



Diocese of Wilmington

Diocesan Synod Consultation 2022



Ten Best Practices

Below represents the Ten Major Themes of the Synod on Synodality accompanied by the recommended Ten Best Practices resulting from the feedback from all Listening Sessions.

- #1 – Value for the Faith & Teachings of the Catholic Church:** Prioritize the transmission of Catholicism at all levels by investing in new ways to reinforce the Faith as well as evangelize others about it.
- #2 – Appreciation for the Gift of the Mass & Sacraments:** Ensure that all elements of the liturgy are done well and that the Sacraments are readily available.
- #3 – Presence of Dedicated & Loving Communities:** Provide ample opportunities and forums for people to gather, participate in activities, and reach out to those in need.
- #4 – Insufficient Opportunities for Faith Formation:** Assess current faith formation programs in parishes and schools sharing successful programs and strategies throughout the Diocese.
- #5 – Significant Decline in Church Participation:** Identify and seek to address the reasons why people are no longer coming to church by proactively reconnecting with those who are known to be missing.
- #6 – Notable Absence of the Youth & Young Adults:** Explore ways to engage youth and young adults by calling forth their talents through greater inclusion in parish life and empowering them as valuable members of the Church.
- #7 – Growing Pains of Diversity:** Affirm and promote the beauty and goodness of diversity welcoming those of different cultures, backgrounds, and life experiences to come together as one Church.
- #8 – Need for more Opportunities for Prayer:** Provide greater access to prayer and spiritual formation through the liturgical life, devotions, and the rich spiritual traditions and disciplines of the Church.
- #9 – Desire to be Welcoming & Hospitable to Everyone:** Intentionally be polite and kind like Christ toward everyone encountered, renewing the basic principle that every human being is created equally in God's image and likeness and is in need of salvation and God's love.
- #10 – Church must strive to be what it is called to be: One, Holy, Catholic & Apostolic:** Prayerfully conduct a self-audit using the above nine themes and recommended best practices followed by addressing any deficiencies with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.