I find myself wondering so deeply about Journeying together here at St. Ignatius. WE are a great community of Pilgrims. I think it is the challenge of stretching myself to live the Gospel in authentic ways. Ways that feed my spirit and desire to move beyond all the barriers that arise consciously and unconsciously from the challenge to stay and grow in intimacy of a greater relationship and reliance on God. I am inspired by the leadership of our Parish because they are clearly grounded in a faith walk that continually challenges them to reach beyond themselves to see, hear and follow the way of God more dearly and clearly. I love that they are guided by rubrics that always scream for the Magis in themselves as well as others. I love that they are great listeners and have a discerning voice.

- I returned to the Church after an absence of several decades. I initially went back to my former parish but did not feel at home; it had changed and not for the better. A friend said: "St. Ignatius is the place for you." And he was right. The parish has been very welcoming to me. There is a real feeling of warmth and community in the parish.
- E.G.G.'s personal sharing has been the most meaningful journeying together.
- The Jesuit teachings in general have drawn us back into the Catholic Faith. We have been fortunate to find St. Ignatius and love Father Casciotti and feel welcomed at the church. We want to deepen our faith because we don't only want to seek it when things are bad, but we want to live a faithful life all the time. We are drawn to people of all walks of life. Father Casciotti is a breath of fresh air. Growing up in the Catholic church we've never been so moved by his bringing together community and fostering Catholic faith. We love the ministries at St. Ignatius and are so fortunate to be able to participate in them. The after-church coffee is such a sweet way to get to know the community in general. We have never felt like part of a church community until now.
- Being challenged to act on professed faith. Being in environments that are conducive to understanding the lives and challenges that others face and doing it together.
- If I could only choose two words to describe St. Ignatius, they would be "journeying together." From the moment I set foot in this church, I knew it was the first time that I had ever encountered a Parish that was a true community filled with love, spirituality, and warmth. Since getting more involved in various Parish activities, this notion has only strengthened for me - and I look forward to continuing the journey, together.
- As ICU physicians with 2 young children, we found St. Ignatius during a time of crises. While yet come in person, we have felt more connected to and understood by this church than any other. We listen and re-listen to the homily each week. Our hearts connect to the prayers of the faithful. We could not be more grateful or fulfilled than hearing what we believe is the true message of Jesus conveyed by Fr. Jim. St Ignatius is a bright light in a world and Universal Church shrouded in shadow. For the first time we feel morally and ideologically understood in this church. We look forward for our two young children to be vaccinated so that we can join in the community in person. St. Ignatius has redeemed two devout but disillusioned Catholics.
- I have found a community in which I can seek a center for my week. I feel rejuvenated by the Mass. The composition of our parish always impresses me - in that so many of my fellow parishioners are doing good work in their communities and this inspires me to try to be a kind human with purpose each week.

- St. Ignatius Church is the friendly and welcoming to new and old parishioners. The priests are outgoing to all.
- Originating from the Deep South, I had the impression that extreme conservatism equaled devout Christianity. I felt like a black sheep in His flock because of my belief that "All are welcome" in the Church. The idea of a community that reconciles true social justice and the Gospel seemed like a pipe dream until I found St. Ignatius. I felt welcomed from day one, and we don't seem to be running out of room for others.
- Fr. Jim is as welcoming and warm as it gets. Never experienced such a deeply connected pastor in my time in the church. Experiences with the clergy remind me that we are all doing the best we can. Faith feels like the foundation but other experiences of life are also valued and focused on (mental health). There doesn't seem to be a rush to progress but an inspiration to journey towards.
- I am inspired by the congregation at St. Ignatius, in particular the purposeful way our parishioners choose to worship on North Calvert Street. We all have many choices for a place to worship but are drawn to St. Ignatius for our own deeper reasons that create what I feel is a very thoughtful, driven and involved parish. For few St. Ignatius is convenient, for many it is powerful.
- Parishioners at St. Ignatius are eager for community, perhaps because we all have lost out on community these past two years. It has been easy to connect with my community members, even those decades older than me, through common cause: Justice & Peace, St. Ignatius Reading & Discussion Group, a young adult group, RCIA. Since our meetings are (almost) all virtual, I do not yet walk with folks outside of common interests, but hopefully soon.
- Journeying together at St. Ignatius for me began when I discovered this wonderful church! Finally, I found a place where I could hear homilies speaking openly about the problems and policies of the world and where there were active committees addressing the needs of the surrounding community. Father Casciotti inspires me personally to take action to walk with others in the community to contribute especially as I am about to retire.
- The totality of the worship experience both consoles and inspires me: The liturgy; the music; the challenging sermons; the way in which we are challenged to live and act more like Jesus Christ in today's world! The clear eyed acknowledgement of the brokenness of ourselves, our church, our City and our world motivates me to strive to be more like Jesus. The shared commitment to reach out beyond this community deepens the bonds between us.
- Community, service and worship come to mind. Welcoming, openness, thought provoking, shared witness, outward oriented are next.

Relationship with God, friends, community.

Community of faith, witness of God's love by others, "good" homilies, parish ministries and concern for others, social justice concerns, service.

Am involved in West Baltimore neighborhoods where I live and Bon Secours Community Works governance and programs.

Shared humanity, concern for others, faith community, parish environment.

## Where are the shadows?

- Follow-up to the marriage prep could be a positive avenue to explore but I wouldn't call it a shadow.
- Our interfaith program has been somewhat limited, it appears to me, in the past by focusing almost exclusively on the annual Interfaith Service. The ICJS Congregational Leader's program should help immeasurably in the parish's effort to interact with people of other faith traditions, as well as develop a cohort with another parish, synagogue, or temple.
- I've sometimes felt disconnected from others in my age bracket. This is likely my own doing for not attending as frequently as I should—and I'm sure the pandemic and lack of hospitality hours have something to do with that.
- None, I absolutely love the mission and structure of St. Ignatius Community Church.
- I try to abide by the Jesuit principle of finding God in all things, so I am generally positive and don't try to look for shadows. My disappointment is my own because I have not been as involved as I would have liked to have been. I hope to remedy that now that I am retired.
- Need for non-ordained members of parish council for greater control of parish funds, after meeting needs of our Jesuit and archdiocese household. Need to provide more active welcome to new "walk-in" persons.
- Sung Mass. Not every Mass needs to employ approach to the liturgy. The words of our liturgy are quite beautiful, and it is hard to concentrate on them when singing those prayers. Quite frankly, I miss the format of the radio Mass.
- I wish that we could be more "intentional" about inviting in the people who live in (or wander about) the area surrounding the church, not necessarily for mass but for other events (when COVID is under better control), and about worshiping and working with our "sister parish," St. Wenceslaus--our small contribution to changing the reality that churches on Sunday mornings are most racially segregated times and places in the country.
- For an elderly person like me, the liturgies are a wonderful blend of cherished tradition and ripped-from-the-headlines social teaching. I'm concerned, though, that few younger folks would find the "old" stuff as engaging as I do. Like many other parishes, too many gray heads; too few young ones.

- Too much pulpit-bashing of politics. I agree with the message, but think it is more effective when woven in more subtly and prayerfully. Please leave the baseball bat at home!
- Hi, Father Jim. Or, after that one message, should I now call you Father Slugger? Could not disagree more with that message but I applaud you for including it. May I suggest if they don't like your baseball bat that you switch to a grenade? I honestly appreciate your messages but think you don't go far enough. Yes, I know, easy for me to say when it's your neck out there. My (German national) aunt always lamented that too many pastors said nothing about Hitler from the pulpit until it was too late. Please, do NOT stop your messages about perilous situations and the importance of living the gospel. You give me hope and are doing a fantastic job.
- Sadly, we have not yet found paths to including more neighbors from the immediate area of the parish as well as from the host of diverse communities in/with which we live in 2021.
- Nothing at the Parish qualifies "to put me off." As to the issues of intentional or not, we need to explore more the concept of eliminating any frictions. I mean friction in the sense not of difficulty between individuals, but the ability to create engagement in the aspects of the Parish more easily. To eliminate those points that limit one's ability to engage more fully. This can most often be simple things like the bar code for the music, or Venmo, or the online Mass, or more energetically pursuing volunteers. I think this is our number one easily solved challenge, but it needs lots of focus.
- I've felt less engaged with the Justice and Peace Committee over the past several months and less like I could really have a role or voice in it--but I think navigating the realities of an ongoing and ever-changing pandemic is likely a large part of this. It's not easy to be safe when having people meet/gather, so I completely understand using Zoom. But, Zoom meetings have their limitations.
- It's difficult for anyone who has not been blessed by a professional or corporate career and the accompanying benefits to feel inclusion at St Ignatius. IVC and Loyola Press, as well, divide life into pre- and post-retirement "goals" in the 20th-century corporate model. Doesn't leave enough room for homemakers, caregivers, and the less socially or professionally able.
- I find that people have different gifts and interests. Not everyone has the same priorities as I. However, on the whole, I am happy with the parish.
- We could do a better job of bringing our youth into a more active role in parish life. No one wants to stay somewhere where they are not included.
- My social justice and political views are aligned with the pastors, and I admire and personally value the conviction he brings to his homilies and the prayers of the faithful. However, I sometimes worry that the language (and some of the sentiment) may alienate others. At times the intensity of the preaching



about politics is difficult for me. I understand the need but find it challenging at times even if I agree with the sentiment.

- I have not yet experienced any shadows in this community. In my prior community, while my experience was supportive and loving in the larger sense, there were church militants that tried to isolate others. I was told I was not Catholic and that I should be held accountable for murder because I chose not to vote for President Trump. I didn't witness a strong enough push back against these "beliefs" to make me comfortable.
- I would like to see more women at the altar and more of an acknowledgement and help in homilies of the crises facing us--the Covid stuff, the political stuff and racism and overall uncertainty of our lives. We need help with these matters. I feel like the homilies while very good are more about theology than where we need help now.
- Being a city church, welcoming folks into the church building is hard to do. The doors are big and heavy, up steep steps--a poignant metaphor for the Church Universal. Could we create a small, tangible representation of our welcoming atmosphere and the one we hope to grow in the larger Church by having greeters stand outside, open the doors and welcome folks inside? I'd be happy to volunteer for this.
- I do not feel there are shadows at St. Ignatius Church. In the larger church and even in the Archdiocese, I see a more limited view of women as leaders in the church and an outright prohibition on their being ordained. In my heart, I do not believe Jesus would approve of this. I see examples in the Gospels of Jesus treating women with more respect than the Bishops do today.
- It is the church's role to help shape the moral framework through which we assess real-world issues. I appreciate conversations that help develop my moral thinking. I don't believe, however, that it's the church's place to dictate my political positions. Help me think; do not -- explicitly or implicitly -- tell me who to vote for or what specific public policy to support. That's my call (even when we agree, as we usually do).
- I am extremely put off by name calling and ridicule of folks who do not hold the same political/partisan views as the leaders. Folks who need Jesus need to fall in love...that love involves change and growth- one is hindered in this if they feel unloved by the people who represent Christ! Don't push away the very people who need God most!
- My biggest struggle is with what i perceive to be regular reminders/insertions of culture wars in our worship. Certainly, there is an important place for disagreeing with the conservative bishops and other critics of Pope Francis. But these concerns should be addressed in a more constructive manner which, in humility, affirms our common faith and faults, avoids judging the faith or intentions of others, and challenges our (mostly liberal) parish to be self-critical.

- I cringe each time the call for the monthly Historic Trust Fund is accompanied by "and every penny stays in the parish." We should well be aware that we each have duties outside the parish. Yes, maintenance is important and there should be preparedness for the future though the gospel seems to have conflicting views. Pulpit or Bully Pulpit? Same for Parish the Thought. Discussion not blame games is preferable. I could go on but...
- More diversity would seem appropriate.
- The biggest disappointment and barrier to feeling intimately and fully present with our Lord, is the imagery that prevails and YES, haunts Catholicism and our Christian communities throughout our world. It already feels oppressive as white men seem to carry power. We all depend on imagery in our lives, especially with prayer 🙏....it's a burden for people of color to see God as a bearded stern look white man.
- The choir sings beautiful operatic music, but I can't understand a word. I would prefer more contemporary songs accompanied by outstanding musicians. The parish and pastor could do a much better job of welcoming new members as well as guests at mass. As far as I can tell I don't think there is a committee that could reach out to new members. Also, the lack of response to pledges and major gifts is disappointing. .
- We should have more organized support for home-bound and elderly parishioners. I know the Pastor and Deacons do some of that, and some of the laity do that informally.
- The most immediate thing in the shadows is being able to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. This is a problem for all organizations. Pre-pandemic personal ties can be maintained on life support, but they cannot grow, and new personal ties cannot form on Zoom. Although we can gather in person for mass, mask wearing, which I support, also places a barrier to personal interaction. All of this puts a pressure on the community.
- We profess to being in solidarity with the worker, the immigrant, the outsider, but could create more opportunities to work across parish lines and city lines to reach out to those brothers and sisters.
- 1. There seems to be a lack of synergy between the established, experienced lay leadership and action-eager "young adult" leaders (with the latter often subsequently drifting away) and 2. There is no "Ignatian Spirituality 101"-type course for new parishioners/those who were not Jesuit educated to fully appreciate and be inspired by Father Jim's teachings and the Community. While neither are critical by themselves, these items over time could risk negatively impacting long-term Parish mission sustainability.
- I suppose, I am always sad that women do not have a leadership role in my Church. I know that St. Ignatius leadership is always looking for ways to be more inclusive and I appreciate the efforts. I am really so grateful for my parish.

- Traditional Roman Catholic hymns seem to be erased from the Mass, i.e., Lord I am not worthy that thou should come to me, Holy God we Praise they name, etc.
- It could just be me adjusting to a lack of Southern hospitality, but I was very put off by the lack of a warm welcome when I first started attending. Everyone was warm once Fr. Jim introduced me, but I feel that had I not reached out first, I'd still be "in the shadows." Everyone doesn't have that proactive personality, and I think we all should be aware of other newcomers searching for a home.
- The Young Adult community appears to be forgotten. This age group has a very unique experience but has limited opportunities to connect and engage. The church feels oriented towards families with young children and older adults. Young Adults need more spaces to gather and engage.
- As a parish we need to challenge ourselves to be above the politics. There are many worthy, devoted parishioners at St. Ignatius whose politics fall on either side of the razor thin meridian created by the media. Our language and intentions should make all feel welcome. Even the smallest wittiest remark can be hurtful, I believe there is a way to support and challenge our community and political leaders without putting them down.
- I appreciate the presence of people of color in leadership roles - pastoral council, acolytes, communion servers, committee chairs. St. Ignatius should be a place where BIPOC find ownership and representation. Our BIPOC community members could guide us to increase our recognition of holidays important to their communities. What would it look like to incorporate hymns traditional to the African American Catholic Church, like those from the "Lead Me, Guide Me" hymnal?
- I am new to this congregation and am not yet fully integrated into it. Covid has made this harder. Also, I am grounding myself by undertaking the Loyola program focused on experiencing the spiritual exercises of St. Ignatius. When I complete this nine month commitment, I hope to enter and engage in the community more fully.
- Before Mass, ask all to introduce themselves to those around them; at the end, maybe ask newcomers to stand to be acknowledged (could be off-putting).  
During announcements ask all to think of one word they take away & share it with one person sitting near (to get people thinking & sharing with each other- to extend ourselves.  
Invite young adults to be e.g., lectors, etc.

## What is your experience of “journeying together” as part of the Archdiocese of Baltimore?

- Despite some differences, I commend Fr. Lori for his stance and actions on the abuse crisis.
- I've gained a deeper appreciation of what it means to be church, how vibrant and varied we are. Black Lives Matter events last year at St. Vincent de Paul and St. Matthew made me rethink a lot about who I am and who my brothers and sisters are. Lots of examination of conscience there. Abp. Lori has shown us how a leader can love, teach, and be a role model.
- I am inspired by the Archdiocese of Baltimore and its commitment to education. I feel drawn to the efforts to highlight members of the community who are doing amazing work as done in publications like the Catholic Review.
- I can see the Archdiocese trying to address the tough issues, but I still feel their reserve. I feel hope every time the bishop releases a statement. I just wish he released more and could address Fox-News Catholics.
- This journeying together stops at the Archdiocese and does not move Rome to change!! The lack of women celebrating the sacraments is antiquated and holds back journeying together.
- Very little.
- Archbishop Lori inspires me and makes me feel valued, even as a liberal Catholic who does not accept all church teachings.
- Good public outreach (TV), good administration of charities.
- Absolutely dismal. I am not inspired by its leadership or policies. I contribute to their fund because a percentage comes back to our parish, and I want to keep them out of our hair.
- I feel little to no connection to the archdiocese. I am heartened when the archbishop demonstrates cooperation with leaders of other faith communities, but... the occasions that hearten me are rarer than those when I am ashamed of the archdiocese under which our parish operates.
- Catholic Charities is a national model for what the Church can do for “the least among us.”
- I am grateful that the Archdiocese of Baltimore—and specifically archbishop Lori—is supportive of the loving response to all persons in the church. It reflects the response I would expect from a loving Christ.
- Unlike other dioceses, the Archdiocese of Baltimore (ADB) publishes information that identifies clergy in ADB who have been publicly alleged to have committed, or to have enabled the commission of, abusive actions toward minors and other vulnerable people.
- I have no attachment at all to the actual or conceptual Archdiocese. I view them as unneeded bureaucracy, guardians of the past, and encumbrances to the future. They appear more political than holy. They seem carefully opposed to Pope Francis. They were very helpful in the strategic plan but

other than that they seem far more negative than positive to the message that Jesus and the Jesuits foster.

- Bishop Madden's walks in the city were the only times I felt connected to the Archdiocese.
- I appreciate that the archdiocese seems to have a diverse array of parish communities, and perhaps I'm biased by having known Archbishop Lori ever since I was a kid and he was the Bishop of Bridgeport in my childhood--but I do get the sense that he seems to be trying to keep everyone united, which isn't easy. But I don't personally feel connected to the rest of the archdiocese.
- Archbishop Lori is blessed with an open heart and not afraid of the Catholics under his care. He communicates well to the laity. Enjoy his leadership on anti-racism and looking forward to his tenure at the Pro-Life Committee at USCCB. The Archdiocese supports a good diversity of parishes and religious. So glad to see a new school!
- I feel that the parish attempts to work with the Archdiocese to promote the common good. In particular, I found Bishop Madden's prayer walks through the poorer parts of Baltimore as an important attempt at creating a sense of solidarity. I was particularly inspired by Bishop Frank Murphy and his focus on justice and peace.
- None.
- I have only lived here a couple of years, but I have to admit that other than the annual Archbishop's Appeal and those references Fr. Jim makes to the AB's writings, I don't feel the presence of the Archdiocese in my life.
- I enjoy the outreach St. Ignatius does with historically black churches. I feel it helps connect the archdiocese.
- I believe that our Diocesan leadership are good and faithful men who want very deeply to strengthen their parishioners' faith. I also believe that they are trying to be welcoming and balance between being called to serve and being called to follow the church's teachings carefully. My experience has been that they look to the good of the church and not being reactionary to the loudest angry voice.
- Don't feel very connected to the Catholic community in/of our archdiocese. Are there strong stances being taken for the views of Bishop Gomez and others?
- Bishop Madden has inspired me. His commitment to doing prayer walks in the city and in my personal experience with him have made me long to see more Bishop Maddens in the episcopate. Sadly, I have little else to contribute to this inquiry.
- I respect Archbishop Lori and have seen him lead with love. I am encouraged by the naming of the new high school for Mother Mary Lange, the education provided in diocesan schools, and the services provided by Catholic Charities.
- The care for others through Catholic Charities and other social service programs is terrific, and so needed by the community. This is an example of

concrete service which also carries genuine moral authority in shaping our political and cultural environment. The whole community relies on this example, whether said directly or not.

- I wouldn't say I have "journeyed together" with the Archdiocese. I feel very connected to Ignatius but don't really consider the Archdiocese as present in my life.
- I find our Archbishop to be a leader and a listener. Many good programs - do your share and support the Annual Appeal. \$9 M in 2019 per 518 K Catholics - a bit over \$17 each. Add a note of direction to your contribution if you see needs not filled.
- It helps to see so many people trying to find their better selves.
- Again, keeping human dignity, respect for all regardless of economic status, race, etc. UP FRONT AND PERSONAL!! Race, in particular, is a difficult subject to discuss and sort out. I feel like the Archdiocese of Baltimore continues to make major efforts to address our racial issues.
- The Archbishop is a good and generous man.
- The pamphlet published by Archbishop Lori on the Church and racism surprised me with its honesty and sensitivity.
- What disappoints and angers me is the clericalism of the Church that while admitted is a problem for this particular order of Ministers, yet continues to rear its head on the altar and in opportunities for shared leadership. I too often get the unspoken whisper of "I can see it as un-Gospel, but I don't want to be the one to step up. The AOB is a "no risk zone."
- There are many reactionary priests and parish leaders within the Archdiocese, especially the younger priests. I left my former parish because of one of these reactionary priests. My impression is that Archbishop Lori is much more conservative than I am, or most of the parishioners at St. Ignatius are. But he seems to be reasonable and generally supportive of issues of concern to me and I appreciate that.
- Adoration of B.S. both at Basilica & Immaculate in Towson  
At St. Joseph's in Cockeysville we pray after every daily Mass for vocations.
- While it was historically not apparent to me that there was any "journeying together" within the Archdiocese of Baltimore, after getting more involved in St. Ignatius, I've started to see where the Archdiocese has made efforts to support its Black Catholic community and has made some efforts to convey to white Catholics that they need to be more antiracist as well. And while there certainly is more room for improvement, these efforts should be acknowledged.
- While we know that our archdiocesan leadership has to represent a range of beliefs and perspectives, we would like to see more advocacy, more outreach, and more attention to address many of the desperate needs of our community.

- I appreciate the mission of Archbishop Lori to center the community around love and special attention to improving racial justice in our city. I am so proud of the work of Catholic Charities. I feel bonded to my fellow Catholics when I see parishes participating in acts of charity and social justice.
- I'm still learning about the Archdiocese.
- Very limited experience with the Archdiocese. But will say, in January 2017 attended mass at the Basilica where Bishop Madden preceded for a bit. Became a parishioner at St. Ignatius and got confirmed in June 2017 by Bishop Madden. Really enjoyed the ability to reconnect.
- Archbishop Lori is doing a masterful job helming the Archdiocese through very turbulent waters that include: an increasingly polarized and sometimes fanatical flock, a tarnished and shamed clergy, a dwindling base of loyal parishioners. Uniting today's Catholics is as difficult as ever and I am inspired by the steady and earnest way Archbishop Lori is trying to keep us all rowing together.
- I have recently returned to Catholicism after many years. I feel like I have returned home. I am overwhelmed with a tremendous sense of gratitude for being welcomed home here at St. Ignatius. I have not yet felt part of the Archdiocese of Baltimore. However, I am pleasantly surprised by how many e-mails and other communications I receive from the Archdiocese.
- What: connection to a larger faith community; sponsored social programs or services of catholic charities and religious communities; concern for ethnic groups, e.g., Hispanics, African Americans.

### **Where are the shadows?**

- We should do more to make women equal and equally respected partners in ministry.
- We need a much greater focus and emphasis on joy and what the church has to offer and less on shame and shaming people's behaviors. If we aren't careful, we will lose an entire generation. This is not hyperbole. Some suggestions include holding evenings/retreats in collaboration with schools and at each church for youth addressing issues they find important, how the church has supported them, where it's let them down and conversations like this.
- Whenever I thought about becoming a parent, I always wanted to send my children to a Catholic school to develop the base of their faith. But I want to raise self-thinkers. I'm so tired of the "Pray the Rosary for the Unborn" rhetoric, and immediately changed my mind about Catholic schools when they had anti-abortion "propaganda" outside during the humanitarian crisis at the border. What about children and families separated? Don't they deserve prayers?
- Not connected!

- For too long and for too many parishes I have visited, I have found their message hollow and antiquated. While the church is charitable, it is too restrictive as to the definition of a good person. The church has also failed in motivating all of its parishioners when considering their actions on the environment, climate change and factory farms.
- There is, and always should be, space for conservative Catholics, parishes, and priests in our archdiocese. Unfortunately, conservatives do not generally allow liberals the same space. I hope that a spirit of mutual tolerance is fostered by the archdiocese.
- Need for unequivocal support of marginalized persons (e.g., LGBT).
- Out of touch with the times, regarding the role of women in leadership roles. The Bishops are hypocrites. They condemn as political the priests who call out the egregious attacks by some politicians on our Republic when they actually preach the gospel. To deny communion to politicians who support a woman's right to choose while ignoring Catholics such as Gosar who post videos of themselves killing female members of the opposing party is 100% political.
- The future of the Church -- at least as far as Sunday mornings go -- comes down to preaching and production values. Too many churches are "going through the motions" of presenting the same liturgies and homilies as decades ago. We need fresh approaches that attract disaffected Catholics at all ages, but especially the younger ones.
- While it is not the intention, the places of worship closest to the center of the archdiocese, namely the Basilica and Mary Our Queen, feel a little formal and stodgy to me, so I tend to avoid them.
- My understanding is that ADB has not exercised ecclesial disciplinary actions against the clergy referenced just above. Only secular authorities have taken action. It remains unclear what consequences, if any, clergy in ADB who commit financial transgressions experience. As such, the trust of lay people - or their willingness to trust - in ADB is eroded. Additionally, many attending other parishes in ADB were NOT informed of the Synod of Synodality.
- The unwillingness of the Church (big church) to make meaningful change and implement that change globally. Women should be priests and deacons now. All should be welcome now. The challenges of modern life should be viewed as opportunities for growth not sins. The Church can't get out of its way. If things don't improve there will be schisms on all sides and perhaps this is not bad. Would the Church have changed without Martin Luther? The Archdiocese needs to get off the appeasement it promotes of unloving movements and support Pope Francis and support the teachings of Jesus and St. Ignatius. It needs to support the poor fully not just enough to not be criticized. It needs to support social justice for all fully, not just enough to not appear overly heartless.



- Very little visible support for the Black Lives Matter, discouraging to see other churches in the city displaying signs of support and involvement.  
Put off by the debate on whether to offer communion to elected officials who supported women's rights to control their bodies, need to get your own house in order!
- I perceive a strong sense that in much of the archdiocese, even though I suspect there are many (arch)dioceses across the U.S. and the world that are much more "conservative", there are many parishes/schools/institutions at which a lay parishioner/employee has to "tow the line" and emanate the "right" outward portrayal of how "Catholic" they are--at the expense of truly discussing the person's spiritual nourishment. I think this is a general Roman Catholicism issue, however.
- I think more can be done to get the suburban parishes more involved with helping the people in Baltimore City.
- The archdiocese, unlike our Lord, is afraid to make waves. Parishes that often seem in opposition to the Vatican are quietly tolerated (encouraged?). When the archdiocese cannot avoid acknowledging their mistakes, they do so in vague doublespeak instead of naming their sin, confessing it and atoning for it. Words like "mistakes were made", "the incident", "we should have done better" doesn't work. What mistakes? What incident? How could it have been done better?
- Over the past decade the overall response from the pope on down (but especially at the diocesan level) to the sexual abuse allegations I have found lacking and infuriating.
- Clericalism is alive and well. Sometimes, I have seen the need to protect brothers at the expense of the church (not in relation to abuse – there is no tolerance for that). At an Archdiocesan level, my experience is that the woman's voice is lost and sometimes even suppressed. They are seen as emotional or aggressive. Women's input is critical to carrying forward our faith as it has been from the very beginning.
- How is Archbishop Lori supporting us in the crises we are facing in our lives.
- I have to admit, I have struggled with my view of the Archdiocese. I have encountered AOB staff as a former parish staff member who simply were not Christian in their behavior or speech. I have also seen hypocrisy where a disfavored parish becomes favored due to increased giving and more money sent downtown. The AOB has been a barrier to my faith, bluntly put.
- Most serious of all, I don't believe the Archdiocese has cooperated fully with law enforcement regarding the murder of Sister Cathy and all sexual abuse cases. Resources are misdirected to legal battles against the Affordable Care Act and legislation to support victims of sex abuse. Candidates are supported only based on their votes regarding abortion, disregarding so many other issues that respect human life.

- We need to continue acknowledging the church's relationship with historic racism in our archdiocese. I don't know all the details, but I believe this is key history, and we are unlikely to move forward most constructively without also telling these stories.
- Perhaps I'm not looking in the right places, but I don't feel like we get a lot of articles or messages from the Archdiocese. I enjoy the ezine, but I think there could be a section devoted to the Archdiocese.
- The celebratory promotion of opening one school after closing two. Has the purchase of the closed downtown Holiday Inn been considered as a rooming/training center for those of the street willing to adhere some basic rules of community? I don't see much interaction with our neighboring parishes Catholic or not. Is this the case throughout the diocese?
- So much routine dominating spirituality is depressing.
- As long as I see efforts and actions to face our social ills .... I can't think of any shadows. The shadows are there with break through light!
- The Archdiocese needs to be bolder in its approach to social issues and the status of women in ministry.
- Most of my experience of Archdiocesan activities has been the closing of parishes and schools. I'm sure there is much good work going on, but I don't really see it.
- The shadows are the most damaging to the community of desire. The shadows that cry out "the impasse of white supremacy". The shadows that say, " I'll listen but my loyalty lies with my brother priest although I know he was or is wrong." The shadow of using the sacred space of searching souls as a weapon of implicit bias or just to hold people down. That is not of God.
- I fear for the day when the current generation of experienced and reasonable priests and lay leaders leaves the scene and the under 40-year-old cohort gains control. Also, Archbishop Lori is less than five years from the 75-year-old retirement age for bishops. I would hope that his successor would be in the same mold (or even better like Bishop John Stowe). But there are no guarantees.
- Availability for Spiritual Direction and greater availability for Confessions.
- We would love to attract younger people back into church. Not only ones that show up during their wedding, but continuing their journey as individuals, married couples, and if they choose to expand their families.
- The Archdiocese has never attempted to heal the wounds it caused with its heavy-handed tutelage of the Boomer generation in their youth; it lost an entire generation of Catholics via a message of control - not Love. And by doing so, it subsequently lost Generation X, Millennials (like me), and Gen Z. There should be no excuse for the historic seat of American Catholicism, the Archdiocese of Baltimore, to be shutting down parishes and schools.
- I think being a Catholic in Baltimore is a source of great pride for me when I see what schools like Christo Rey and organizations like Catholic Charities are

doing, but the archdiocese schools sadden me with their openly conservative atmosphere. I want the Archdiocese to offer a different path away from divisive politics.

- I'm still learning about the Archdiocese.
- If I hadn't worked with Catholic Charities or participated in CLA where I learned about Catholic Relief services, I'd have little to no idea what is going on in the archdiocese. To be fair, I don't even think CC and CRS are unique to the archdiocese so I'm more in the dark. It feels like every parish is disconnected. I'm not sure I know what's supposed to unify everyone.
- I think the Archdiocese could be more welcoming to lapsed Catholics and those whose views don't line up perfectly today with some of the perceived core tenets of our faith. We need to make our Archdiocese as welcoming as possible to those who, without help, might consider themselves hypocrites for walking into a Catholic church. I am inspired when I hear a sermon that honestly acknowledges the challenges the church faces. I am inspired even more when the prayers reflect this -- like the prayer I heard a few weeks ago calling for fair election districts. This doesn't put me off. The Archdiocese has been and must continue to be intentional about recognizing the needs of folks in Baltimore City and other enclaves of poverty and distress in the region.
- Diocese needs to be visible or verbal about current issues and not just during times of crisis - and then it jumps on the bandwagon. I don't notice any public sense of the diocese's stands on contemporary social issues in general, other than the archbishop's Religious Liberty campaign every July 4th, a somewhat benign issue. Unsure the diocese is collaborative in nature.

### **What is your experience of "journeying together" as part of the Universal Church spread throughout the world?**

- Mixed. Grateful for the blessings of a transmitted and life-giving faith, liturgy, and sacraments; inspired by past and present charity toward the poor, rejected, sick and oppressed.
- Catholic Relief Services, the Jesuits, other religious and lay missionaries give us a way to reach out and touch our Catholic brothers and sisters in other parts of the world. Sometimes it is in an hour of great need. Other times it is in celebration. These organizations--and the pope himself--remind us we are part of a global church. We may be different in many ways but we are united in our faith.
- I am continually floored by the amazing work done in service of the poor.
- I am personally drawn to the Mass to receive my "daily bread," which for me is the Body of Christ. I'm also enrolled in this year's Ignatian Spiritual Exercises Program, which I hope and pray will draw me closer to Christ. As Covid wanes I hope to participate again as a volunteer at Our Daily Bread, or even the

Ignatian Volunteer Corps. There are so many ways to experience God's love in Baltimore.

- Nothing. I don't feel connected to the Catholic Church anymore. I live by "they will know we are Christians by our love."
- Not connected!
- Pope Francis, like our archbishop, inspires me and makes me feel valued, even as a liberal Catholic who does not accept all church teachings. The Pope, Archbishop Lori, and St. Ignatius are the reason that I love the Church and know that God and Church love me.
- Our wonderful Holy Father, who has, in my opinion, gone farther than any other pontiff in uniting us. This is evidenced in his two letters: Fratelli Tutti and Laudato' Si. Need to encourage moral decisions which emphasize Discernment over absolute Ideology.
- Much better now that Pope Francis leads by example. Out of the palace and trying to live with his brother clerics, walks humbly and honestly, shuns the pomp.
- The work of the Catholic n.g.o's, orders of religious communities, and local churches throughout the world shows me what the love that Jesus modeled looks like in practice, and it inspires me to engage in work that demonstrate this love.
- Despite scandals and internal strife, I remain proud of my Church and proud to be Catholic. This process gives real hope for the future. Thank God for Pope Francis!
- I was raised Protestant but joined the Catholic Church 15 years ago because I was attracted by the universality and "catholic" (lower-case "c") solidarity of the Church. I was deeply impressed by the number of faithful who streamed to Rome to pay respects following the death of John Paul II. Such unity!
- The Spiritual Exercises (St. Ignatius), particularly, and spiritual direction, generally. The historically recognized call to solidarity and the preferential option for the poor. The Commandment to Love - all neighbors and our triune God - and the selfless love found in the Eucharist. Service by Catholic Charities and Catholic Relief Services.
- I feel a very strong tie to Pope Francis and the Jesuits. They both walk the walk. I feel closeness to the acts of the Jesuits in supporting the poor and oppressed. The fact that they do that often by engaging the same forces that afflict the poor and oppressed perplexes me, but I don't have a better way to accomplish all that they do. The Spiritual Exercises, Mass, and the example of our Jesuit Fathers have strengthened my faith.
- Pope Francis is an inspiration and hope to keep me in the church.
- What consoles me is the universality of our faith and the longevity of our church. I love that there are so many saints, both those who are formally canonized and those who aren't, who help show that each of us is called to be one too. I love that Mary has appeared to many people throughout time and

in many guises/attires. Honestly, Mary and the saints and the sacraments keep me tethered in the church.

- Are we journeying together? We seem to be locked in a battle to uphold or destroy Vatican II and picked up some pretty ugly alliances along the way. That seems to be more important to some than living out the Gospel. Still, the election of Pope Francis gives me hope.
- I feel that Pope Francis is doing a wonderful job - focusing attention on the poor, climate change and the environment, and the plight of refugees. I wonder how he got elected.
- Absolutely none.
- For most of my adult life, I have been lucky enough to find Jesuit parishes. My experience of the universal church is actually a carefully chosen/curated subset. I find particularly bright spots at Easter when RCIA candidates choose to become Catholic (knowing what they do about the Institution) and at any Mass where there is a baptism. Being surrounded by young families at Mass also gives me hope for the future.
- In general, the current pope's openness to inclusion (especially with the LBGTO community) and focus on the poor has inspired me.
- I do not feel the Universal Church journeys together. I see it as fractured. Some U.S. (and other) bishops speak out publicly and angrily against the current Pope. There is an underlying current of not supporting the Pope unless one is in full agreement with every word uttered. (if they agree with the Pope's direction then the Pope is divinely appointed otherwise they seek to remove him).
- I know we are part of the universal Church, but there are crises happening in our church along with our world.
- Pope Francis has been quite central to my staying with the Universal Church. Fratelli Tutti has been instrumental in my growth, and his commitment to including those on the margins is dear to my heart and a discipling model for me.
- The work of the Catholic NGOs orders of religious communities, and local churches throughout the world shows me what the love that Jesus looks like in practice and inspires me to show it in my own community. Catholics around the world, like me, want to live their faith fully, without discrimination based on gender, sexual orientation, race and other issues. Women should be eligible for leadership and ordination.
- Go, Francis! Keep it up!
- There is such beauty and diversity in the Universal church, It amazes me constantly that a humble man's words are still taught and known 2000 years later - these are his words! His words in so many languages, his words in so many hearts. With his words he spoke us into being, we are passionately loved by him. He gave us a church to help us find him. I love that it is still here.

- Pope Francis consoles and inspires me. I find comfort in his openness and non-judgmental approach to preaching the gospel. His focus on meaningful, real-world actions is important to me.
- Like most other institutions I find the "Universal Church" fractious. Perhaps if not born to it, I would not be drawn to it.
- Thinking of myself as less Catholic and more Christian has opened my eyes to God in the world.
- Pope Francis.
- Pope Francis is the brightest light in the Universal Church. He focuses on the things I believe Jesus would have: Love God and each other; take care of each other and our common home. We are not a Church of perfect saint but loved sinners.
- I feel we can be saved and the only way we can be saved is in unity. the call is to turn to God and help other drifting and loss souls to turn to God.
- Pope Francis brought me back to the Church and the way he is attempting to run the church, including the synod movement is engaging me.
- America magazine helps most and Catholic Review also helps.
- We were both raised Catholic and still believe in the fundamental teachings of the Catholic church. We want to be among others who want to continue to grow in their faith.
- Francis. His message of love is compelling.
- I've never experienced "journeying together" from the Universal Church. I have only historically heard that only some of us can journey together - straight men - and the rest are either behind/subordinate (women, minorities) or simply not allowed to participate in the journey (LGBTQ, those who pursue fertility treatments, those who question). But with Pope Francis, and the Jesuits, I feel hopeful that one day we will all journey together. This is why I stay.
- Part 1 of 2) My personal faith is the star that guides me in fair waters and troubled seas, but there are many days when I am ashamed of the Universal Church. We have become so single-mindedly focused on being anti-abortion that we have stopped being pro-life. That we have neglected the needs of the poor, the sick, the hungry, all those in need of our help including our planet.
- Priests should be allowed to marry. Women should be priests. Gay marriage should be recognized as sacred. The Universal Church saddens me. I appreciate Pope Francis, but I want fundamental change.
- Beginning in the earliest stages of my childhood, my mom has continued to repeat this mantra to me and my sister: "If God is for you, who can be against you?" It has been this mindset that has anchored me in my Faith, be a servant to my brethren, and be a servant leader in all aspects of my life. If we are doing His will, then it shall be done. No weapons shall prosper.

- The underlying values instilled by the faith are what propels the church. I love the connections people make when they attend Jesuit schools and wish more areas of the faith had opportunities like that (I'm not aware if they do)
- The bravery it took our cardinals to put a Jesuit onto the seat of the Pope is inspiring, I never thought it would happen. The determined and deliberate way Pope Francis took the reins and redirected the image and culture of our church reignited my pride of being Catholic. A Twitter feed, a TED talk, an interactive website... are mediums of today and our church is now on its front foot in connecting with us.
- Belonging to a global, living, diverse community is precious. Being shepherded by a compassionate, justice-oriented Pope gives hope. I am inspired by those in religious life and laypeople who bring their faith to bear on important social challenges. As a new Catholic, it is reassuring and sustaining to feel welcomed by fellow Catholics who are not in my local church community.
- My experience is limited to immigration/refugee resettlement and disaster relief however as part of another denomination.
- Pope Francis inspires people around the world including me. His views are a breath of fresh air; his encyclicals and documents are a wake up call for the world. His work to reform the Vatican Curia is needed. His South American pastoral approach is a welcome, e.g., welcoming all, synodal listening started at the synod on young people, faith..., etc.

### **Where are the shadows?**

- Ashamed of the Church's role in the conquest of indigenous peoples, the slave trade, the subordination of women, and the abuse crisis. And by the posturing and arrogance of some conservative cardinals and bishops.
- We have a long way to go in repairing wounds inflicted by those claiming the faith as their reason for acting. White supremacy and its tie to Christianity is a poison of which we need to continually address. We need to be patient with people that blame the church for violent and hurtful actions.
- There are deep divisions within the Church in the United States, which were exacerbated during the Trump administration. The so-called "radical traditionalists" have divided the Church into tribes that are intolerant of one another. Even the USCCB members are divided over who is "eligible" to receive Holy Communion.
- I don't "journey" with the rest of the universal church, particularly in the US. I feel there is a white-gun-wielding Jesus that opposes a black-immigrant Jesus. The leadership of the US church focuses largely on this white-baby-saving-Jesus and does not focus on the message of Christ—which is to love thy neighbor—to advocate and fight for social justice and change. They are still a patriarchy with little room for women.

- Not connected!
- I came to St. Ignatius from a conservative parish where I felt I would only be valued if I conformed. I needed to leave that parish and considered looking at other denominations but thank the Good Lord that I found St. Ignatius. As a cradle Catholic I would always have carried regret had I left. Thank you, Pope Francis, Archbishop Lori, and St. Ignatius.
- WHY CAN'T WOMEN BE ORDAINED AS DIOCESAN DEACONS AND DIOCESAN PRIESTS? I NEED TO HEAR AN EXPLANATION ABOUT THIS TO ALL THE FAITHFUL!!! Pope St John Paul II's dictums are not valid to me!
- Give on the out-of-date position on birth control and many women could accept the position against right to choose. Most people gush over the Vatican and while I agree it is beautiful beyond comprehension, the wealth was staggering and offensive. Sell the stuff and share with those struggling in abject poverty. I doubt Jesus would recognize his Church in how its wealth is used or by the princely status the bishops have accorded themselves.
- We must disabuse the bishops of the idea that the primary mission of the church is to compel obedience rather than to love. The priority now is to repent for the sins it has committed or abetted over the centuries, especially its alliances with the rich and powerful in opposition to the poor and marginalized. This is the first step to re-building trust and becoming a beacon of love, truth, justice, and hope in the world.
- In a world so dominated by media -- social and otherwise -- the Church needs to do a better job of telling its story. Protestant churches frequently do a better job preaching the Gospel. The scandals and internal strife grab headlines while the tremendous good done by many is ignored. A defensive Church focused on circling the wagons will attract few.
- The shadows are mostly in the halls of the hierarchical church institution itself, where clericalism and vulnerability to the temptations of power have been present even before the advent of Christianity. It our weakness as humans...it can be overcome only through honesty, humility, openness, and willingness to change. Jesus arrived to show us the kingdom of heaven; somehow, we ended up with the church!
- The overarching mission of the institutional church (IC) is to live the Commandment to Love, rather than to mandate obedience to rules, such as canon law and ecclesiastical documents. We, the Baptized, are commanded to do the same. Only then will justice, hope and peace be possible. To begin, the IC must repent its failure to love, e.g., its ongoing support of the rich/powerful at the cost of the poor/marginalized.
- The Universal Church needs radical change, or it will diminish to the point of obscurity. Pope Francis needs to exercise far more push for that change. 2. The Jesuits need to lead that change and stick their necks out on structural change as much as they have on support for the poor and oppressed. 3. The



laity needs to engage far more than attending Church. Being a Catholic at St. Ignatius needs to come with a deeper commitment to others.

- I'd probably say some of it is similar to what I perceive as the shadows of my experience as a lay Catholic in the Archdiocese of Baltimore. Also, I'm frustrated with the fact that while I understand Vatican City is geographically surrounded by Rome, Italy, and Europe (it has to be somewhere!), the culture of the Roman Catholic Church still sometimes is more centered around those areas than truly universal.
- There should be more women at the top. Period. We need more interfaith fellowship at the top, please leaning away from "Judeo-Christian" and normalizing "Abrahamic faiths." This world is desperate right now for mainstream, non-fundamentalist religion built on respect. In the United States, Islam should be a part of that mainstream backbone.
- I am disappointed that so many American bishops have resisted the ministry of Pope Francis.
- The church is obsessively and almost exclusively about its opposition to abortion and homosexuality. It's not about being one in the body of Christ but rather in being one in its obsession with these two issues. If we are truly one in the body of Christ then queers are the appendix, useless and tolerated as long as they don't become a pain. When they do, they are cut out and disposed of.
- 75 words are hardly enough to answer this. The two biggest are the value of man-made doctrine over Christ's own example and the stubborn refusal to fully leverage the time and talents of faithful Catholic women. In addition, I am unable to articulate a compelling reason for my children to act as practicing Catholics. They are good people who believe they can embody some of our beliefs without being observant or supporting the Church financially.
- Political maneuvering and bickering within the upper levels of the church is oft putting. A consistent, universal message would be helpful.
- I often feel isolated and unheard in a church at war with itself. The concept of listening has been lost. There is only agreement or dismissal. I believe, even when we do not agree with our leaders, we must allow ourselves to be challenged to see a different perspective, work collaboratively for change, and always carry it in prayer. I also feel that the exclusion of women from having a voice contributes to this discord.
- I feel Pope Francis is fighting the old school in our church. I hate to think of what may happen when he leaves the papacy.
- Where to start. The terribly unchristian behavior I have heard from prominent bishops and cardinals is such a black eye. It is the opposite of positive witness. The infighting among those in power that we only see a tiny fraction of is discipleship Kryptonite--it quite literally causes those in the pews to follow suit and behave in ways that violate Catholic teaching and Scripture. It causes me to consider leaving on a consistent basis.

- We must disabuse the bishops of the idea that the primary mission of the church is to compel obedience rather than to love. The priority now is to repent for the sins it has committed or abetted. Most of all, the refusal to ordain women must be re-examined; bishops must be allowed to discuss this; and Catholic women and ordained women in other Christian faiths must be part of this discussion.
- The church harms itself and, more important, its members by sticking to outmoded positions on gay marriage, birth control, women priests, married priests, divorce, etc. This is the downside of claiming magisterium; it's hard to reverse course even when most of humanity -- and a majority of your own members -- have concluded you're just plain wrong.
- The hatred between the extremes - both sides sowing misunderstanding and hatred of those that do not espouse their views. It is a huge turn off for those that are not part of the church. It is a huge turn off for those in the church who want to be held by Christ and do his will. But I am convinced He will always be there even if the church rips itself apart.
- Honestly, outside of Francis, I don't feel much connection to church leadership on the global level. I find the US conference of bishops to be partisan and biased.
- In my younger years we spoke in one voice (Latin) throughout the Church Universal. Perhaps we did not know exactly what we said, though Missals were printed in Latin with the local tongue on facing page, there was a Unity that I think lacking since V II. Some call Latin a dead language, but who killed it? That the current Pope feels threatened by the practice of such, I'm inclined to say pish-tosh. Whither Thomism?
- Pedophilia seems to dominate Catholicism; shouldn't we think about severing ourselves from the counsel to be celibate as the highest form of spirituality?
- The Church is embarrassingly all white males. The optic is terrible when gathering of bishops are shown on tv. It's time also for the Church to formerly involve women in universal decision making. Also, it is time to ordain women to the diaconate, priesthood and to episcopal leadership. Based on the shortage of priests, other forms of ministry are needed as well - a structure when lay men and women could preside over ceremonies.
- Some of the U.S. bishops have been seeking to turn away from Pope Francis' vision, and advocate for a Church that is authoritarian and punitive. The early reports that the USCCB planned to endorse a position that would specifically deny President Biden from receiving the Eucharist appalled me. The seemingly single-minded emphasis on sexual behavior by a large portion of U.S. Catholics puts me off, especially given the Church's own history.
- Sometimes I feel as though the problems of the Church are one big whack-a-mole game. As soon as we stabilize one challenge another presents itself more poignantly. Reconciliation comes out as a whisper instead of a roar. A system that can only see what is directly in front of us is self-absorbing and

self-destructive. Knowing the path of light yet refusing to stand up for Christ and risk the consequences.

- Pope Francis is not going to live forever. The next pope could undo what he has begun. There has to be a loosening of papal authority and return of power to the local churches and the laity so that no one future pope can undo what Pope Francis has begun.
- We are put off by the face of Catholicism being very conservative and old. We need to have more young people drawn back into the Catholic Faith. We are out there, but oftentimes what is said about Catholicism to the masses isn't always true. We can talk about hot button topics, be supportive of other people's lives and still practice the Catholic faith. The lack of discussions around hot button topics like abortion, reproductive rights, LGBT issues, racism, immigration, gender inequality. The Catholic religion has many people within these groups and if we can make people feel more welcomed and loved by Catholics (truly loved) then we would have a stronger congregation.
- Catholics, as a whole, will never "journey together" until the Universal Church allows everyone to be a part of the journey. The only shadows here are self-generated by the Universal Church itself - by virtue of the fact that it only truly allows some into the Light.
- (Part 2 of 2). As young ICU physicians, we find it increasingly difficult to justify to friends who are moral and committed to social justice but not catholic, how, and why we continue to support a flawed, failing, and often immoral institution. We hope that we will see in our lifetimes or our children's lifetimes a Church of which we can all be proud, one that actually preaches the gospel.
- I will always be amazed at how two people can fully believe in the same doctrine, but operate in different ways "according to it." As a Catholic, I feel that God embraces my whole self including my race, ideologies, and sexuality. Many Catholics would not agree. The Church sees these divisions and allows them to fester. Being silent about controversial topics only perpetuates taboo and conveys complacency to those who suffer to be devout Catholics.
- There is so much disconnect on what it means to be Catholic. There's a fear to speak up about it amongst young adults or if it is spoken about it is with the caveat, "I don't agree with everything regarding the faith." Just not a lot of common dialogue due to church's torrid history.
- It is time to harness the bravery of our leader and our church to re-think and re-organize what it means to be a priest in the Catholic church today. Not being assertive and progressive in our thought of what could be is blind and delinquent.
- I am surprised and disappointed when fellow Catholics seemingly ignore central tenants of faith, like love for neighbor, humility, welcoming of the migrant, and dignity of all. Focus on only abortion and limiting the rights of gay people is reductionistic and misses the point. These aren't the hills Jesus

chose to die on; why are the hills we, as a Church, have chosen -- and at what great cost?

- Of course, there is the issue of the role of women in the church. How much longer can this be ignored? I remember a priest telling me why he thought that women should not become deacons. He said: "once they get their toe in the door, it's too late". The focus on (obsession with) abortion to the exclusion of other issues has also done much damage.
- USCCB is ineffective, outdated, dogmatic, and divisive (too many bishops are "more Roman than the Romans.") and favor dogma versus a "pastoral" approach. The US church is becoming splintered (fueled by a well-funded, dogmatic and divisive segment). The continued abuse issues weakens the church. The church has not found a way to welcome young adults into leadership and active participation (while millions of them leave the church)- and they are the future.