

'QUESTIONS FROM OUR FAMILY IN JESUS' – 10<sup>TH</sup> June 2018

We celebrate as a family the St Joseph's Parish School 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.  
And the coming feast of our parish co-patron St Anthony of Padua June 13<sup>th</sup>.  
And our children receiving their First Eucharist over two weeks.  
And on this annual appeal for our local SVDP, our appreciation for their service.

In today's Gospel MARK 3:20-35 we hear that we are not always understood.

#### FAMILY

As Jesus goes about his ministry and people crowd around him,  
so much so that Jesus and his disciples could not even eat, we are told

*"When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him,  
for people were saying, 'He has gone out of his mind.' "*

#### AUTHORITY

And the religious faith family represented by the scribes,

*'And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said,  
'He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons.' '*

#### TEACHES WITH PARABLES

So, Jesus sets out to correct them – by parables.

*'And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables'*

#### WE ARE MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY OF JESUS

Our parish community is called to be a family centred on Jesus.  
And living as family by doing the will of God.

*'Then his mother and his brothers came;  
and standing outside, they sent to him and called him.  
A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him,  
'Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you.'  
And he replied,  
**'Who are my mother and my brothers?'**  
And looking at those who sat around him, he said,  
**'Here are my mother and my brothers!  
Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.'***

#### THE HOLY SPIRIT WORKING ACROSS THE WHOLE HUMAN FAMILY

But if we focus only on our local faith family,  
we miss out on the Holy Spirit working across the human family.  
Earlier this month, the Preparatory document for next year's synod  
on the Amazon, was released.

It is titled,

[Amazonia: New Paths for the Church & for an Integral Ecology - Preparatory Document](#)

We know that whatever happens in the Amazon affects the wider human family and our common home - planet earth. In the spirit of listening to the human family, our parish will post [five daily quotes](#) from the Vatican document during the week. With a focus on the Amazon and on planet earth.

### PREPARATORY QUESTIONS

Let us adapt the three sets of preparatory questions being asked of the Church in the region of the Amazon.

And apply them to ourselves.

We substitute "*Australia*" and "*Australian*" for wherever "*Amazon*" and "*Amazonian*" is originally mentioned in the document. Another adaptation is changing "*indigenous*" to "*Indigenous*" as we do in Australia.

**AS WE AS A CHURCH FAMILY APPROACH OUR OWN PLENARY COUNCIL IN AUSTRALIA IN 2020, CAN WE LEARN FROM THE AMAZON FAMILY?**

**WHICH QUESTIONS DO YOU BELIEVE ARE RELEVANT TO US IN AUSTRALIA AS A FAITH FAMILY?**

During the week you are invited to reflect on these questions.

### PART I

1. What are the most important problems in your community: threats to, and difficulties of, life, the territory, and its culture?
2. In the light of *Laudato si'*, what is the composition of bio-diversity and socio-diversity in your region?
3. How do these diversities affect or not affect your pastoral work?
4. In the light of Gospel values, what kind of society should we promote, and what are our means for doing so, taking into account rural, urban, and socio-cultural differences?
5. Given the enormous wealth of their cultural identities, what are the contributions, aspirations, and challenges of the *Australian* peoples in relation to the Church and the world?
6. How can these contributions be incorporated into a Church with an *Australian* face?
7. How should the Church, through her integral pastoral care, accompany the organizational efforts of native peoples on issues of identity and defense of their territories and rights?
8. What should the Church's responses be to the challenges of urban pastoral care in the *Australian* region?
9. If there are *Indigenous Peoples in Voluntary Isolation* in your territory, what should the Church do to defend their lives and rights?

## PART II

1. What hopes does the Church's presence offer *Australian* communities in regard to life, territory, and culture?
2. How can we promote an integral ecology, taking into account the environmental, economic, social, and cultural aspects of daily life (cf. LS 137-162) in the *Australian* region?
3. In the context of your local church, how is Jesus "Good News" in *Australian* life in connection with family, community, and society?
4. How can the Christian community respond to situations of injustice, poverty, inequality, violence (drugs, human trafficking, violence against women, sexual exploitation, discrimination against Indigenous peoples and migrants, among others), and exclusion in the *Australian* region?
5. What are the cultural elements that can facilitate the proclamation of the Gospel in the newness of the mystery of Jesus?
6. What paths can we follow in order to inculturate our sacramental practice into the living experience of Indigenous peoples?
7. How does the community of believers, which is "missionary by its very nature" and in its own specific way, participate in the concrete, daily magisterium of the Church in the *Australian* region?

## PART III

1. What Church do we dream of for *Australia*?
2. How do you imagine an outgoing Church with an *Australian* face, and what characteristics should it have?
3. Is there room for Indigenous expression and active participation in the liturgical practice of your communities?
4. One of the major challenges in *Australia* is the impossibility of celebrating the Eucharist frequently in all places. How can we respond to this need?
5. How can we recognize and value the role of the laity in various pastoral areas (catechesis, liturgy, and charity)?
6. What role should the laity play in the region's different socio-environmental spheres?
7. What actions should characterize prophetic proclamation and condemnation in *Australia*?
8. What characteristics should the people who proclaim the Good News in *Australia* possess?
9. What are the particularly *Australian* activities and ministries in your ecclesiastical jurisdiction, and what are their attributes?
10. What are the particularly *Australian* activities and ministries that you believe should be created and promoted?
11. In what ways can consecrated life and its charisms contribute to the building up of a Church with an *Australian* face?
12. The role of women in our communities is of utmost importance, how can we recognize and value them on our new paths?
13. In what ways can popular religiosity, particularly Marian devotion, be

integrated into and contribute to the Church's new paths in the *Australian* region?  
14. What contributions could the communications media make towards building a Church with an Australian face?

WHICH QUESTIONS DO WE NEED TO RE-PHRASE AND WHY?

WHAT QUESTIONS DO WE NEED TO ADD FROM THE AUSTRALIAN FAMILY?

HOW CAN WE LIVE IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE AMAZON FAMILY?

As Jesus says:

***"Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."***

Let us pray.

Fr Gerry

[Readings: <http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/061018.cfm>]

[Parish Facebook: <http://bit.ly/parishFacebook10032018>]

Other References:

**[Amazonia: New Paths for the Church & for an Integral Ecology - Preparatory Document](#)**



Image: <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/vatican-city/news/2018-06/panamazonia-synod-prepartory-document-vatican.html>