



Paroisse St-Clément | Saint Clement Parish

IN AETERNUM

ARCHIDIOCÈSE OTTAWA-CORNWALL ARCHDIOCESE

SYNODE SUR LA SYNODALITÉ | SYNOD ON SYNODALITY

2021-2023



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Préface | Foreword

Saint Clement Parish has been a part of the Archdiocese of Ottawa-Cornwall for over half a century. Over the years, our community has grown steadily, always working closely with our successive ordinaries. Our population has continuously been made up of a diverse and faithful group of people, not only reflecting Canada's linguistic duality and cultural plurality, but especially the multigenerational nature of the Catholic Church. We are united in the worship of God through the Sacred Liturgy.

As our God is faithful to us through all generations of our history by His Divine Providence, we here also make firm our pledge of fidelity to Him, *in aeternum*.

As the synodal path suggests, we are walking together to achieve greater understanding, illumined by the action of the Holy Ghost. We believe firmly that across the history of the parish, through its many locations and moments of growth, we have been led by Divine Providence. In this report, we share not only what Our Lord has done in our community, but also what parishioners believe is essential for the future.

La paroisse Saint-Clément fait partie de l'Archidiocèse d'Ottawa-Cornwall plus qu'un demi-siècle. Notre communauté a continué à grandir de façon constante, toujours en travaillant étroitement avec nos archevêques. Notre paroisse a été longtemps composée des personnes diverses et fidèles, tout en reflétant la pluralité culturelle et la dualité linguistique du Canada, mais surtout en montrant la nature multigénérationnelle de l'Église catholique. Nous sommes unis dans la louange de Dieu à travers la liturgie sacrée.

Tout comme Dieu nous est fidèle à travers toutes les générations de notre histoire par Sa divine Providence, nous faisons une promesse de fidélité à Lui, *in aeternum*.

Comme le parcours synodal nous suggère, nous cheminons ainsi pour une plus grande clarté, illuminés par l'action du Saint-Esprit. Nous croyons fermement que nous avons été guidés par Sa Providence, à travers nos plusieurs locales et à travers nos moments de croissance. C'est pourquoi nous voulons partager avec vous ce que le Seigneur a fait dans notre communauté, ainsi que ce que les paroissiens croient nécessaire pour l'avenir.

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Méthodologie | Methodology

Representing a community as diverse as St. Clement Parish is a challenge of its own. So many souls from such different corners of the Catholic world have found their home here. Thus the best way to illuminate their experiences within the Synodal process is to let them speak for themselves, in their own words about their experiences.

Similarly, qualitative methods of research offer to modern researchers multiple opportunities to better gather data from those willing to participate in their research. However, even within social sciences, the issue of interpretation often becomes central, and seeing how personal the experience of a parish each to every member of our community, we decided that our methods should not include anything that may misinterpret our parishioner's lived experience.

Therefore the best description for our methods would be that they are autoethnographic, inasmuch as, based on a minimum of suggested survey questions, using largely purpose and snowball sampling, our respondents describing their own experiences in their own words. We did not change any of the original spelling or punctuation as indicated in our respondents' answers. All the responses were anonymized to assure greatest possible sincerity and comfort of participants.

Représenter la paroisse Saint-Clément est un défi en soi, car la communauté est comprise de tant des âmes, provenant des différents coins du monde catholique. C'est pourquoi la meilleure façon de refléter les expériences de nos paroissiens est de les laisser parler par eux-mêmes, en utilisant leurs propres mots pour décrire leurs expériences.

Les méthodes qualitatives offrent aux chercheurs contemporains plusieurs façons de recenser les participants. Pourtant, dans les méthodes de sciences sociales, l'interprétation prend toujours une place centrale. En lumière de la nature tant personnelle de l'expérience paroissiale pour chaque membre de notre communauté, nous avons décidé de ne pas utiliser les méthodes qui pourront dénaturer leurs expériences.

C'est pourquoi la meilleure façon pour décrire notre recherche est celle de l'autoéthnographie, avec un minimum de questions proposé dans le questionnaire. Comme ça, nos participants ont décrit leurs propres expériences dans leurs propres mots. Nous avons utilisé deux types échantillonnage : l'échantillonnage à des fins spécifiques et l'échantillonnage "en boule de neige". Nous n'avons pas changé l'orthographe ou la ponctuation de départ. Toutes les réponses ont été anonymisées pour assurer la plus grande sincérité et le plus grand confort de nos participants.



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"It helped me find peace and joy."

"Une très belle expérience puisque j'y suis restée après une invitation à une des célébrations de la Paroisse, il a 4 ans. Et mon intégration à la communauté paroissiale a été très facile parce que l'accueil est toujours chaleureux dans cette paroisse." ●

"I have very much enjoyed my experience as a St. Clement's parishioner. I really appreciate all of the young adults events and that the young people are so kind and welcoming. the community has been really special to me." ●

"La paroisse St.Cléments m'a accepté avec bras ouvert sans jugement. J'ai rencontré plein de gens sympathiques. Je fais partie d'une communauté qui se rassemble dans la foi." ●

"Une expérience profondément positive et enrichissante d'un retour après de longues années à la pratique du culte qui est s'exprime par une liturgie empreinte de respect et piété accompagnée d'un souci réel du magisterium de la Sainte Église." ●

"The most important element of worship as a Catholic and a parishioner of St. Clement's is regular, reverent celebration of the Mass and reception of the Sacraments."

"Had I not happened upon the Latin mass and the wonderful priests of the Fraternity of St. Peter, I doubt I would still be a practising Catholic. Not only does their formation as priests enable a level of knowledge and comfort with the Faith - the liturgy connects me with the rich history of Holy Mother Church, Her saints, and provides every opportunity for me to reflect on Jesus in His sacraments." ●



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"Je dirai que mon engagement dans la communauté paroissiale de St. Clément me permet de servir le Christ et son Eglise à travers le don de mon temps et des talents que Dieu m'a donné. Cela m'a aussi donné l'occasion de rencontrer des personnes qui sont, par la suite et au fur et à mesure du temps, devenues mes amis et d'une certaine façon ma famille adoptive. Cela a donc une grande influence dans ma vie, tout spécialement dans le sens où cela me permet de bien placer le Christ au centre de ma vie." ●

"L'expérience de la foi Catholique que j'ai eu à St. Clément est sans pareille. J'ai visité cette paroisse pour la 2e fois en début juillet 2021 et je n'ai pas arrêté d'y aller depuis ce temps tellement j'ai été impressionnée. C'est quelque chose que je recherchais depuis longtemps sans le savoir : faire partie d'une communauté de gens qui n'essayent pas de s'excuser pour leur foi en la qualifiant de dépassée ou comme manquant de modernité. Des gens réellement fiers du privilège d'être Catholiques, d'être les héritiers de cet immense patrimoine, l'Église fondée par Jésus-Christ. Les prêtres sont dévoués aux âmes à leur charge et je sais que je suis en de bonnes mains spirituellement et que je peux leur faire confiance. Les prêtres passent du temps avec les jeunes et les familles, et prennent le temps pour parler avec nous dehors après les messes. Je sens que j'ai un père dans chacun de ces prêtres. Ils sont de bons guides spirituels qui prennent le temps de répondre à mes questions. Comme nous sommes choyés d'avoir des prêtres qui osent former des relations avec leurs paroissiens! De plus, en tant que jeune adulte, j'ai été merveilleusement bénie par le très grand groupe de jeunes adultes qui se rencontre régulièrement pour faire toutes sortes d'activités ensemble.



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Le ski, les vêpres en groupe dehors, les dimanche après-midi en visite chez des hôtes de certaines familles et amis de la paroisse... J'ai été tellement bien accueillie et guidée. Les prêtres passent même du temps avec nous, nous donnent des cours de catéchisme, mangent avec nous. Quel privilège! Mais par-dessus tout, ce qui m'a le plus impressionnée de cette paroisse est son engagement à nous enseigner à propos des Commandements de Dieu. La première homélie que j'ai entendue à St. Clément exposait les raisons pourquoi la contraception est un péché. Quel courage dans notre temps! Et quel raisonnement!



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"En tout cas, ma vie a été complètement transformée depuis que je suis paroissienne à St. Clément. Je comprends de plus en plus ma foi et je suis entourée de personnes qui sont déterminés à devenir des saints et qui m'encouragent sur mon chemin."



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"La vie semble prendre un rythme et les choses sont mystérieusement mises à l'ordre."

J'en ai eu soif de comprendre plus profondément les autres Commandements de Dieu. Ça me fait penser à Ézéchiel 3:16-19, lorsque le Seigneur lui dit que s'il n'avertissait pas les gens qu'ils péchaient, pour qu'ils puissent sauver leur vie, c'est Ézéchiel qui serait tenu responsable. Il faut avertir les gens ce qui est bien et mal et leur expliquer les raisons, pour qu'ils aient une chance de sauver leur âme! En tout cas, ma vie a été complètement transformée depuis que je suis paroissienne à St. Clément. Je comprends de plus en plus ma foi et je suis entourée de personnes qui sont déterminés à devenir des saints et qui m'encouragent sur mon chemin. J'ai appris à chanter des chants grégoriens et des chants polyphoniques si beaux depuis que je suis entrée dans la chorale. Je me sens connectée à mon héritage culturel et historique d'une façon très vive et très riche.

"In one sentence St. Clement's parish is the best place to be in to grow spiritually and enjoy the life of a Catholic community."

La vie semble prendre un rythme et les choses sont mystérieusement mises à l'ordre. J'ai hâte d'apprendre à chanter les psaumes et je suis pleine de joie dans ce grand apprentissage de notre immense trésor de la foi. Oui, ma vie a beaucoup été influencée par cette merveilleuse paroisse et j'ai hâte de continuer à cheminer avec eux pour une deuxième année." ●

"In line with Canon law, our family prefers to receive the Holy Eucharist on the tongue and during the pandemic moved to St. Clement's for that purpose. This move was made (and it is said with embarrassment) reluctantly, as we were of the view the Latin mass was not for us. As we grew accustomed to the Latin mass and learned to use the missal, we not only became quickly accustomed to this mass but it increased our understanding and our disposition of reverence. So many aspects of the mass became more meaningful. Our move to St. Clement's has been a blessing to us as a family and individually. There has been a welcoming by various parishioners and certainly by the priests, but again, due to the pandemic our involvement in the greater parish life has been somewhat limited." ●



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"Saint Clément m'a donné l'opportunité d'enrichir mes connections. J'ai développé plusieurs amitiés au travers de la paroisse ainsi que de bien connaître les prêtres qui servent très bien les besoins des paroissiens. Être paroissien chez St-Clément est une expérience profondément religieuse, familiale et de bonheur. La paroisse est un sanctuaire de vie pour moi et mon épouse. Mon épouse est immigrante et St-Clément lui a permis d'établir des amitiés et connections dès son arrivée." ●



"It has been positively amazing! The young adults community is a gift from God. The priests are super approachable and kind. So glad to be going to this parish since moving to the area." ●



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"I love this parish! It feels like home to me. The priests do such a great job taking care of us. It is one of the main reasons that we would like to remain in Ottawa."

"Having recently moved to Ottawa, the community that I have found at St. Clement has helped me to feel at home. I appreciate the regular availability of sacraments, in addition to the parish's efforts to restore the Church. As an architectural student, I have an appreciation for how a structure communicates its purpose. The sense of community found at St. Clement has enhanced my spiritual development with proper guidance and the community's focus of the Eucharist as the central guiding aspect. It has been very comforting to meet so many people who all share the same love of tradition and the Mass. This common love is what drew me to choose St. Clement as my new home parish." ●



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"Je suis témoins de celui qui as reçu l'amour et du soutien des paroissiens car vivre dans la communauté paroissiale m'a aidé dans l'intégration de vivre au Canada"

"St Clement's is a wonderful parish. I was first drawn in for the liturgy, but over time got to know the parishoners and how they are so welcoming, kind, and desire God. The priests also put forward a lot of effort, making the sacraments readily available, the mass reverent, and the teachings of the Church well espoused." ●



"First and foremost, being a parishioner at St. Clement's, where the traditional Latin Mass is celebrated, has helped me grow in love and reverence for Our Lord in the most Blessed Sacrament of the altar. It is also very inspiring and helpful to my spiritual progress to be around fellow Catholics who are devout and reverent. There are many opportunities to be involved in ministries and to be part of the community." ●



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"Mon épouse est immigrante et St-Clément lui a permis d'établir des amitiés et connections dès son arrivée."

"Being a parishioner of St. Clement's have contributed immensely to my spiritual and social life, I chose becoming a parishioner at St. Clement for many reasons, I love the reverence for the holy Eucharist, which unfortunately has been lost in other parishes, I love the piety and focus on internal prayer and reflection throughout the mass, love that the mass is said in Latin and ad orientem, it makes so much sense that the prayers are offered that way, also the use of psalms throughout mass, all of this unites the present worship with the past and will continue in the future, it also unites the prayer throughout the world in one language, which truly represents the meaning of being a Catholic Church. I also love the Gregorian chants that uplifts your mind and spirit. In addition, to compliment the beauty of liturgy we have a robust sense of community and social network, where we gather multiple times throughout the week for fellowship, and this is crucial in these days to enjoy the company of likeminded people and outreach to others who are missing out on being a part of our church group. In one sentence St. Clement's parish is the best place to be in to grow spiritually and enjoy the life of a Catholic community". ●



PHOTO CREDIT: FSSP

"It's helped me find community with like-minded individuals."

"My ten years at St Clement's parish has been the best ten years of my forty years on earth. I am a convert from Presbyterianism although I was only nominally Christian before my conversion. As a parish should be, St Clements is at the heart of my relationship with Our Lord, Our Lady and the Saints since it is part of the one Kingdom of God on earth, the Roman Catholic Church. It allows me to encounter Christ through the means He instituted for this

purpose, namely the Liturgy, the 7 Sacraments and in the learning the Holy Catholic Faith. I have also encountered many good examples of piety worthy of imitation at St Clement's that have helped me grow in the spiritual life and strive for sainthood. The priests have always been generous with their time and have made time for spiritual direction and letting the faithful into the Church to spend time with Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. The parish groups have provided wonderful opportunities to participate in good works and do develop lasting friendships. I have been blessed to become well versed in beautiful and edifying Gregorian Chant by being an active member of the parish choir over the past decade. I have also been blessed to have been an active member and an officer of the Legion of Mary at St Clement's and an officer in the Ottawa Regia. This has provided a wonderful opportunity to grow in virtue and to participate in the evangelization that the Holy See has been so solicitous in promoting. The parish and the Legion are truly my immediate spiritual family. I have also become a Third Order Redemptorist, that is Solitary of the Most Holy Redeemer and intend to consecrate myself to God by private vows for life. According to the Synod's Facilitator's Guide one of the questions that the

May 6th Summary Report should cover is: "2. What did participants have to say about areas where the Church is in need of healing, and conversion?" This is a very important question indeed and one that should be given special care in answering. In every age God sends us Saints to renew the Church who often leave us with certain charisms to help us return to the Spirit of the Gospel. The Desert Fathers followed by St Benedict and his Holy Rule taught the People of God how to live out the Evangelical Councils. St Dominic and St Francis of Assisi each with their own unique charism brought renewed fervor to Catholics in the Middle Ages. St John of the Cross and St Theresa of Avila mapped out the Spiritual Life and our way of journeying to Union with God. There is no limit of what can be said of how each Saint taught Christians how to return to the Spirit of the Gospel. The challenge we face in our own day is the same challenge Christians face in every age. That is do we embrace the spirit of the world or the Spirit of Jesus Christ? Jesus Christ suffered from the moment of the Incarnation to His dying breath. In the modern day we are offered a level of luxury that surpasses that offered to the inhabitants of every other



PHOTO CREDIT: JACQUIE FOURNIER

age. Is it any coincidence that sin abounds today at historic levels? Everything is offered to us at the click of a button. No longer do we have to wait and toil to acquire the goods we seek. The tragedy is that we treat the eternal goods offered by God in the same way. In a de-facto manner we have created a 'Catholicism Light' where grace and salvation are cheapened to the point where we may believe everyone except maybe those who were behind history's greatest atrocities attain the Beatific Vision. Venerable Fulton J Sheen once wisely said that, 'the problem in the West is that we want Christ without the Cross'. This is what's plaguing our Church in the modern era. We want Christ and the happiness which he offers us in this life and the next, but without the toil and suffering which it necessarily requires. We welcome consolation but we shun suffering, penance, mortification and the Cross. 'Don't speak to us about hell' the people say, 'stick to the love of God and other pleasant things'. In the public sphere we as a Church also seek to avoid the Cross, that is the humiliations that come along with defending the Faith in world and time that hates Christ and His Law to the core. Defending the 6th and 9th commandments, the sanctity of life or No Salvation Outside the Church are so repugnant to the modern ear that



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few indeed have the courage to shout them from the rooftops. So to suit our lack of courage we harbor illusions that Gospel can be preached in a more diplomatic and 'inclusive' way where everyone gets along and nobody is offended. Where has Catholicism Light gotten us in the last 75 years? Are the Churches, Seminaries and Monasteries filling up or emptying out? Is the Church sanctifying the world or is the world infecting the Church? We as a Church can't win this battle without a deep conversion to Christ and Him Crucified. We can't reach the heights of Thabor without climbing Mount Calvary. But although our flesh must suffer through crosses, humiliations, penances, mortification our souls will experience a foretaste of Paradise even in this life. God want us to be happy in this life as well but not in the way that the world promises it - though it can never deliver it." ●

"I am a husband, a father, a worker, a visible minority, the adult child of immigrant refugees, and a parishioner at St. Clement Parish, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. I have been a parishioner at St. Clement as long as I have been in the Ottawa area. For the entire length of my time as a parishioner, I have felt safe and at-home, welcomed, needed, nurtured, and cared for at the St. Clement parish community. I wish to share with you my experience of encountering Jesus in the context of St. Clement parish.

I would like to share with those involved with the diocesan synodal process my lived experience of being the conciliar and synodal Church at St. Clement Parish. The synodal spirit of the conciliar Church is present if we find: (1) Communion, (2) Participation, and (3) Mission.



PHOTO CREDIT: FSSP

"For the entire length of my time as a parishioner, I have felt safe and at-home, welcomed, needed, nurtured, and cared for at the St. Clement parish community."

I have personally experienced all three of these at St. Clement Parish. It is because of the Communion of the faithful, the co-responsibility of Participation, and the Missionary Discipleship I have found at St. Clement Parish that I feel compelled to share that the membership of me and my family in this parish community is the single most important community connection we have. We would indeed be lost without St. Clement Parish.

(1)Communion: Wherever we find Christians journeying together toward Jesus Christ —Saviour, brother, friend—there we find the Communion of the Church. At the parish community of St. Clement, I have found humble and kind Christians who have journeyed together with me and my family in three ways: (a) at significant life events, (b) through the Sacraments, and (c) in helping meet our personal and spiritual needs especially through the COVID-19 pandemic.

(a)Significant life events:

St. Clement priests and parishioners celebrated with me and my family the birth of a new child and, later, through the expectation of the birth of another child.It must be an anti-natalist societal context where our own extended family judged us for bringing children into the world. Our engagement with the parish community has provided us support, non-judgmental accompaniment, and indeed great joy in response to the news of new children.

(b)The Sacraments:

The parish priests have ministered the Sacraments to my family in Baptism, Communion, and Reconciliation. In the way our parish priests minister the Sacraments, with traditional reverence and joy, I am able to experience the gravity of the mystery of God’s love and mercy but also the intense joy and hope that comes with trust in the Holy Spirit and relationship with Jesus.

(c)Meeting personal and spiritual needs especially during the COVID-19 pandemic:

My family and I were adversely affected by the pandemic; we felt alone, forgotten, and spiritually lost. It was the parish priests and the parishioners who checked in on us and our engagement with them made us feel that we were still part of a community, cared for by that parish community, and loved by them and Jesus. During the COVID-19 pandemic when the other parishes I and my family were connected to shut down all ministries, St. Clement continued its most important ministries with the blessing of the local Ordinary, going above and beyond the minimum health and safety precautions required by law. With the proper precautions, the parish priests continued to hear confessions and provide spiritual counselling to their flock and to other Christians in need in the darkest days of the pandemic.

Because of the engagement of the parish priests and parish community with us through (a) significant life events, (b) the Sacraments, and (c) meeting our personal and spiritual needs especially through the COVID-19 pandemic, as a husband and a father, I feel secure and hopeful amid an uncertain and sometimes dark world, knowing that my family and I are safe and cared for by the St. Clement Parish community.



PHOTO CREDIT: FSSP

"Wherever we find Christians journeying together toward Jesus Christ—Saviour, brother, friend—there we find the Communion of the Church."

(1)Participation: We, Christians, all have the shared co-responsibility to be the Body of Christ, the Church, in the world—we are called by our baptism and confirmation to actively participate in the work of the Church, which is our work together with Jesus. Active participation is alive and well at St. Clement. I have engaged in participation in the work of the Church at St. Clement as: (a) a young adult group member, (b) a Knight of Columbus, and (c) a volunteer at parish events.

(a)Parish Young Adult Group Member:

My engagement with the parish young adult group has provided me a real sense of community. As a group, the young adults have events almost every day. They are open, joyful, and welcoming, encouraging Catholic Christians and those of other faith traditions to attend as many events as they like with no judgement for not attending. I have been able to meet many people and make wider community connections through the parish young adult group.

(a) Knight of Columbus:

My engagement with the Knights of Columbus has provided me fraternity, a sense of belonging, and the support of Christian brothers. Although it is a relatively new council, the Knights of Columbus St. Clement Council is active in the parish community, helping with the priests and parish with regular weekly tasks and planning for big feasts.

(b) Parish Events Volunteer:

My engagement as a volunteer at parish coffee socials and at BBQs has made me feel that I am part of a community, that I belong somewhere, and that I am needed and valued for my gifts. It means a lot to me to be able to be part of something that brings people joy and creates a sense of belonging. My engagement as a volunteer showed me that St. Clement Parish is a real community with an active parish life. In the St. Clement Parish community, many people of all ages belong, are cared about, supported and loved. The St. Clement Parish community provides a safe and welcoming place for all who walk through its doors, or stand on the sidewalk for a coffee, or sit in a chair on its lawn for a BBQ.

Because of my engagement with and participation in the parish young adult group, the Knights of Columbus, and volunteering at parish events, I can say that at St. Clement, everyone is welcomed to and welcomed back to the Church which is a home, because she is a mother, as Pope Francis says. Indeed, I, the son of wandering refugees, found such a home here and it means the world to me.



PHOTO CREDIT: JACQUIE FOURNIER

"Our engagement with the parish community has provided us support, non-judgmental accompaniment, and indeed great joy in response to the news of new children."

(1)Mission: We are called as Christians to be Missionary Disciples, spreading the kerygmatic Gospel, the joy and hope of Jesus. The parish community at St. Clement spreads the joy and hope of the Gospel through: (a) real examples of authentic Christian life, (b) the art of accompaniment, and (c) catechesis and evangelization.

(a)Authentic Christian life:

At St. Clement Parish, the priests witness to all their love for Jesus by living holy, humble, and full lives. Their living as good men draws many unlikely people to them who subsequently desire to live fuller lives in the Church. In my engagement with the parish priests, I have felt called to pray more frequently and to live more like they do, to become, rusty sinner though I am, a holier man for my family. They are a calming and steady presence in the parish community. I look to the parish priests as mentors, guides, and spiritual fathers in whom I confide, from whom I seek guidance and help when lost and helpless. These parish priests have been signposts for me, in the darkness and confusion of modern living, leading me with hope and joy always to Jesus. I don't know how I would find my way without their presence, constancy, and imitation of Christ.

"Indeed, I, the son of wandering refugees, found such a home here and it means the world to me."

(a)The Art of Accompaniment:

The parish priests at St. Clement have also accompanied me through good and bad times in life, meeting me where I am on my journey to Jesus. They have listened to me about doubts, difficulties, and trials and addressed them with kindness, truth, and instructive storytelling. In my engagement with these priests who are artful accompaniers, I have been gently nudged and sometimes challenged to encounter Jesus again and again with joy and hope.

(a)Catechesis and Evangelization:

The priests and parishioners of St. Clement Parish engage in both catechesis and evangelization. Through their homilies, catechesis, RCIA, and marriage prep classes, the priests bring the truth of the Gospel and its implications on our lives to parishioners and other community members. My engagement with their homilies challenges me every week to live as a better and more joyful follower of Jesus. The priests reach out into society and bring people into the Church where they find a community, a home, and Jesus. Many parishioners do the same, bringing co-workers, family members, and friends who may now know Jesus to parish events and to the Holy Mass, where many encounter Jesus for the first time and hunger for more. My engagement with this active and living missionary parish community also challenges me to facilitate for those I know opportunities to encounter Jesus.

So many have become Christians and new parishioners in the past two years, which are the fruits of the work of the priests and parishioners as joyful Missionary Disciples of Jesus, living authentic Christian lives, and catechizing and evangelizing with hope and joy. As I continue to engage with the St. Clement Parish community and its role in the Mission of the Church, I become more and more involved with meeting and welcoming these new parishioners home to the Church, who is a mother.

In conclusion, a husband, a father, a worker, a visible minority, and the adult child of immigrant refugees, my engagement with the St. Clement Parish community has shown me that the spirit of Synodality, which is “the way of being the Church today according to the will of God,” is not only compatible but thrives in traditional expression of Roman Catholicism through a Traditional Latin Mass community where Communion is lived out as a journeying together toward Jesus, Participation is a co-responsibility to be the Church in the world, and Mission is a two-millennia old call to be joyful and hopeful Missionary Disciples of Jesus Christ—Saviour, brother, friend. My engagement with the parish community at this Traditional Latin Mass community offers me purpose, a spiritual home, a welcoming and joyful community, and countless opportunities to encounter Jesus in the Sacraments and liturgical and spiritual life, community involvement and volunteering, through journeying with those living authentic Christian lives, and through so much more. My engagement with the St. Clement Parish community has been pivotal in my life and in the lives of my family. I don't know what we would do without this parish community that is present and caring for us always. This traditional parish community brings me ever closer to Jesus, encountering Him regularly, and trusting more and more in the guidance of the Holy Spirit every day." ●



PHOTO CREDIT: SAINT CLEMENT PARISH

"Participation is a co-responsibility to be the Church in the world, and Mission is a two-millennia old call to be joyful and hopeful Missionary Disciples of Jesus Christ—Saviour, brother, friend."



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"In my engagement with the parish priests, I have felt called to pray more frequently and to live more like they do, to become, rusty sinner though I am, a holier man for my family."

"We joined the parish two years ago at the start of the Covid pandemic. We have felt welcomed, appreciated, and our devotional and prayer life has been truly enriched by dedicated priests, and by our growing understanding and appreciation for the Traditional Latin Mass. We love our new parish, and we are looking forward to greater engagement now that so many restrictions are being lifted from social gatherings." ●



"It has been central to our life. A refuge during the pandemic especially. Regular confession and access to sacraments, reverence towards our Lord on the altar/in the tabernacle, communion on the tongue, first Fridays and Saturdays, sound preaching (bringing up Saints, the Fathers etc), friendly and well-formed priests, faithfulness to the magisterium despite the difficulties associated, laity that are on fire for the Lord, or at least take their spiritual lives seriously to desire moving forward, can count on others to pray for us when asked. Access to confession in Polish, and the blessing of the Easter baskets were a wonderful touch (thank you Fr. Deprey!) Strong masculine men who wish to defend the church and such grassroots initiatives were inspiring to see." ●

Sources en ligne | Online Resources

- Saint Clement Parish – Paroisse Saint Clément, <https://stclement-ottawa.org/en/>
- The Priestly Fraternity of Saint Peter, "Father Luc Poirier Ordained in Ottawa", <https://fssp.com/fr-luc-poirier-ordained-in-ottawa/#>



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The Synodal team of Saint Clement Parish wishes to express its deep gratitude to those who generously volunteered their time to share their talents, their testimonies and their resources to make this report a reality. May God bless you for your humble service to His Church.

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