



MEMORANDUM

To: Pastors & Priests with Hispanic Communities

From: Vy. Rev. Glenn M. Evers, Arline Dosman Synod Co-Contacts

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Subject: CDOW Synod Hispanic Listening Session

Date: February 28, 2022

Now that all of the deanery level consultations have been successfully completed, we are ready to begin the *Listening Session* process for our Hispanic Communities in the Diocese of Wilmington. We will initiate this part of the process by hearing firsthand from a representative group from each parish's Hispanic Community in a single *Listening Session* to be held on **Saturday, March 26 @ 10:00am in the Parish Hall of Holy Cross Church** in Dover, DE. This *Hispanic Listening Session* will be conducted in Spanish and offer a time of prayerful reflection and sharing wherein your selected Hispanic parishioners will gather with members from the other Hispanic Communities throughout the diocese. Together, they will all continue to help us answer the *Two Primary Synodal Questions* for us as a Church:

Given, that a synodal Church, in announcing the Gospel, "journeys together":

(1) How is this "journeying together" happening today in your local Church?

(2) What steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our "journeying together"?

REGISTRATION

As before with each deanery, the Bishop again is requesting that each parish identify and send exactly five parishioners from their Hispanic Community to this *Hispanic Listening Session*. The deadline for registration for the *Hispanic Listening Session* for all parish Hispanic Communities is **Friday, March 18, 2022**.

After thoroughly reviewing the registration information detailed in this memorandum, please then select your parish representatives and use the web address provided herein to register them online. The online registration form is entirely in Spanish, so if you do not speak Spanish, it would be best to have either the priest or deacon who assists you with

Hispanic Ministry, your Hispanic Lay Leader or another trusted assistant from your Hispanic Community complete the registration form for you. Either you or your Spanish Speaking designate may complete the online registration. A checklist is provided at the end of this document to assist you in completing this process. Please register online at: www.cdow.org/synod or use the direct link to the registration page found here:

www.cognitofrms.com/CDOW1/s%C3%ADnodoformulariodeinscripci%C3%B3nparalasesi%C3%B3ndeescuchadelacomunidadhispana

The *Hispanic Listening Session* will be about 2.5 to 3 hours in length.

PARISH REPRESENTATIVES

As aforementioned each parish will send **five Hispanic parishioners** to this *Hispanic Listening Session*. Anyone from your parish's Hispanic Community may be chosen to participate and represent the parish as one of your five Hispanic representatives. The representative group should be diverse so as to better capture the landscape of your Hispanic community. A one page summary document entitled, *Sesión de Escucha - Informacion para Participantes.pdf* is provided for you to share with your parish group and further help you and your prospective representatives understand what they are being invited to do and what a *Listening Session* is all about.

Please note that after registering your group, should someone become unavailable who was initially registered to represent the parish, simply have a new person attend in that person's place and identify him/herself the day of the *Listening Session*.

SMALL GROUP LEADER & REPORTER

Two separate people in your group must be identified in advance at the time of registration to fulfill a specific role for your parish group. One person is needed to function as the **Small Group Leader** for your parish group. The Small Group Leader will guide and direct the group discussion that will be conducted within your parish group during the *Listening Session*. Another person in your group will need to function as a **Reporter**. The Reporter will record and then report the important points from the group sharing that takes place.

There are specific instructions also provided alongside this memorandum that should be given to the Small Group Leader and the Reporter which specifically describe their duties during the *Listening Session*. The Small Group Leader should receive the document entitled, *Sesión de Escucha - Informacion para Lideres de Grupos Pequeños.pdf*.

The Reporter should be given two documents, *Sesión de Escucha - Informacion para Reporteros.pdf* and *Sesión de Escucha - Formulario de Reporte Grupo Pequeno.pdf*. Again please make sure to identify and designate these two people in advance of registration they are essential to the process. When trying to identify these persons, simply think about: *Who do I know is good at leading a meeting and conversation? Who is good at listening and taking notes?* These are your Small Group Leader and Reporter

respectively. Once identified, these persons should prepare themselves for their roles by simply reviewing the aforementioned instructions that are adjoined to this memorandum.

ATTENDANCE OF PASTORS & CLERGY

Pastors are encouraged to attend with their parish groups, however, this is only recommended. It should again be noted that this *Listening Session* will be conducted entirely in Spanish. Accordingly, the Spanish Speaking Priest or Deacon assisting with Hispanic Ministry in the parish may take the pastor's place. Clergy who choose to participate should know that they are doing so only as an **Observer** as this is an opportunity to listen to what our parishioners have to say. At this time, Pastors will neither lead nor participate in the discussion of their group, but simply listen to what is being said. In late Spring 2022, there will be a separate opportunity for all priests to participate and share their input in another *Listening Session* with the Bishop. Permanent Deacons should not participate at this time either as they will also have their own separate *Listening Session*. The focus here in this *Hispanic Listening Session* is on the laity.

DUAL OBJECTIVE: TO LISTEN & TO MODEL

This *Listening Session* serves at least two purposes. First, they complete the explicit mission of the Synod by affording the Bishop the opportunity to listen directly to a sampling of his flock from all of his Hispanic Communities guaranteeing at least someone from each parish's Hispanic Community was incorporated in this Synodal process.

Second, this *Hispanic Listening Session* will also serve to model and teach how a *Listening Session* should properly be conducted in your parish's Hispanic Community should you choose to have such a gathering for the broader Hispanic community of your own local church. Holding parish *Listening Sessions* is highly encouraged and recommended by the Bishop.

With this in mind, a pastor may intentionally select as members of his parish group those he would like to help him in holding future *Listening Sessions* within his parish. This also might mean that a lay parish staff member would be an ideal candidate and then could be one of the five parish representatives for the *Hispanic Listening Session*. This is acceptable here as the staff member will later assist in engaging more parishioners.

FUTURE LISTENING SESSIONS

The diocese has already made available a complete ***Listening Session Toolkit*** in English and will also have one available in Spanish as well by the end of March.

The period of *Listening Sessions* will continue until May 31, 2022, so there will be plenty of time to organize *Listening Sessions* and consult with everyone who would like to participate. As soon as new resources are made available, you will be among the first to know about them. All resources that have been disseminated including those mentioned in this memorandum will be available on our website at: www.cdw.org/synod

Thank you for your help and for your support of the Synodal Process in our diocese and for ensuring that your parish Hispanic Community is represented. Should you have any questions or need assistance, please feel free to contact me at gevers@cdow.org or Arline Dosman at adosman@holycrossdover.org.

May God be with you as we all strive to “journey together” for the glory of God and the salvations of souls in our parishes and in our diocese!

DEANERY LISTENING SESSION REGISTRATION CHECKLIST

- ✓ Select **five Hispanic parish representatives** to attend and give them
 - The Listening Session Date & Place
 - ***Sesión de Escucha - Informacion para Participantes.pdf***
- ✓ Identify your **Small Group Leader** within your parish group and give him/her
 - ***Sesión de Escucha - Informacion para Lideres de Grupos Pequenos.pdf***
- ✓ Identify your **Reporter** within your parish group and give him/her the Documents
 - ***Sesión de Escucha - Informacion para Reporteros.pdf***
 - ***Sesión de Escucha - Formulario de Reporte Grupo Pequeno.pdf***
- ✓ Decide if an **Observer** either the Pastor, Hispanic Assistant or Deacon will attend
- ✓ Register your Hispanic cohort online by **Friday, March 18, 2022** at www.cdow.org/synod or using the direct link here:
www.cognitofrms.com/CDOW1/s%C3%ADnodoformulariodeinscripci%C3%B3nparalasesi%C3%B3ndeescuchadelacomunidadhispana
 - Provide their phone number and email address when possible
- ✓ If anyone becomes unavailable to attend, find a replacement and share the appropriate documentation based on their role.