

District Gathering Participant Guide

FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2014

ARCHDIOCESAN **SYNOD** JUNE 7 AND 8, 2014

Synod Opening Mass, June 6, 2014



District Gathering Participant Guide

FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2014

SYNOD PROCESS

ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE

PARISH SESSIONS

**FOCUS OF PRAYER,
DISCUSSION AND
DISCERNMENT**

- Pastoral Letter
- Archbishop's Priorities



**RAW DATA
COLLECTED AT EVENT**

- Catholic Identity
- Evangelization
- Stewardship



**SHAPING OF RAW DATA
FOR NEXT STEP**

- Mission-Centric
- Collate/Summarize:
 - Affirmations of the Mission [*Celebrating the Tradition*]
 - Calls to Strengthen the Mission [*Call of the New Evangelization - new in ardor, methods, expression*]

DISTRICT GATHERINGS (15)

SYNOD EVENT

- Affirmations of the Mission and Calls to Strengthen the Mission (Parish Sessions)
- Discipleship + 8 Mission Areas (Background Papers)

- Strategies and Priorities for Strengthening the Mission
- Strategies and Priorities for 8 Areas of the Church's Mission

- Calls to Strengthen the Mission (Parish Sessions)
 - Key Initiatives
 - Quick Hits
 - Innovate Ideas
- 8 Areas of the Church's Mission
 - Key Initiatives
 - Quick Hits
 - Innovate Ideas

- Discern top priorities for Discipleship and the Church's Mission:
 - Affirming the Mission (*Catholic Identity*)
 - Strengthening the Mission (*Evangelization*)
 - Naming Action Strategies (*Stewardship*)

- Mission-Centric
- Collate/Summarize:
 - Key Initiatives, Quick Hits, Innovate Ideas for Calls to Strengthen the Mission
 - Key Initiatives, Quick Hits, Innovate Ideas for 8 Areas of the Church's Mission

- Mission-Centric
- Archbishop's Synodal Declaration



Synod Process

UNDERLYING ASSUMPTIONS

1. Assure connection and continuity through the three stages.
2. Provide a clear focus of prayer, discussion and discernment for each stage.
3. Introduce a new and advancing focus for each stage.
4. Assure clear outcomes for each stage.
5. Provide a “mission-centered” process through the three stages that produces missionary outcomes for making intentional disciples through Catholic Identity, Evangelization and Stewardship.



Synod District Gatherings

OVERVIEW OF THE DAY

I. WELCOME AND PRAYER Large Group

- Welcome
- Opening Prayer

II. AFFIRMING THE MISSION Large Group

- Video: *Alive and Well: The Faithful Affirm the Church*

III. IMAGINE DISCIPLESHIP Large Group

- Presentation: *Imagine Discipleship*
- What struck you about this presentation?

BREAK [Move to Small Groups]

IV. MISSION STRENGTHENED Small Group Discussions

BREAK [Move to Large Group]

V. INTENTIONAL DISCIPLESHIP

Large Group

- Video: *Intentional Discipleship: Our Fundamental Catholic Identity*

LUNCH AND SOCIAL

VI. PRAYER-FILLED FOCUS

Large Group

- Introduction of 8 Areas of the Church's Mission

[Move to Mission Area Small Groups]

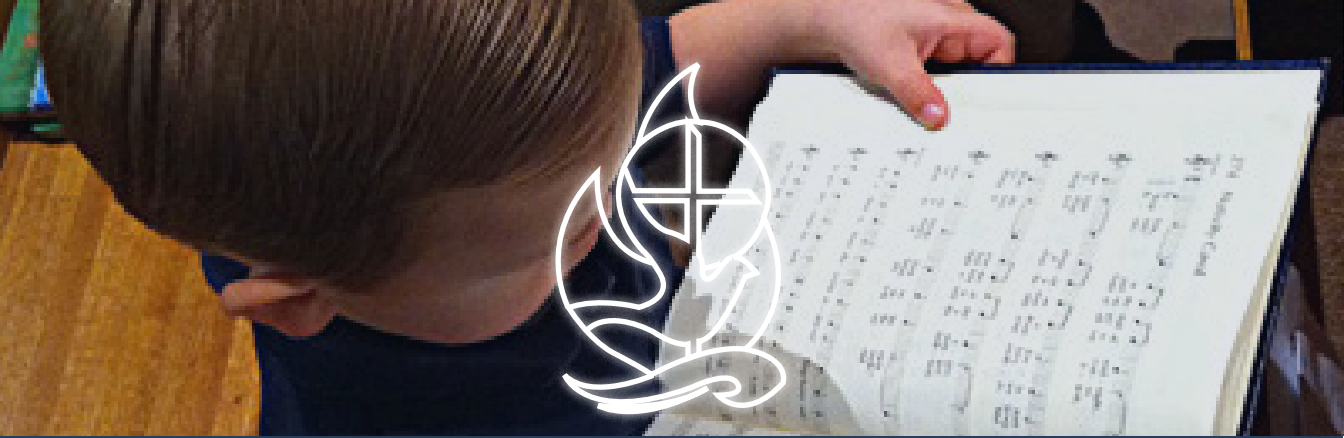
VII. 8 MISSION AREAS

BREAK [Move to Large Group]

VIII. WRAP-UP AND PRAYER

Large Group

- Next steps in Synod process
- Closing Prayer



Opening Prayer

SYNOD DISTRICT GATHERINGS

Opening Song

Open My Eyes [verses 1 and 2]

Jesse Manibusan



1. O-pen my eyes, Lord. Help me to see your face.
2. O-pen my ears, Lord. Help me to hear your voice.
3. O-pen my heart, Lord. Help me to love like you.
4. I live with - in you. Deep in your heart, O Love.



1. O-pen my eyes, Lord. Help me to see.
2. O-pen my ears, Lord. Help me to hear.
3. O-pen my heart, Lord. Help me to love.
4. I live with - in you. Rest now in me.

Text: Mark 8:22-25. Text and music © 1988, 1999, Jesse Manibusan.
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PRESIDER We begin as we do all our prayer
In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

ALL **Amen.**

Opening Prayer

PRESIDER Let us pray...

O God of All Creation
In your boundless compassion,
You gather us as your Church.
You summon us to your heart,
And call us to deep communion,
With you and one another.

O Spirit of Wisdom,
Through your holy in-dwelling,
You breathe us into new life.
You summon us to fiery boldness,
And call us to listening hearts,
That hear and heed your voice.

O Savior and Redeemer,
In your self-emptying sacrifice,
You teach us the way of life.
You summon us to discipleship,
And call us to fulfill your mission
Of making disciples of all nations.

May our Trinitarian God
Richly bless our gathering today,
And we humbly ask this
In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

ALL **Amen.**

Gospel Reading

Matthew 28:16-20

The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them. When they saw him, they worshipped, but they doubted. Then Jesus approached and said to them, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.

PRESIDER The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Based on prayer by St. Augustine

PRESIDER Let us pray...

O Spirit of God,

We gather in your presence today, longing in hope for a New Pentecost. As you once did for the Early Church, we implore you do for us today. Rest powerfully upon each one of us, as a mighty wind and a transforming fire, that we, your Church, may be inspired, empowered, reborn and renewed.

Come, Holy Spirit, come upon us as we offer you these petitions:

PRESIDER Breathe into me, Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy, we pray:

ALL Come Holy Spirit.

PRESIDER Move in me, Holy Spirit, that my work, too, may be holy, we pray:

ALL **Come Holy Spirit.**

PRESIDER Attract my heart, Holy Spirit, that I may love only what is holy, we pray:

ALL **Come Holy Spirit.**

PRESIDER Strengthen me, Holy Spirit, that I may defend all that is holy, we pray:

ALL **Come Holy Spirit.**

PRESIDER Protect me, Holy Spirit, that I may always be holy, we pray:

ALL **Come Holy Spirit.**

PRESIDER O Spirit of God,
We entrust these humbe petitions to you, knowing that you already
know our needs. Please accept these heartfelt prayers and answer
them according to your will.

Come, Holy Spirit, come upon us as we pray all of this in the name of
Jesus Christ, Our Lord.

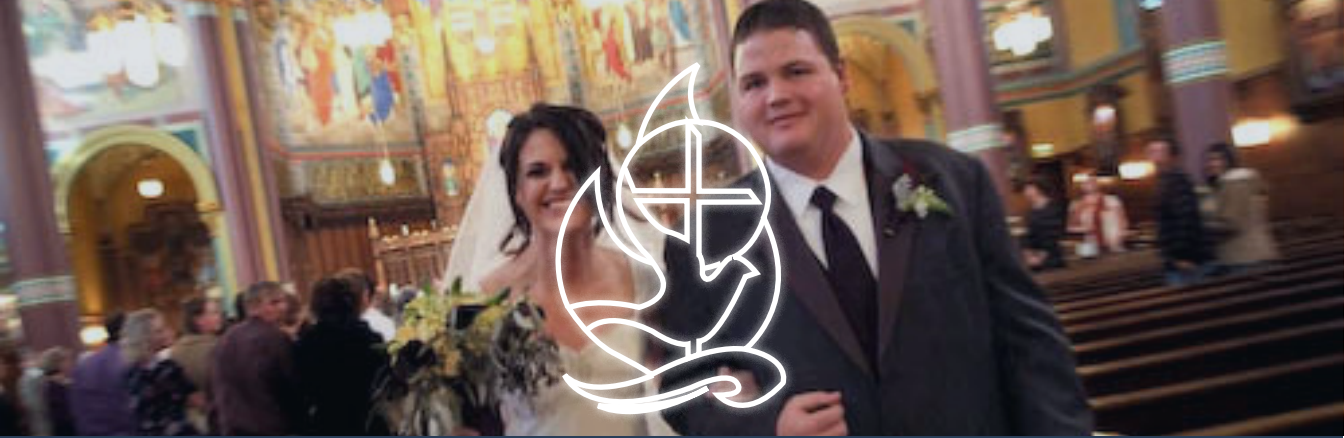
ALL **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Closing Song

Open My Eyes

[Page 7, verses 3 and 4]



Affirming the Mission

OVERALL SUMMARY OF RESPONSES FROM PARISH AND CLUSTER REFLECTION SESSIONS HELD IN OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2013

The discussion questions in the area of Catholic Identity, Evangelization and Stewardship asked people to identify what is currently taking place in their parishes, the archdiocese and the Catholic Church as a whole that they find beneficial and that strengthens their faith.

This feedback has been summarized as “Affirmations of the Catholic Church.” The responses were divided into three key areas: Word, Worship and Service. A sampling of some of the main topics discussed appears below.

Word

How the Gospel is taught and shared through formal catechesis and faith sharing

- Catholic Education: Catholic Schools and Religious Education/Faith Formation
- Adult Formation – Bible studies, faith sharing opportunities, retreats, men’s and women’s ministry, parish missions
- Youth Ministry and Faith Formation
- Theology on Tap and ministry to Young Adults
- RCIA
- Sacramental Preparation
- Seminary
- Universal Church and the Church’s Tradition
- Church as a Moral Compass
- Using Social Media and Facebook
- Parents and grandparents witnessing to children and teaching children to pray
- Sharing my faith with others – evangelizing others, including family members

Worship

Mass, sacraments and prayer centered aspects of the Catholic faith

- Mass and the Eucharist
- Celebration of Sacraments and Rituals (Eucharist, Reconciliation and Marriage most often mentioned)
- Various Styles of Prayer – Mass, rosary, retreats, adoration, scripture, devotions, praying for others, turning to God in times of challenge, communal prayer, individual prayer
- Prayer in public, especially at restaurants
- Homilies
- Liturgical and music ministries
- Funerals

Service

How the Church reaches out to others, especially those in need

- Way I live my life- actions, family, work place, neighborhood, daily life, church
- Serving Others – people in our parish, the poor, food pantries, meal programs, jail ministry, senior ministry, prayer ministry (including prayer shawls and rosary ministries)
- Participation in parish organizations, ministries, community service projects
- Welcoming Community – including welcoming new members and parish social activities
- Bereavement Ministry - being with people at a time of need, especially at the death of a loved one (including funeral meals)
- Ministry to the sick, homebound and nursing homes
- Human Concerns, Social Justice & Peace Ministry, St. Vincent de Paul, Catholic Charities, Knights of Columbus, Respect Life, Project Rachel
- Sister Parishes
- Mission Trips
- Work of lay ministers and lay involvement in church ministries
- Stewardship - Donating money and giving of time at Church events
- Pope Francis's example - leadership, direction, and reaching out to others
- Witness of priests, religious sisters and lay ministers
- Living a joy-filled life

Video

Alive and Well: The Faithful Affirm the Church



Imagine Discipleship

Presentation: *Imagine Discipleship*

Dare to Imagine

- As the first disciples did, we must promote the mission of Jesus in new and different ways
- Imagine how to be intentional disciples

DISCUSS: What struck you about this presentation?

[Large group recap]



Mission Strengthened

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Saint Augustine
[Pray together]

Breathe into me, Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy.
Move in me, Holy Spirit, that my work, too, may be holy.
Attract my heart, Holy Spirit, that I may love only what is holy.
Strengthen me, Holy Spirit, that I may defend all that is holy.
Protect me, Holy Spirit, that I may always be holy.
Amen.

I. TASK

- Develop key initiatives, quick hits and innovative ideas for the “Calls to Strengthen the Mission of the Church” from the Parish Sessions

II. DESCRIPTORS

- **Key Initiatives** – Longer term; addresses the core of change needed; specific and actionable
- **Quick Hits** – Immediate impact; do-able
- **Innovative Ideas** – Game-changers; crazy; creative

III. EXAMPLES

Call to Strengthen the Mission of the Church

- How can the Church use social media, technology and traditional media to creatively spread the gospel and Church teachings, especially to youth and young adults?

Key Initiatives

- Use Secular Radio and TV to market and teach about the Catholic Church
- Facebook – Build social network of praying through Facebook
- Twitter – Create and send brief messages on the daily Gospel

Quick Hits

- Create a series of energizing 30 second spots that connect people’s everyday life experience with the good news of the Gospel
- Broadcast these spots on the radio, send links to these messages through Facebook and Twitter, and include them on the archdiocesan and parish websites

Innovative Ideas

- Marketing campaign of Jesus coming and talking to people today
- Have Pope Francis tape a message just for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee

Small Group Process

1. Review the “Call to Strengthen the Mission of the Church” from the Parish Sessions that your group has been given.
2. Discuss the questions on the following page.
3. Complete your group’s Feedback Form, based on your responses to the areas discussed.

DISCUSS: What are two or three **key initiatives** related to this call?
[Longer term; addresses the core of change needed; specific and actionable]

DISCUSS: What are one or two **quick hits**?
[Immediate impact; do-able]

DISCUSS: What are two or three **innovative ideas**?
[Game-changers; crazy; creative]



Mission Strengthened

THE CHURCH CONFRONTS CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES

First Challenge **Media and Culture**

The Church's mission of evangelization, especially as it relates to the vocation of lay people, is the transformation of culture according to the ways of the Gospel.

How can the Catholic Church respond to the many anti-Gospel values (individualism, materialism, secularism, moral relativism, consumerism, social injustices, culture of death, etc.) being promoted by today's media and culture?

Second Challenge **Social Media, Technology and Traditional Media**

People are being influenced by and communicating through a variety of new technology and media today.

How can the Catholic Church use social media and new technology, as well as traditional media, to creatively spread the Gospel and Church teachings, especially to youth and young adults?

Third Challenge

Catholic Church's Image

Society often portrays the Catholic Church in a negative light by distorting and misunderstanding her teachings, and portraying the Church's message as irrelevant and inconsequential.

How can the Catholic Church positively and proactively communicate (market) the relevance of the Gospel and Church teachings to the modern world?

Fourth Challenge

Busyness of Family Life

The Catholic Church asserts that the family, as the "domestic church," is the first and primary place where faith is taught and practiced.

How can the Church respond to the "hyper-busyness" in modern Catholic family life, which often seems to interfere with the priorities and practices of the faith?

Fifth Challenge

Adult Formation for Intentional Discipleship

For the Gospel to be lived and shared with joy-filled zeal, adult Catholics must be fully formed in the ways of intentional discipleship.

How can the Church inspire adult Catholics to grow spiritually and practice a lifestyle of deep and lifelong formation in the faith?

Sixth Challenge

Building a Culture of Invitation and Involvement

Churches grow when there is a vibrant culture of personal invitation and when people are specifically connected to the community through the sharing of their gifts.

How can the Catholic Church foster a parish-wide culture of personal invitation and involvement to those already coming to church as well as those who are no longer involved on a regular basis?

Seventh Challenge

Development of Parish Leadership

Regardless of size, resources, and paid staff, a parish's vibrancy is driven by lay people from the pews who can demonstrate strong, faith-based visionary leadership.

How can the Catholic Church call forth and equip lay parish members for the many leadership roles in the parish?



Intentional Discipleship

Video

Intentional Discipleship: Our Fundamental Catholic Identity

“Parishes must continue to grow in their fundamental identity as dynamic communities of faith which form intentional disciples.

If we are not focused on formation for discipleship,
we are failing the mission of Christ.”

Bishop Donald Hying



Prayer-Filled Focus

LARGE GROUP INTRODUCTION

Song

Open My Eyes
[verses 1 and 2]
PAGE SEVEN

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Saint Augustine
[Pray together]

Breathe into me, Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy.
Move in me, Holy Spirit, that my work, too, may be holy.
Attract my heart, Holy Spirit, that I may love only what is holy.
Strengthen me, Holy Spirit, that I may defend all that is holy.
Protect me, Holy Spirit, that I may always be holy.
Amen.



8 Mission Areas

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

I. TASK

- Identify how we can strengthen the mission of the Church in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee in 8 Mission Areas

II. MISSION AREAS

Each small group will work with one of these Areas of the Church's Mission:

- Catholic Social Teaching
- Cultural Diversity
- Evangelization
- Formation
- Leadership
- Liturgy
- Marriage and Family
- Stewardship

Small Group Process

1. Introduce and clarify the task
Identify how we can strengthen the mission of the Church in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee in your "mission area"
2. Silently review the summary of key issues and key questions from the Background Paper in your Mission Area

3. Structured conversation on key issues and key questions

**Each person answers the two questions below without discussion.
Group silently listens.**

After reviewing the key issues and questions, what is one thing that strikes you as most important or meaningful?

As you look at the key issues and questions, what is the greatest obstacle that needs to be overcome to address or accomplish the key issues and questions?

4. Mindful of these obstacles, discuss **key initiatives**, **quick hits** and **innovative ideas** for addressing the key issues and questions for this area of the Church's Mission

DISCUSS: What are two or three **key initiatives** related to this call?
[Longer term; addresses the core of change needed; specific and actionable]

DISCUSS: What are one or two **quick hits**?
[Immediate impact; do-able]

DISCUSS: What are two or three **innovative ideas**?
[Game-changers; crazy; creative]

INTENTIONAL DISCIPLESHIP

Reflect on the quote from Bishop Hying's introduction on intentional discipleship from the Synod background papers:

"Parishes must continue to grow in their fundamental identity as dynamic communities of faith which form intentional disciples. If we are not focused on formation for discipleship, we are failing the mission of Christ."

DISCUSS: How can we help people to become intentional disciples in this area of the Church's mission?

5. Complete your group's Feedback Form, based on your responses to the areas discussed.



Closing Prayer

SYNOD DISTRICT GATHERINGS

Closing Song

Open My Eyes

[Page 7, verses 3 and 4]

Prayer of Thanksgiving

PRESIDER

Let us pray...

O Most Holy God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
As our time with you and each other draws to a close,
We rightly pause for a moment of prayerful thanksgiving.

We thank you for your loving presence with us today.
We know that you hold us in the very palm of your hand,
And care for us so deeply that every hair on every head is counted.

We thank you for your wisdom moving within us today.
We know that when we empty ourselves and open to you,
Your voice resonates in our hearts and your Word is spoken
through us.

We thank you for your gift of these holy people gathered today. We know that we always become our best selves in community, where we become your Body of Christ with each part serving the whole.

And we thank you for your ongoing presence as we walk toward the future.

We know that you will continue to inspire us, challenge us, and guide us,

As we seek to serve your mission and become your intentional disciples.

Let us bring our prayer and our day to a faithful close,
By joining our voices as one, and praying the Synod prayer together...

ALL O Lord, we accept your invitation to enter into the great mystery of your love and presence within your Church.

Through word and sacrament, you lead us into communion with you.

Relying on this spiritual intimacy, help open our hearts to the work of the Holy Spirit as we fashion our response to the cries of the poor who struggle to know Jesus.

(Pause and silently mention your personal intentions)

We give you thanks O Lord for the men and women who have offered their lives as gifts to build His Church.

Renew within us the “fire” that burns with the love of the Lord for our brothers and sisters.

As we seek to fulfill our responsibilities through the Archdiocesan Synod, we stand with St. John the Evangelist, patron of the archdiocese, who was charged to care for Mary, Mother of the Church. Asking their intercession, we offer this prayer through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



SYNOD EVENT at a GLANCE

Themes and Outcomes

We Are the Church

GETTING PEOPLE READY

Opening Prayer, Inspiring Introduction and Primer on Discernment

We Celebrate the Church

AFFIRMATION OF THE MISSION

Discern Top 3 Strategies for Building on Affirmations of the Mission

We Strengthen the Church

CALL TO LIVE THE MISSION

Discern Top 3 Priorities for Strengthening the Mission of the Church

We Are Called to Discipleship in the Church

CALL TO INTENTIONAL DISCIPLESHIP

Inspirational Reflection on Intentional Discipleship

We Serve as Disciples in the Mission of the Church

8 AREAS OF THE MISSION

Discern Top 2 Priorities in Each of the Mission Areas

We Plan for the Future of the Church

DISCERNING PASTORAL PRIORITIES

Discern Top 2 Overarching Pastoral Priorities and
8 Particular Ministry Area Pastoral Priorities (one per Ministry Area)

We Are the Church

CLOSING MASS

Prayerful and motivating Closing to the Synod



Archdiocese of Milwaukee Synod Logo

The Archdiocese of Milwaukee Synod logo reflects the essence of who we are as Catholics and the richness of our faith.

- The Sacraments of Initiation are highlighted in the waters of Baptism (blue wave), encountering Jesus Christ in the Eucharist (wheat colored host) and receiving the Holy Spirit in Confirmation (red flame and universal icon of the dove).
- The tongues of fire and the descent of the Holy Spirit that filled the early Church at Pentecost are represented in the flame and dove. The archdiocesan Synod will take place on Pentecost weekend, June 7-8, 2014 and this is a time for openness to the Holy Spirit and an opportunity to “renew within us the ‘fire’ that burns” (Synod prayer).
- The Cross of our salvation signifies that we are redeemed by the love of God the Father through the death and resurrection of Jesus and are given the power of the Holy Spirit to proclaim Jesus’s message and to “go and make disciples.”

This image combines all of these integral aspects of our faith and projects strength, vibrancy and hope in a promising future for our Catholic Church in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.



Synod Opening Mass

OPEN TO EVERYONE

Friday, June 6, 2014 | 7:00 p.m.
Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist
812 N. Jackson Street, Milwaukee