

Synod Preparation

Instructions:

The following Focus Areas and questions are derived from the listening session and personal review surveys with over 2400 faithful in the Diocese of Fargo. The goal is that they will help produce proposals for discussion at the Third Synod for the Diocese of Fargo April 11-13, 2024.

Under each Focus Area there are “some possible questions for consideration”. You are *not* expected to give a proposal for each possible question for consideration. The questions are just intended to help facilitate the development of proposals. It is okay to consider other questions as well.

Please use the “Synod Proposal Worksheet” to develop proposals. You may submit as many Proposal Worksheets as you wish. Only present one proposal per worksheet. Worksheets should be typed or printed legibly. The Proposal Worksheets are due to the Synod facilitator: steve.splonskowski@fargodiocese.org no later than **Thursday, February 15, 2024.**

Focus Area I: Encounter

How can we encounter Christ, especially in the Eucharist, and foster communion with him and each other in the Church?

Some Possible Questions for Consideration

- How can we meet Jesus and grow in an ongoing relationship with him?
- How can our devotional and spiritual practices help us encounter Jesus?
- How can we deepen baptismal faith in Christ through our prayer, liturgies, and Eucharistic life?
- How can we grow as a Church that shows reverence for Christ’s presence both in the Eucharist and in the community?
- How can we foster a healthy liturgical life in our parishes and respond to liturgical differences?
- How can we instill in the faithful a greater understanding and love for scripture?
- How can we encourage a greater understanding and celebration of the sacrament of penance, which restores our relationship with Christ and each other?
- How can we build our parish communities and foster unity?
- How can we evaluate the vitality of our parishes?
- How can we support both rural and urban parishes?
- How can we encourage and support family involvement in parish life?
- How can we vary engagement opportunities for different personalities, capabilities, and gifts?
- What practices help us to grow in communion with Jesus and with each other?

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Focus Area II: Formation

How are we formed in our identity as missionary disciples so that we are prepared to live, witness and hand on the gift of faith?

Some Possible Questions for Consideration

- How can we effectively hand on the faith and lead our children to an encounter with Jesus?
- How can the time and place of First Communion and Confirmation most effectively form our children?
- How can we effectively hand on the faith and lead people of every age to an encounter with Jesus?
- How can we form the faithful in an understanding and joyful living of the Christian moral life?
- How can we activate the gifts of the Holy Spirit, strengthened in Confirmation?
- How does the Eucharist form our identity as missionary disciples?
- How can we foster a healthy discernment and support of all Christian vocations?
- How can we foster vocations to the priesthood?
- How can we communicate the meaning and support the vocation of marriage and family life?
- How can we increase our understanding of being sent and on mission as individuals and as a Church?

Focus Area III: Mission

As individual believers and Catholic communities, how can we fulfill our mission to proclaim Christ to others in all circumstances and to all people throughout the Diocese of Fargo?

Some Possible Questions for Consideration

- How can we bring people to Christ, and his Church?
- How can we bring people back to the Church?
- How can we provide better outreach ministry to men, women, young adults, and children?
- How can we provide better, more realistic, and more coordinated outreach to the poor, divorced, widowed, and those on the peripheries?
- How can we live the missionary mandate of the Church as individuals, families, groups, parishes, and as a diocese?
- How can we overcome busy-ness, loneliness, and isolation to connect people, prioritize relationships and proclaim the Gospel?
- How can we proclaim Christ in a secularized, materialistic, pluralistic, and post-Christian culture?
- How can we act as missionaries to those beyond the Diocese of Fargo?
- How can we improve communication of information, events, and ideas?

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Synod Next Steps

Synod Working Group: Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC)

The working group is tasked with providing initial in-depth consultation regarding the proposed questions for the diocesan synod, and assists with the initial drafting of proposals. The working group for the Third Synod of the Diocese of Fargo consists of the representatives on the Diocesan Pastoral Council, with support from diocesan staff.

(Source: Directory for the Third Synod of the Diocese of Fargo para. 27)

- Proposal worksheets should be in “smart” form: **Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-Bound**
- No longer than 200 words

The Proposal Worksheets are due to the Synod facilitator:

steve.splonskowski@fargodiocese.org no later than **Thursday, February 15, 2024.**

These Proposal Worksheets will be reviewed at the next DPC meeting **Thursday, February 29, 2024 at 2pm.**

Synod Proposal Worksheet

1. Review the three focus areas and questions. Additional questions may be considered.
2. Choose the focus area that best fits your concern.
3. Use the proposal worksheet form below. Make sure that your proposal is:
 - a. No longer than 200 words
 - b. Typed or printed clearly
 - c. Specific, **M**easurable, **A**chievable, **R**elevant, and **T**ime-Bound
4. You may submit multiple proposal worksheets. Only present one proposal per work

Focus Area: How can we encounter Christ, especially in the Eucharist, and foster communion with him and with each other?

Specific Measurable Attainable Relevant Time-bound

Concern: Only a few people come to adoration. Many people don't seem to know that Jesus is present there and wants a relationship with them. Some people want to come to exposition/benediction but can't because of work and school.

Goal: Help people get to know Jesus present in the Eucharist.

Solution: Have exposition and adoration after Mass on some Sundays. Notify parishioners and encourage them to attend.

Persons Involved: Pastor, 3 Volunteers

Steps: 1. Work with Pastor to schedule. 2. Gather/produce resources to help people pray. 3. Announce in bulletin and add to announcements. 4. At Mass the week before and the day the day of, have a volunteer give a brief testimony about why adoration is important to him. 5. Father leads exposition. 6. Repeat at least a few times.

Measurement/ Evaluation Process: Volunteers count the number of attendees. Volunteers conduct an informal survey after Mass the week after to see if people found it helpful, and if they would attend if it became a regular event. Report back to pastor.

SMART Example:

Concern:

Our pastor is overwhelmed with parish grounds maintenance

Goal:

He wants to focus on ministry and outreach.

Solution:

Grounds maintenance will be done by someone else.

Person's Involved:

Parish Council and KC's will take on grounds and maintenance.

Steps:

Each month, pastor will create a list of projects that need to be addressed. Parish Council will communicate these projects with Knights of Columbus Grand Knight. Grand Knight will appoint a chair-person to lead each project.

Measurement/Evaluation

Once project is scheduled Grand Knight will communicate plan with parish council. Parish council will report ongoing progress to pastor each month.