

Diocese of Worcester GROUP Questionnaire for Synod 2023

Consultative Experiences

The following questions are based on your experiences with a variety of consultations which occurred over the past decade in the Diocese of Worcester. Please read those examples online by [clicking here](#) and scrolling to "Local Input Efforts" before beginning the survey.

1. Please identify the name of your group, parish and town (e.g. Synod gathering at St. Elsewhere, in Anytown, MA) If you are seeking to provide input as an individual, please use the Survey For Individual Input available on the diocesan website.

2. After having read the examples of consultative experiences, were you aware of any of them?

Yes

No

3. Did you participate in any of them? If so, please identify which one(s)

Pastoral Planning

Youth Ministry

Improving Communications

Capital Campaign

Survey of Diocesan Departments and Programs

Synod on Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment

Synod on the Family

School Consolidations

Parish Finance Council or Pastoral Council

Other (please specify)

4. In order to understand better that experience, what fruits did it bear? Name at least one positive experience or success. Name at least one negative experience or failure.

Positive experience

Negative experience

5. How might the Diocese do a better job of listening to parishioners? Please limit to a few phrases or sentences.

6. If you participated in a consultative process in your parish (e.g. Finance Council or Pastoral Council) what fruits did it bear? Name at least one positive experience. Name at least one Negative experience or failure.

Positive experience

Negative experience

7. How might your parish do a better job listening to the parishioners in your parish? Please limit to a few phrases or sentences.

8. Which of the following do you read or watch to know what is happening in your parish or the diocese?

- The Catholic Free Press*
- Parish Bulletin
- Parish Website
- Parish *Flocknotes*
- Parish *FaceBook* page
- Diocesan Website
- Diocesan TV Mass and programming
- Diocesan streaming internet programs/videos

9. How well do you think you know your fellow parishioners as "companions on the journey" to deepen and spread the Catholic faith?

- Very well
- Somewhat
- Not at all

Eucharistic Revival

Background. The Second Vatican Council called the Eucharist the “source and summit of the Christian life (Lumen gentium, 11). The Council went on to say that “...sharing in the Eucharist..., we are taken up into communion with [Christ] and with one another (Lumen gentium, 3.7). The preparatory documents for the Synod on Synodality state that “walking together” is only possible if it is based on communal listening to the Word and the celebration of the Eucharist (Vademecum 5.3.4). Yet many Catholics in our Diocese do not attend weekend Mass.

10. What does the Eucharist mean to you?

11. If you believe in the Real Presence, when and how did you first realize that Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist?

12. Why do some people believe that the Eucharist is merely a symbol of Jesus?

13. How can people come to a deeper understanding of the Eucharist?

14. What do you think are the reasons why many Catholics do not attend Mass on the Lord's Day? Give at least one reason you have heard people share with you.

15. What can be done to bring Catholics back to Mass? If you have been successful at inviting someone back to Mass, please describe how you did it.

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Evangelization

Background. Before He ascended into heaven, Jesus said, “Go...make disciples of all nations, baptizing them [and] teaching them to observe all I have commanded you (Matthew 28:19-20). The Second Vatican Council taught that, “the apostolate of the Church, and each of its members, aims primarily at announcing to the world by word and action, the message of Christ and communicating to it the grace of Christ (Apostolicam actuositatem, 6). Pope Francis has written, “it is vitally important for the Church today to go forth and preach the Gospel to all: to all places, on all occasions, without hesitation, reluctance, or fear (Evangelii gaudium, 23). Quoting the Latin American bishops, the Holy Father said that we “cannot passively and calmly wait in our church buildings’; we need to move ‘from a pastoral ministry of mere conservation to a decidedly missionary pastoral ministry’” (Evangelii gaudium, 15).

16. What are the greatest blessings you experience by being Catholic?

Blessing 1

Blessing 2

Blessing 3

17. What are the greatest challenges you face by being Catholic?

Challenge 1

Challenge 2

Challenge 3

18. What things do you think your parish does well to spread the Gospel, and to invite and welcome people to become Catholic? What are some failures or things we do not do well?

Effective efforts:

Ineffective efforts:

19. What things do you think **our Diocese** does well to spread the Gospel, and to invite and welcome people to become Catholic? What are some failures or things we do not do well?

Effective Diocesan efforts:

Ineffective Diocesan efforts:

20. What activities could we do to attract, welcome and retain the following?

Youth (up to age 18)

Young Adults (age 19-30)

Adults

Seniors

Working people

New Immigrants

People who are struggling

People who are searching
(for what?)

People who are content
and comfortable

People who are
scandalized by or impacted
by clerical sex abuse

21. Do you feel comfortable in sharing your faith with others, inviting them to turn to Christ, attend Church and become Catholics?

Yes

No

22. What are the obstacles that might make you hesitant to invite others to turn to Christ?

23. What would strengthen your confidence to invite others to turn to Christ, to attend Mass and/or become Catholic?