

Dear Parishioners,

This month we learned that Resurrection Church was voted 3rd best place to worship in Santa Cruz County in the Good Times's annual "Best of Santa Cruz County". (Best place is Twin Lakes Church, followed by Temple Beth El - we're in good company!)

While we're certainly not in competition with any other place of worship, we are grateful for this affirmation of everyone's efforts and sacrifices to be a "church that helps people." Rather than trying to be the "best" in the county, we're trying to be and to do our best for the county and for one another.

The strength of our community and the power of our efforts was also evident in the recent Synod survey. 120 people of all ages and life circumstances participated in the survey, and these are the top 10 things that they identified as our strengths:

Top 10 Responses from 120 Participants	#	%
Strong sense of community in parish	102	85%
Parish outreach & social justice ministries & collaboration with other faith communities	78	65%
Online parish liturgies, prayer, and gatherings foster spiritual and social connection	65	54%
Open, inclusive and welcoming parish community	62	52%
Many opportunities in parish to grow closer to Christ through service & giving	32	27%
The mass nurtures love and hope	22	18%
Parish staff & community support for the bereaved	16	13%
Church gives moral and spiritual guidance	15	13%
Shared prayer in parish	14	12%
Faith sharing groups nurture community and spiritual growth	12	10%

Our 3-page parish summary report to the Bishop can be found [HERE](#), and the full 10-page survey results can be found [HERE](#).

Top 10 Responses from 120 Participants	#	%
Universal Church needs to have women involved at all levels of leadership and decision-making, and liturgical texts should acknowledge and respect the existence of women in our assemblies and in the Church.	104	87%
Universal Church needs to be more like Jesus in being inclusive and welcoming to all	52	43%
Universal Church needs to focus more on social justice and service, not on human rules	48	40%
Universal Church needs more outreach to youth, young adults & families	35	29%
Universal Church needs more acceptance & full inclusion of LGBTQ+ persons	33	28%
Universal Church needs to give more acceptance/outreach/support to divorced persons	14	12%
Universal Church needs more married priests	13	11%
Universal Church needs more transparency regarding sexual abuse cases, and more outreach to survivors of abuse	9	8%
Universal Church needs to give more leadership in response to climate change	6	5%
Universal Church needs more emphasis on mercy, less on judgment & exclusion	6	5%

We thank everyone who participated in the Synod process, and we especially thank the parish Synod Team, who organized and led the 36 meetings, and who recorded and compiled the results.

The parish Synod report has been sent to the Bishop, and the Diocesan Synod team will use our report and the reports from all the parishes in the Diocese of Monterey to create a Diocesan report, which will then be sent to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington, DC. The Conference of Bishops will then prepare a national report for Pope Francis.

Here at Resurrection, Fr. Romeo and the parish pastoral planning council will use the full parish survey results to discern how God is calling us to sustain and grow over the coming years in our parish pastoral plan. You'll hear more about that in the future!

May God continue to give us the grace to do his will in all things and to truly be our best for our county and for our world.

Blessings,