

October 2025

Re-imagining Parish Life and Leadership Summary

Our Lady of Grace Church-School—El Cajon, California



Our Lady of Grace Family Rooted in Christ

Guided by the Holy Spirit, Our Lady of Grace embraces synodality to deepen faith, foster community and welcome everyone.

Pope Francis has inspired the Church to be more open, caring and united by listening, working together, and following the Holy Spirit. This way of being Church—synodality—means journeying together in faith, sharing ideas, praying as one, and showing God’s love in daily life.

At Our Lady of Grace, we’ve embraced this call through Listening Circles, where parishioners can speak honestly about family, Church life, teachings, the Eucharist, and hopes for our parish and school.



From May 2024 to February 2025, OLG’s Re-imagining Parish and Leadership team hosted **11 Listening Circles about family faith and leadership.**

Continuing Pope Francis’ synodal approach, these gatherings invited staff, laity, clergy and bishops to listen, dialogue and discern the Holy Spirit’s direction together.

Demographics*

243 Participants

11 Listening Circles

- **34% Members of Ministries**
- **25% Youth/ Parents**
- **24% All Parish**
- **9% OLG School faculty/staff**
- **35% ages 60 and over**
- **21% ages 18-39**

**Some Listening Circle demographics were unavailable*

Our Lady of Grace’s Response to Desires

Goal 1: Foster intergenerational connection across all life stages

Focus Areas:

- Hospitality
- Bereavement

Goal 2: Be a Synodal Church – Communion, Participation, and Mission

Focus Areas:

- Family Faith Formation
- Minister to Ministries

Our Lady of Grace Desires

- **Welcoming loved ones back into the family of faith** — whether they have been away from the Church or not yet part of it — so they can experience the joy of relationship with God through Mass attendance, involvement and the grace of the Sacraments.
- **Walking together in lifelong formation**, offering meaningful opportunities for faith and spiritual growth at every age and stage of life.
- **Strengthening the bond between OLG School and our parish community**, so that school families feel fully at home in parish life.
- **Creating spaces where our youth feel seen, valued and inspired** — offering activities that draw them in, nurture their faith, and invite them into lasting participation.
- **Fostering authentic relationships in Christ**, where we recognize our shared values, our human interconnectedness, and our call to journey together in faith.
- **Building trust through open listening and caring response** from our pastor, clergy, and staff — meeting both practical needs and heartfelt pastoral hopes.



Our Lady of Grace Remains Strong, United, Hopeful

As we move forward with clergy, the parish and school staff, ministries, parents and laity will be invited to participate and volunteer in ways that continue OLG family's desires to grow in faith, love and mercy. Over time, updates will be communicated and more Listening Circles topics explored. Meanwhile, work is underway for the next 3 to 6 months (August 2025 – February 2026) in:

- **Bereavement:** Explore supporting families after the loss of loved ones.
- **Family Faith Formation:** Meet with faith formation ministers and school parents to better understand family needs.
 - Plan Advent and Lenten Convocations
- **A Pathway to Bring Your Child Back to the Church Workshop:** Support and assist Deacon John and family faith efforts.
- **Minister to Ministries:** Engage one-on-one with ministry leads to listen, learn and support.
- **New Members:** Initiate pastor's welcome letter, paired with personal calls from hospitality volunteers.



OLG Re-imagining Parish Life and Leadership Team

Father Lauro Minimo, pastor, Volunteers Kelly Czajka, Ken and Mary Discenza, Paul Durr, Elizabeth Guerrero, Anna Marie and Chet Snyder

The detailed summary can be found at olg-church.org/OLG-Synodal-Culture or by scanning the QR code.

