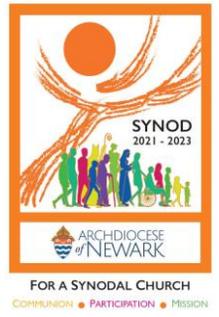


*Church:
Communion,
Participation,
and Mission*

The Work
of the
Holy Spirit:

What the
Listening
Sessions
Tell Us

1

Parishes and Ministries Listening Sessions

Religious Ed
 • Listening sessions with catechists, parents, and children
Youth Ministry
 • Listening sessions with youth, parents
Schools
 Children, teachers, parents
Hispanic Ministry and other Cultural Groups
 • Listening sessions including adults, youth, etc.
Persons with Disabilities
 • Inclusion in Listening Sessions, prayer, and other activities and ministries
Religious Congregations
 • Sisters, brothers, nuns, associates
On the Margins
 • Catholic Charities, Mercy House, Incarcerated, those in parishes, LGBTQ, other
Language Groups
 • Korean, Polish, Portuguese, French (Haitian), Spanish, Chinese



2

Statistics for English and Language Groups

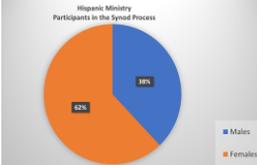
- 28 Information Sessions
 - In-person
 - Online webinars
- Listening was key
 - Most did in-person
 - Some Online
 - Some online surveys (33 parishes)
- 4000 Pages of Reports in English, 2000 reports in Spanish




3

Statistics from Hispanic Ministry Grpoups

- 212 small groups for five sessions
- 2,313 people participated:
 - Women: 1,435
 - Men: 878
- Age of the largest groups:
 - 33.5% from 40 to 55
 - 23% from 56 to 74
 - 22.5% from 26 to 39



4



Encuentro Style Listening Sessions

- Five Sessions in small groups
- Prayer and Discernment
- Ongoing gatherings

5

The Synod Report

Gives us a snapshot of

WHERE WE ARE NOW

Asks Us

WHERE DO WE WANT TO BE?

We Ask How

HOW WILL WE GET THERE?

How to continue to build synodality throughout the Archdiocese?

6



What we are hearing...

SIX KEY THEMES IDENTIFIED BY PARTICIPANTS

1. Parish Community: Welcome, Hospitality, Outreach (Evangelization)
2. Youth And Young Adults
3. Faith Formation
4. Participation of the Laity In Church Leadership
5. Governance
6. Communications

Positive feeling about the process and feedback

7

Synodality Continues in The Archdiocese of Newark

Next Steps:

- Develop ways to help parishes create and live out synodality:
 - Parish Staffs
 - Parish Pastoral Councils and pastoral planning
 - Finance Councils
 - Faith Formation and Life-long Learning
 - Pastoral Ministries
 - Ways to engage parishioners in dialogue
 - On-going formation of Clergy
 - Other...



Communion + Participation + Mission

8

Synod Feedback Meetings

- Priests Councils
- Archdiocesan Pastoral Council
- County Meetings
- Deanery Meetings
- RCAN Department Meetings and their constituents
- PCLs and Adult Faith Formation
- Parish Meetings
- Parish Pastoral Council Meetings
- Collaboration with other dioceses for ideas and next steps



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Discussion Format for RCAN Pastoral Staff

- Gathering Prayer
- Cardinal's Remarks
- Presentation *The Work of the Holy Spirit: What the Listening Sessions Tell Us*
- Sample Response from the Catechetical Office
- Table Sharing
 1. What do the synod results say to you?
 2. How is the Holy Spirit calling us forth as a Church?
 3. What are specific follow-ups for your ministry?
 - Feedback
 - Moving Forward: Planning Ideas and Best Practices
 - Announcements
 - Sending Prayer



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Synod 2021-2023

For a synodal Church: communion | participation | mission

CATECHETICAL MINISTRY

Synod Response

11



THE SYNOD ON SYNODALITY:

Support provided during diocesan phase:

Developed resources for parish catechetical programs in order help parishes fully engage children and youth, provide them with an experience of synod, and to being to form them for synodality.

- [Catechetical Materials and Activities for Children/Youth in grades K - 8](#)
- [Reporting tool](#)
- [Listening Session for Faith Formation catechists and parents. \(English\) \(Spanish\)](#)
- [Preparation tool for participants to assist them to reflect on the synodal process and their own call to participation. \(English\) \(Spanish\)](#)

Developed resources to engage parish families and to assist families to reflect on what it means to be a synodal church.

- [Faith Alive @Home Resource \(English\) \(Spanish\)](#)
- [Family Listening Session \(English\) \(Spanish\)](#)
- [Reporting Tool](#)

12

 SYNOD RESPONSE OBJECTIVES	 PARISH CATECHESIS
Model Synodality in our approach to ministry	To form a catechetical advisory group comprised primarily of pastors and parish catechetical leaders that will enable the catechetical office to listen to the needs, challenges, and hopes of parishes in order to better support their catechetical efforts.
Model Synodality with our parish leaders	To continue to facilitate listening sessions for parish catechetical leaders in order to provide a space where they can experience being accompanied and can share openly their joys and concerns.
Reimagining Faith Formation	To form and accompany parish leaders as they explore new modalities and approaches to catechesis that are in line with the Directory of Catechesis (2020). This is done through a deep study of the Directory, initial formation opportunities, and pilot learning communities where PCLs can explore, implement, and evaluate new initiatives in a collaborative and safe space.
Promote and Facilitate Parish Collaboration	To work with other RCAN offices to identify parishes needing greater support and to visit parishes / deaneries in order to listen to the concerns of pastors and to identify areas where collaboration is needed and desired in order to facilitate conversations among parishes that will lead to practical solutions.

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 SYNOD RESPONSE OBJECTIVES	 ADULT FAITH FORMATION
Provide Resources for Adults and Parishes	To provide a 50% increase in the number of adult faith formation courses with synchronous instruction offered as in-person, online, and/or hybrid courses.
Provide Direct Support to Adult Faith Formation Coordinators	To host 3 hybrid meetings for parish Adult Faith Formation leaders to build community, promote collaboration among parishes, share resources, and support AFF leaders in their ministry.
Develop and Support Small Christian communities	To collaborate with Sr. Donna Ciangio, Chancellor, to formulate a plan for the development and support of Small Christian Communities in the Archdiocese.

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 SYNOD RESPONSE OBJECTIVES	 FAMILY FAITH FORMATION
Post Marriage and Post Baptism Outreach	Collaborate with the Director for Family Life Ministry and establish consistent meetings to share resources and plan events to support parishes in their efforts to stay connected to families beyond marriage and baptism. To provide opportunities for parishes to preview and learn more about resources to help them accompany newly married couples and new parents.
Assist Parishes in Parent Faith Formation	Assist parishes in their efforts to form parents in the faith especially during the sacramental preparation of their children by providing current and effective family faith/sacramental prep resources to parish leaders and offering opportunities to explore the different models of family faith formation, provide consultation, and support for program design and implementation.
Building and Supporting the Domestic Church	Assist parents to effectively raise their children in the faith and build up the domestic church by providing Catholic Parenting courses and resources for parents with children of all ages that encourage and promote discipleship to become families on mission for Jesus.

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Discussion Format for Parishes/Other

- Gathering Prayer
- Cardinal Video?
- Presentation **The Work of the Holy Spirit: What the Listening Sessions Tell Us**
- Table Sharing and Worksheet

Parishes

1. What do the synod results say to you? How is the Holy Spirit calling us forth as a Church?
2. What do you need to do in your parish?
3. What are ways that you could collaborate within the deanery or with neighboring parishes?
4. What are ways Archdiocesan ministries could support you?



Religious Congregation, Organization, or Ministry

1. What do the synod results say to you? How is the Holy Spirit calling us forth as a Church?
2. As religious, what gifts can you offer to parishes, diocesan ministries, or other areas of the Archdiocese?
3. What are ways Archdiocesan ministries could support you?

- Feedback
- Moving Forward: Planning Ideas and best Practices
- Announcements
- Sending Prayer

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SAMPLE - Holy Trinity Parish
 Parish Pastoral Council Synod on Synodality Listening Session Priorities
Ministries of the Word

Identified Success or Need	Priority/Goal	Action Step	Date to begin	Date to finish	Point Person or Ministry	Evaluation Process
Need: Continue to encourage and provide opportunities for more open dialogues with parishioners.						
Success: The Parish has a beautiful community feel, connects with all faiths and people.						
Success: The events that foster community within the parish include: Small faith sharing groups, Cornerstones, Food pantry, St. Joseph, Sandwich Sunday, Boy Scouts.						
Success: Faith Formation Program with families has helped to bring people together.						

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Worship

Identified Success or Need	Priority/Goal	Action Step	Date to begin	Date to finish	Point Person or Ministry	Evaluation Process
Success: Music ministry, citing the variety of music, introducing of different instruments, and great concerts by visiting artists.						
Success: Liturgies are very thought-provoking.						
Need: Mass is "boring" and challenging for the younger children to stay focused, making it difficult for parents to participate in the Mass fully.						
Need: Welcome people into ministries						
(Many parishioners are elderly and set in their ways and sometimes do not welcome new people to join ministries/groups)						

18

Thinking about...
Conversation or Consultation Circles

- Creating starter questions to help continue ongoing listening sessions to assist in guiding ongoing prayer, discernment and next steps



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**Pentecost
happened
at
a
meeting**

Ron Rolheiser, OMI

20

When you don't know
what else to do,
KEEP MEETING



*Pentecost
happened
at a meeting
We are in the
upper room*

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