

GLOBAL NETWORK OF RAINBOW CATHOLICS SURVEY ON THE SYNOD

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AGENDA

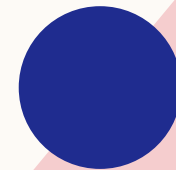
Introduction

Respondent Demographics

Key Findings

Synod Concerns & Hopes

Respondent Comments



INTRODUCTION

- Report on Listening Sessions conducted by Global Network of Rainbow Catholics submitted to Synod Office November 2022
- Survey was a follow-up effort to see how LGBTIQ+ Catholics were feeling about Synod following Continental Phase
- Online survey July – August 2023
- Promoted via emails to GNRC member groups and social media



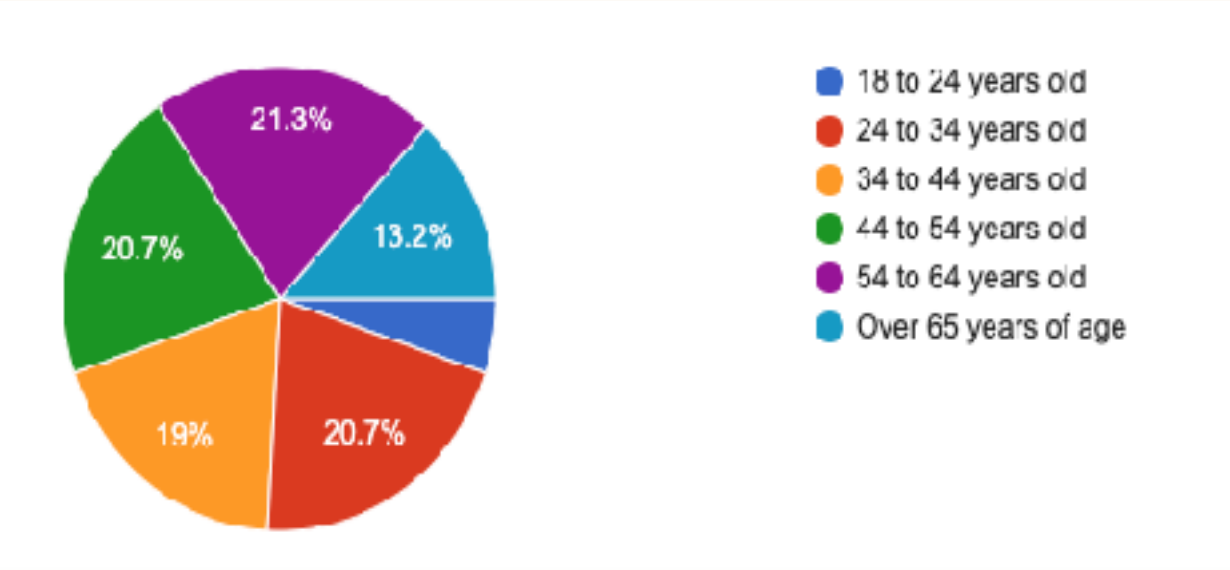
RESPONDENT INFORMATION

- 174 total respondents
- Relationship to LGBTIQ+ Catholic Community
 - 137 (78.7%) member of the LGBTIQ+ Catholic community,
 - 22 (12.6%) as Allies
 - 7 (4%) people supportive of LGBTIQ+ recognition/inclusion
- Gender
 - 139 (80%) cisgender: males (84);females (55)
 - 11 (6.3%) nonbinary people
 - 7 (4.2%) transgender people: 4 women: 3 men



RESPONDENT INFORMATION CONT.

AGE OF RESPONDENTS



RESPONDENT INFORMATION CONT.

RESPONDENT LOCATION/CHURCH ROLE

Geographic location of respondents:

- Africa 5
- Asia/Pacific 19
- Europe 69
- Latin America 39
- North America 40
- Not specified 2

- 72.4% of respondents identified as lay people
- 20.7% identifying as Priest, Nuns or other vowed Religious
- 6.9% said they currently have “no role” in the church.



KEY FINDINGS

- 53.8% said they feel they are part of the People of God and the Catholic Church. Another 36.4% said they feel this way “sometimes.”
- Nearly 7 in 10 respondents (69.5%) said that the LGBTIQ+ community and family members do not have “adequate and relevant spaces to recognize and experience their own faith.” Only 5.2% of respondents believe this pastoral need has been met.
- 23% of respondents believe the Synod process will result in better inclusion of LGBTIQ+ people in the Catholic church. 65% expressed some hope there will be changes, or felt the issue is too complicated to be resolved by this process, and 12% said “No.”



KEY FINDINGS CON'T

- 76.4% of respondents felt that the best things parishes and dioceses could do to promote greater inclusion of sexual and gender diversity would be the creation of pastoral response teams to foster this.
- 70.1% thought integrating LGBTIQ+ people and their families into faith communities was important
- 48.3% felt that special communities for LGBTIQ+ people and their families would be helpful.



KEY FINDINGS CON'T

- The following steps towards effective inclusion of the LGBTIQ+ community and families were supported by strong majorities of respondents:
 - Recognition of the presence of LGBTIQ+ people in the Church and acknowledgement that sexual orientation and gender identity are innate expressions of human diversity (93.1%)
 - Revisions to texts and norms that violate the human dignity of LGBTIQ+ people and our families (78.7%)
 - Ending the demand of celibacy based on sexual orientation or gender identity (70.7%)
 - Public acknowledgment that practices such as “conversion therapies” are harmful and ineffective in changing identities (68.4%)
 - Ensure that LGBTIQ+ people have access to all the sacraments that affirm them and their families (65.5%)



SYNOD: CONCERNS & HOPES

- Without openly LGBTIQ+ people/ family members sitting at the Synod tables, the church has failed to include important voices, and will, once again, make decisions about our community without our input.
- Meaningful LGBTIQ+ inclusion necessitates changes in doctrinal statements and pastoral practices. Is there the will to take on these major challenges?
- The open discussion of LGBTIQ+ issues and the fact they emerged as priority issues on every continent marks a milestone in the Catholic church globally. For some, this is encouraging, while others lament how long it took to reach this point.
- If there is significant change, it will be the result of Synod participants and others in the church truly being open to the Holy Spirit.



RESPONDENT COMMENTS



RESPONDENT COMMENTS

I hope so. At present, the clergy are still very homophobic and gay unfriendly. My experiences as a Catholic, are very negative. Last year I went for a confession in the Westminster Cathedral as it was the Sunday of the Divine Mercy. The priest that attended to listen to me was a Polish/Eastern European priest. When I spoke to him about my gay spouse of 25 years, he said to me that he could not absolve me as I was living immorally. I would have to leave my wife and then come back to confession and he would then absolve me. He said that he would be praying that I left my wife. I tried to explain to him that my relationship was one of love and faithfulness. I live with my wife and would not be leaving her. He said that in this case our conversation was over and that he would not absolve me. I left in shock. I was depressed for many months and feeling completely hopeless. (...)



RESPONDENT COMMENTS

I think yes. If only because the theme is now discussed openly, so there is the recognition that we are talking about 'real' issues. And also because some positive developments (like in the Flemish and certain German dioceses) will be on the table. But much still has to be done. I wonder e.g. if any of the delegates her/himself will be openly out as an LGBTIQ person. And especially I wonder if there will be space for concretizing pope Francis's 'todos, todos, todos!' appeal. Otherwise, it will be a rather cheap welcome, which is more tolerance than acceptance.

Unsure. I think there are strong forces pulling in both directions. I'm hoping the forces of love and compassion will prevail over hatred and ignorance, but given the Church's history it is naive to be confident.



RESPONDENT COMMENTS

It won't come automatically. We need to be involved in the process and our voices heard. We do not need people to speak on our behalf and continually infantilize us.

Maybe. It is a mistake to not include any opening out LBGQTQIA members on the synod committee. Any decision made without them will be tainted.

