

*Catholic Diocese of Wilmington*  
*Synod 2021-2023: Diocesan Phase*

**10 Lessons Learned - Synod Listening Sessions**

Survey feedback was received from 134 participants in our first series of five deanery level Listening Sessions for parishes. The following represents the ten primary themes to which respondents commented about their Listening Sessions.

- (1) Many of the participants spoke about how much they liked the diversity of the attendees, either those from their Parish that they had not spoken to in the past or from attendees from other Parishes.
- (2) A very common theme was how helpful and meaningful it was that the process focused on being guided by the Holy Spirit. This was clearly important to the vast majority of attendees.
- (3) A large majority felt that more time was needed for the discussions.
- (4) Many attendees spoke about how privileged and thankful they were for the opportunity to have this open and thoughtful conversation.
- (5) There were numerous remarks about how well organized the process was.
- (6) A number of attendees shared thoughts about wishing there were more younger people participating in the process and also noted that they wish more people who left the church would have been engaged to participate.
- (7) There were numerous comments about the process being a good “start”, doing them annually and in some cases comments about holding these conversations monthly. Clearly there was a theme that many participants want to continue the dialogue started by this process.
- (8) A number of participants commented on the prayers that were used and how helpful they were in focusing on the intent of the sessions.
- (9) There were many comments about how they felt “heard” during the discussions.
- (10) Many comments were made about how pleased they were with the Bishop attending.