



DIOCESAN SYNOD SUMMARY

During the Synod on Synodality, all in the Diocese of Allentown were invited to share their feedback through a series of listening sessions and surveys to foster communion, participation, and our shared mission as the Body of Christ. This is a summary of key highlights from the feedback received from October 2021 to April 2022.

Key Highlights

174

SYNOD AMBASSADORS
FROM PARISHES,
SCHOOLS, AND MINISTRIES

65

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS,
PARISHES & MINISTRIES

3,800

ATTENDED LISTENING
SESSIONS VIRTUALLY
OR IN PERSON

2,425

NUMBER OF ONLINE
OR PAPER SURVEY
RESPONSES



Mission of the Church

- Reinvigorate the Church's primary focus to lead souls to Heaven and provide understanding of their Faith and enhanced desire for and access to the Sacraments.
- Support efforts to encourage and develop active vocations for all individuals whether married, single, in the religious life, or in the clergy.
- Provide opportunities to build communities of the faithful, develop relationships, enhance hospitality, and create more opportunities to welcome and serve others.
- Commit to teaching and modeling how to live a life as a witness to the Faith.



Catholic Faith and Parish Communities

- Expressions of great comfort, foundation and joy in their Catholic Faith, and parish communities.
- Feelings of disconnection or lost belief in their Catholic Faith and parishes.
- Disillusionment with Church leadership since abuse scandal with hope for continued transparency.
- Statements of lack of need for the Church to be part of their lives as some view relationship with God as an individual undertaking with no relevance to community or institutional Church.



Education, Formation, & Evangelization

- Urgent need to teach and catechize the truth and beauty of the Catholic Faith.
- Provide more opportunities to learn about their Catholic Faith from the pulpit.
- Provide more opportunities in parish communities for Faith formation and practical applications of Faith to contemporary times for all ages.
- (Re)commit to central tenets, reverence, and traditions of the Faith.
- Urgent need to reach out to those away from their Catholic Faith or those disaffected by the institutional Church seen as contrary to secular, modern culture.

Youth and Young Adults



- Prioritize education, evangelization, and formation of youth.
- Listen and engage youth and young adults as important part of the present and future of the Church.
- Connect with youth and young adults as spiritual seekers who connect with the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy.
- Provide opportunities for youth and young adults to actively serve in parish activities and Mass and cultivate young leaders in the communities.

Vocations and the Priesthood



- Prioritize development of vocations to the priesthood.
- Reflect on the number of priests and the quality of formation and education in the challenges faced in contemporary parish life.
- Inspire informative and impactful homiletics from priests and deacons.
- Refocus priests on education, evangelization, and care of the faithful and less on administration and management of parishes.

Laity and the Church



- Encourage more lay involvement in the leadership and administration of the Church.
- Identify ways a priest can maintain a priority on the pastoral care and spiritual leadership of their parishioners.
- Develop and encourage more leadership from women in the management and spiritual life of the Church.

Culture and Communication



- Explore and employ educational and contemporary communication tools to show relevance of traditional Church to society of today.
- Include diversity of voices, more transparency from Church administration, and current communication tools to engage and evangelize.
- Increase intentional and regular outreach to those who are disaffiliated from the Church or on the margins including those who are away from their Faith, or feel marginalized including those who struggle with financial impoverishment, minority communities, the disabled, the elderly/homebound, divorced, LGBT individuals and their families, imprisoned or otherwise disaffected with the truth of our Catholic Faith.