SUMMARY of the EQUALITY of WOMEN in the CHURCH SURVEY 2020

Even with the COVID-19 pandemic surrounding us and inhibiting our physical gathering, the Equality for Women in the Church Steering Committee decided to move forward in their commitment to securing equality for women in both leadership and ministry in the church.

A Google survey was sent to the full list of 67 EWC members to help determine the direction/priorities of the group. 25 responses were returned after two weeks. The survey focused on 4 specific areas. By using this tool the steering committee will prioritize our next steps in moving forward.

Below are the four focus areas and the percentages of members who agreed strongly or did not agree about the importance of each issue.

Focus I Do you agree to have women as regular homilists in parish Masses?

92% Strongly agree 8% Agree 0% Do not agree

Focus III Do you feel that inclusive language be reincorporated into our liturgies?

88% Strongly agree 12% Agree

Focus IV Would you participate in inclusive liturgical rituals planned, created and led by women and men?

84% Yes 16% I am not sure, but would like more

information about these opportunities

Focus II Do you feel this committee should pursue continued dialogue with the hierarchy regarding women's full participation in all levels of decision making and ministry?

58.3% Strongly agree 33.3% Agree 8.3% Do not agree (Those who did not agree indicated in their comments that they had lost hope in working with the hierarchy.)

The question was asked if seeing ​women ordained to the priesthood​ in your lifetime is a priority.

76% Yes 24% No

When asked to rank the two most important focus areas respondents indicated:

* Women’s full participation in all areas of decision making and ministry with 84% of all responses and
* Women as regular homilists with 60%.

21 out of 25 respondents signed up to work with others in one or more areas.