***QUESTION 1***

***What do you think God is asking of Australia at this time?***

* We are the Church
* Open [and embracing] to change; which leads to an open, welcoming and supporting community [a just society united in the belief in God].
* We need constant dialogue between clergy and the laity.
* We need to listen to each other with respect, and understanding.
* The role of priests
1. Training – that reflects Gospel values and the edicts of Vatican II.  Positive church; loving God.
2. Close the seminaries training in pre-Vatican II theology ie negative Church, Punitive God.
3. Mature aged priests – not straight out of school seminarians
4. Choices – to live their vocation as single/married /female
5. Men and women deacons, pastors, or priests.
6. Let priests do what they are ordained to do and others [as above No.4] share the load
* Hierarchy of the Church:   Take the triangle [pyramid structure] out of it; communication channels 2-directions - not only from the top down, but also from the bottom up.
* Deacons in the Church – unrealistic!
	+ Parish Councils should help in the running of the Parish
	+ More altar servers – these may be men who would assist
* Define Church
	+ Dynamics of the Church are constantly changing and moving forward – and opened and inspired by the Holy Spirit.

***QUESTION 2***

***What questions do you have about the future of the Church for the Plenary Council in 2020?***

* What is the Plenary Council response to how the Church will address ‘exclusivity and traditional church hierarchy – much of which is the cause of many walking away?
* How do we best acknowledge and celebrate the work of Organisations – St Vincent de Paul, Caritas, Centacare?
* What are the pathways for the future for:
	1. Celibacy,
	2. Equality of women
	3. Deacons
	4. Priests
* How can we embrace ecumenism [less power, respect engage with the community]?

**Youth**

1. How do we capitalise on the popularity of Catholic Education and engage our youth in the broader church?
2. How do we involve youth in the Church and listen to their ideas, enthusiasm?
3. How can we encourage the use of technology to bring our young people unto the Church, eg masses, surveys?
* What is the Church doing about the fundamentalists running the Parishes?
* What is the Church doing about the Individualism trend of creating their own path rather than belonging to a Faith Group?
* How is the Church planning on listening to the ‘people’ in the future?
* What is the Church doing towards moving into the areas of LGBTI, divorce, euthanasia, abortion?

***QUESTION 3***

***Do you have a story of your experience of faith or the Church you would like to share?***

 Through many years the church has been a comfort to me, but I do feel that I have had to rewrite my map! And not feel guilty – if I miss Mass with a good reason, and find it hard to experience confessions as very helpful

 Faith grows if you nurture it – like any plant. Don’t feed it and it will wither and die. I try to

take any opportunity to nurture my faith – including just reading the gospels. Some of my time of feeling closest to God are while really reading Jesus’ words and listening

to Him.

 A priest in PNG not only gave an example of faith and Christian living in the Highlands but showed a practical bent by using his engineering knowledge to help the villagers build a hydro-electrical plant so that the whole village had power. This was as powerful as his talks about God.

 Yes God’s spirit has reassured me once he has begun a good work in me, he will complete it until the end of my life. I have had many encounters with the Holy Spirit in my life. I am being strengthened daily in my walk with the Lord.

I visited a country church one Sunday and there were only lay ministers in the church – It was a very uplifting experience, so many people involved in the whole service.

 A priest who lived love and the spirit of god as I understand it: regardless of a person’s denomination, sexual preferences, nationality, faith or no faith he would welcome them into the church, bury them, marry then, baptise them, if they asked for it.

 I’m old – but when I was schooled by the nuns, I thought they were old and crabby but at least we all respected them – obeyed the rules – these days children have no respect for elders or the law and no moral compass unless they have exceedingly good parents. The Church needs to be a light for the young from an early age.

 Becoming a Catholic as an adult has been an advantage as I was a willing “student” and not in a forced situation of a school

 I feel very much at home in our Catholic Church

 Many experiences in my Journey through Life so far

 The next to fall - recovery of a loved one, 30 year old, who had been given the last rites twice by Fr Flanagan; (induced coma; hospital 5 months; 13 operations); my constant prayer was to ask God to have his son Jesus walk beside him on one side; and his departed father (died 3 years earlier) to walk the other side; to support and guide him forward – be it into life or take him to the light. 2. How the wonderful teachers at St Anne’s Primary school help the young children relate to the Religious teachings at Easter; specifically, the Stations of the Cross at Easter time.

 An old nun doing my washing while I was sick in hospital. Her gentle caring and consoling were an example of the faith that I would like to experience more often in the Church

 As a child – 5-16yo – Church was a small, rural community – a family in the true sense. • My experience of faith when being educated by the Nuns in an all-girls school really based