

## Our Parish-wide Sunday Encounter Survey

October 5, 2025

Dear Parishioners,

Over the past few years, the Church has been inviting us into the Synodal way; that is, a specific way of being Church characterized by *listening to each other*, *walking together* and the notion of *sharing co-responsibility* for the mission of spreading the Gospel. We want to practice this precise mission in our parish, St Elizabeth of the Trinity. Hence, next weekend, together as a community, we will be participating in a brief “Sunday Encounter Survey” at every weekend Mass, right after the homily. We will have another opportunity the following weekend for anyone who missed it, as well as making it available online at our parish, school, and social media websites. We wish to make it fully available so that our homebound parishioners, those traveling or all those who prefer to respond digitally can partake of this opportunity. The more voices we hear, the better, as this will allow us to better walk together.

**So, why exactly are we doing this?** The core of the Synodal Process consists of *listening*: listening to God, the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and to one another. This survey will focus on our *Sunday Encounter* with the living God, with His Son Jesus, who *meets us* in His Word, which is proclaimed in the readings and in the Eucharist we celebrate together at Sunday Mass. *Encounter* is not just a vague feeling. It is a real, palpable meeting with our Lord who speaks to us, feeds us with His Body and Blood and then sends us out into the world at every Mass. The Sunday Mass is, therefore, the privileged and sacred space and time where and when this *Encounter* takes place. Thus, by listening to your lived experience of the Lord at Sunday Mass, that is, what helps you pray, what draws you together with others, the obstacles you face, we will be able to ponder, consider and then discern concrete steps to guide our parish in *walking together* more fruitfully and *missionally* toward Jesus Christ.

**How is the survey going to work?** Right after the homily, we will take four or so minutes to complete the survey. It will be short and prayerful, a moment of reflection accompanied by your feedback that will allow us to learn more from one another as a community. The priest, Fr. Deo or myself, Fr. Leo, will give brief instructions after preaching. If you prefer to do it online, you will be able to do so using a QR code, and paper copies (plus pencils) will be available at all pews. If you are not able to join us on October 11-12, we encourage you to participate the following weekend or fill it out online. Survey will close Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup> at 11:55 p.m..

**What about the results?** The survey results will be compiled and analyzed by the Parish Pastoral Council and then shared publicly with the parish community. We want to see where our strengths are and where we can grow more. Furthermore, the results will guide pastoral priorities and concrete, tangible improvements on our Sunday liturgies and community life. This is all because, at the end of the day, practicing *co-responsibility* means that the life and mission of the parish do not rest on the hands of just a few, but on the hands of all the baptized. We participate together in the inner, communal, and spiritual life of our parish as we listen to each other.

**So, how can we prepare for next weekend?** We encourage you to pray this week with the following questions:

How do I *Encounter* or *meet* Jesus at Sunday Mass: through the readings, receiving the Eucharist, the preaching, music, silence, those you see in church?

Where do I sense the Holy Spirit inviting our parish to grow so that others can vividly meet Jesus Christ here?

How can I participate (by offering my time, prayers, gifts, resources) to help our parish community *walk together co-responsibly*?

Finally, thank you so much for voicing your feedback! Thank you for your love for Christ and your love for our parish. May our participation together in this Encounter Survey enable us to hear the voice of our Good Shepherd, Jesus, through His Mystical Body, that is, us, the Church. May we, St. Elizabeth of the Trinity, become ever more a unique spiritual home where, through our sense of community, participation, and mission, more and more people can experience and encounter the Living God.

- Fr. Leo