

**Question: What do you think God is asking of us in Australia?**

**Part 1**

We think God is asking *that parishes should encourage involvement of the parish school children and parents as well as run strong youth groups* to nurture our youth and form them and to encourage visitation of the community to the elderly and to include them.

**Part 2**

We think God is asking us *to work for unity:*

- ✓ Equality for all people regardless of race, creed or colour
- ✓ Unity of purpose in identifying what needs to be changed
- ✓ The understanding and the will to achieved the necessary changes
- ✓ Unity from the Bishops and some action
- ✓ Stronger leadership form the Bishops so we can follow them

**Part 3**

We think God is asking of us *to be a church for all people:*

We are a multicultural society

We should welcome people of different sexual orientation and social standing – they are God’s children, too.

We should consider all peoples as family

We should listen and accept diversity and look for common beliefs in bringing people together and focus on the Lord – ‘what would Jesus do’

**Part 4**

Our main concern was youth attendance at Sunday Mass. We think there is a failure of parents to influence and accompany their children in this regard. In previous times, youth groups were a positive influence in remaining in the Church.

Perhaps schools might be encouraged to encourage groups of like-minded children to demonstrate an affiliation to a parish. For example, choirs are an effective way to encourage participation. We find our youth are very justice-minded but not religious-minded.

## Part 5

We believe that God is asking that, even though there are many and diverse expressions of our Faith, there is a universal and uniform desire among Catholics to feel safe and secure in our worship. This includes the following:

- ✓ Feeling safe when accessing the Sacrament of Reconciliation
- ✓ Assurance of accountability and transparency of donations to the Church – specifically *bequests* and the *second collection*
- ✓ Being able to communicate with Bishops
- ✓ Receiving visitations from Bishops in the parish
- ✓ Thorough screening of prospective seminarians
- ✓ Feeling safe and secure that we are living under the protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary

## Part 6

We believe that God is asking us to have the courage of repentance by:

- Acknowledging the need for repentance
- Bringing the sacrament of repentance back into the everyday life of every parish
- Building awareness of God's mercy through more catechesis
- Fully growing into the love of one another (repentance brings true love)
- Less judgemental of others