



Synod Survey

Pope Francis has called on each of the world's bishops to listen to members of their flock – including those who are marginalized or who have fallen away from the Church – and get their feedback on issues important to the Catholic Church today.

In this survey, you will be asked for feedback in four key areas:

- Participation in Life of the Church
- Dialogue between Church and Society
- Catholic Identity and Relationship with God
- Journeying Together as Faith Community

Please review all the questions and answer those that you feel called to answer. We are grateful for any feedback you provide. The feedback will be gathered, summarized, and ultimately sent on to Rome, where world Bishops will meet to discuss the issues in October 2023 at the Vatican.

Before you begin to share your reflections, we ask that you begin with the *Prayer for the Synod* so that the Holy Spirit may come to guide your thoughts and responses.

Prayer for the Synod Adsumus Sancte Spiritus

We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name.

With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts;

Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder.

Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together

to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right.

All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time,

in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever.

Amen.

If you have any questions about the Synod, please contact us at synod@allentowndioocese.org. We are grateful for your participation!

Please return this survey to:

Synod Working Committee
Diocese of Allentown
PO Box F
Allentown, PA 18015-1538

PARTICIPATION IN LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Synodality is at the core of the mission of the Church in which all members are called to participate. Walking together is only possible if it is based on communal listening to the Word and the celebration of the Eucharist.

Describe ways that you learned about being Catholic.

- I was raised Catholic from birth.
- I chose to become Catholic. (RCIA/Convert)Other/Additional Comments

How would you describe your relationship with the Catholic Church today? Has it changed over time? How? Would you call it fulfilling? Why or why not?

- Good, Steady, Consistent
- Growing; Increasing in Fulfillment over Time
- Losing Faith; Decreasing in Fulfillment over Time
- No relationship with the Church/Non-existent

Other/Additional Comments

Does your parish offer a spirit of welcome and inclusion to all in the community? Why or why not?

- Parish is welcoming and inclusive.
- Parish is welcoming, but not inclusive.
- Parish is neither welcoming nor inclusive.
- I am not currently connected to a parish.

Other/Additional Comments

Do prayer, Mass, the Sacraments, and other Church celebrations inspire and guide your life with the Church? Why or why not?

- Always
- Usually
- Sometimes
- Never

Other/Additional Comments

Does your participation in your parish help to inspire important decisions in our life?

- Always
- Usually
- Sometimes
- Never
- I am not connected to a parish.

Other/Additional Comments

What joy does the Church bring you now or in the past?

What do you think is the mission of the Church? What areas of mission is the Church fulfilling? What areas need more attention? What areas are being neglected?

DIALOGUE IN THE CHURCH AND SOCIETY

Listening is the first step, but it requires an open mind and heart without judgment. All are invited to speak with courage and in freedom, truth, and charity.

When you reflect on your parish community, do you find diversity in dialogue that is representative of the wider, local community? Why or why not?

- Yes, my parish is very diverse and includes people of all ages, genders, cultures, etc.
- No, my parish is not very diverse and doesn't seem to include people of all ages, genders, cultures, or backgrounds.
- Not Sure
- I am not currently connected to a parish.

Other/Additional Comments



How well do you believe that the Catholic Church listens to the whole People of God?

- Very Well
- Well
- Average
- Needs Improvement
- Poor/Not at All

Other/Additional Comments

What issues in the Church and community do you believe should be highlighted more often?

What dialogue and collaboration does the Church have with believers of other religions and with those without religious affiliation?

Do you feel there is space in your parish for the voice of all people, including those both active and inactive in their faith?

- Yes
- No
- Not Sure

Other/Additional Comments

Are you aware of tools and procedures that the Church uses to promote transparency and accountability?

- Yes
- No
- Not Sure

Other/Additional Comments

**CATHOLIC IDENTITY &
RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD**

In the Church and in society, we are all side by side on the same road to heaven.

How would you describe your relationship with God? Would you call it fulfilling? Why or why not?

- I have a very personal and deep relationship with God. It is very fulfilling.
- I struggle with a consistent relationship with God. It can be fulfilling, but sometimes is difficult.
- I would like to have a better relationship with God and find the time and commitment to make it more fulfilling. I do not have a relationship with God.
- Not sure

Other/Additional Comments

How do you think people can grow in their faith? What resources (books, clergy, retreats, services, etc.) are helpful to you?

**WAYS WE JOURNEY TOGETHER
AS A UNIVERSAL FAITH COMMUNITY**

Synodality entails receptivity to change, formation, and on-going learning with a spirit of perseverance and patience.

Where do you hear the voice of the Holy Spirit? What are we being asked to do?

How can a church community help form people to be more capable of walking together, listening to one another, fulfilling the mission, etc.?



How do you think the Holy Spirit is inviting the Church community – both locally and universally – to grow together?

Is there any other feedback that you would like to provide?

OPTIONAL DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION Thank you for taking the time to participate in the Synod by providing your feedback and reflections! All information will be summarized and shared with the Diocesan Synod Working Group that will prepare a document for the United States Conference of Bishops (USCCB).

To ensure we reach a broad diversity of Catholics in the Diocese of Allentown, we ask that you consider completion of the optional demographic information below. Thank you!

ARE YOU A BAPTIZED CATHOLIC?

Circle One: YES NO

AGE

- High School Student
- Young Adult (Ages 18-35)
- Adult (36-55)
- Adult (56+)

ETHNIC BACKGROUND

- Caucasian/Non-Hispanic
- Hispanic
- Native American
- Asian
- African American Filipino
- Vietnamese
- Other: _____

WHAT IS YOUR TYPICAL MASS ATTENDANCE?

- Daily Mass
- More than Once a Week
- Once a Week (Saturday Vigil or Sunday)
- Holidays Only (e.g. Easter, Christmas, etc.)
- I attend Mass a few times per year.
- I do not attend Mass.

Do you belong to a Parish in the Diocese of Allentown?

Circle One: YES NO

If yes, which one? _____