

## A word cloud of terms related to the Catholic Church, with 'Attendance' and 'People' being the most prominent words. Other significant words include 'Church', 'Faith', 'Diocese', 'Youth', 'priests', 'Lack', 'Need', 'Outreach', 'reverence', 'involved', 'School', 'back', 'parish', 'Covid', 'Faith', 'adult', 'geth', 'needs', 'local', 'just', 'music', 'teaching', 'older', 'finding', 'Latin', 'men', 'beyond', 'small', 'lost', 'news', 'large', 'level', 'fear', 'talk', 'prep', 'rural', 'give', 'eucharistic', 'low', 'post', 'life', 'social', 'etc', 'live', 'poor', 'JP', 'lay', 'time', 'prayer', 'good', 'help', 'done', 'like', 'fallen', 'new', '3rd', 'fund', 'underpaid', 'basics', 'bringing', 'female', 'door', 'ie', 'door', 'ie', 'door', 'ie'. The words are arranged in a circular pattern, with some words appearing multiple times. The colors of the words are varied, including shades of blue, green, yellow, orange, red, and purple.

- Lack of reverence for Christ in Eucharist
- Disruption related to lack of reverence
- Sanctuary can become social hall
- Better access to Latin Mass
- Lack of practical belief in the Eucharist
- Unsure of how to help those in need
- Lack of newcomer participation
- Better communication to all parishioners
- Better support for female religious vocations
- Evangelization of adults & fallen-away Catholics
- Outreach opportunities to rural parishes
- Social Media presence on a Diocesan level
- Large Capital Campaigns
- Bringing new souls to the Faith – fast track RCIA
- Reverence in dress at Mass

- Reverent attire Eucharistic ministers
- Disrespect for Eucharist in actions
- Deacons/priest to administer Communion
- Sound system/sound at Sts A & J
- More educational opportunities for adults
- Eucharistic ministers – more needed
- Older people /homebound neglected
- Outreach to those on the fringes
- More Religious orders
- Catholic school identity
- Struggling to bring in those on fringes/ Covid
- How to reach out without pushing away
- Lack of structured adult catechesis
- Losing young people
- Transportation for homebound
- Latin Mass – more accessible
- More prayer
- Be a beacon in dark world
- Why we believe

Religious standards for High school  
 Cultural war – aids to fight  
 Improve evangelization  
 Expand events beyond Fargo  
 Door to door outreach  
 Grow what is being done – new approaches  
 Parents involved in sacramental prep  
 Engage young men to consider priesthood  
 Lacking evangelization aimed at conversion to the Catholic faith  
 Ongoing conversion  
 Cliques/lack of engagement  
 Lack of volunteers  
 JP II vs kids not in Catholic school  
 Lack of communication re  
 Eucharistic revival  
 Expectations without explanation  
 More talk of personal relationship with Christ  
 More adult ed/Bible Study opportunities  
 Better communication – Flock note  
 Better liturgical instruction  
 Lacking overall diocesan/parish Strategy - & communication of this Disparate  
 populations/concentration of funding not there  
 Facility & engagement needs in small communities  
 Priests disparate Fargo vs rural  
 RE education to be revamped – too comic-y  
 Help for singles/widows/widowers  
 Dedicated staff underpaid  
 Lack of courageous leadership  
 Greater reverence desired at Mass  
 More resources for Liturgy/Music – reverence  
 Priests focus on Sacraments instead of business

Drop-off of RE participation  
 Staff/volunteer etc disfunction\*  
 Expect too much of priests/more lay involvement  
 Priests to help in outlying areas  
 People to give more  
 Prison ministry  
 REeducation –more support/volunteers  
 More adult ed opportunities  
 Clarity on specific teachings & how to respond; ie sexual morality\*  
 Pandemic recovery\*\*\*  
 Lack of programs/volunteers/resources\*\*\*  
 Sacraments not as available  
 How to engage/recruit new people\*\*\*\*\*  
 Building challenges  
 Age of Sacraments - confirmation  
 Younger families/youth involved\*\*  
 More participation in building fund

Consistent mass attendance issues\*  
 Support/promotion of Catholic schools  
 More opportunities for young people  
 Clarification of importance of teaching Mass obligation  
 More focus on spiritual side of Church  
 More openness to new ideas  
 Availability of Bishop  
 Improve Catechesis from Adults to Children\*\*  
 Greater understanding of Mass & Real Presence & relationship with Jesus\*\*  
 Stay small enough to not be impersonal  
 Communication e.g. to older adults  
 Need for communication between parishes & deaneries  
 Evangelization – how  
 More traditional – a balance  
 Devotions  
 Participation  
 cantors/servers/ministers etc at Mass\*\*\*\* - more  
 How to engage more people  
 Fundraising  
 Stewardship of time and money\*\*  
 Maintenance of older Churches  
 Back to Basics teachings of the Faith  
 Transparency about building fund  
 Support parents as primary educators  
 How to Keep youth/teens involved; more opportunities  
 Greater parish support of youth ministers  
 Another parish to have a 4:30 Saturday Mass  
 (Holy Spirit has 4)  
 Too casual; Masses to be more Sacred

How to Equip Children to stay Catholic  
 Equip Lay Leaders  
 Getting out to reach the Lost  
 Continue to promote  
 Not being relational enough  
 Lack of attendance  
 Lack of Eucharistic Understanding  
 Meet someone where they are at  
 How to accompany them  
 Diminishing youth involvement  
 More personal testimonials  
 Strengthen sense of community  
 Not being relational enough  
 Lack of attendance  
 Lack of Eucharistic Understanding  
 Meet someone where they are at  
 How to accompany them  
 Diminishing youth involvement  
 More personal testimonials  
 Strengthen sense of community  
 Loss of faith/loss of communication between generations

Helping people to understand sacraments they are receiving  
 Creating good/authentic community  
 Young Adult Ministry  
 Gap between college/marriage & kids  
 Promoting JP2 Schools  
 Childcare available for parents  
 Formation & Community activities; variety  
 Communication  
 Staff Change/inconsistency  
 Support for women & children  
 Confessions more available  
 Rosary promotion  
 Youth Education/Tools to defend their faith  
 Church building security  
 Addressing current issues head on  
 Split between those in Catholic Schools & those not  
 Disruption with school facility at Holy Spirit  
 Culture that does not prioritize faith/church attendance  
 Lack of encounter with Christ  
 Lack of Knowledge of the Faith  
 Apathy of Learning about the Faith  
 Lack of Marriage Enrichment Programs  
 Loss of 18-35's; leading to lower school numbers  
 Navigating changing cultures & demographics  
 Consolidation of parishes  
 Question – what is a reverent liturgy? Disunity  
 Interpersonal Relationships; finding talents/ passing on knowledge  
 Lack of willingness to Mentor  
 Reaching out to Lost Sheep/Lost Loved Ones/ Those who don't even come  
 Getting people to come back post covid  
 Confirmation too young  
 Faith not a priority  
 People don't know their faith  
 More needs to be done to help those facing hardships/addictions  
 Priests; also a challenge; not enough and so much work  
 Compassion fatigue for priests  
 Cultural Differences/clash  
 Laity need to be examples  
 How to get youth in Church; decline  
 How to bring parishioners back  
 Catholics in name only  
 Outreach to places that are missed  
 Transportation to Church

Participation from parishioners; same volunteers  
 Formation on the Liturgy; post faith formation

Formation for those who serve during Liturgy  
 Spiritual growth; lack of Bible studies, nourishing homilies  
 Volunteer challenge; same or entrenched  
 Masses without music for instance  
 Age gap; drug and alcohol abuse  
 Volunteers / participation within parish; same  
 Faith formation teachers; good ones but more needed  
 funding for repair  
 Need to overcome message of the culture of death  
 Falling numbers of families in most parishes  
 Don't understand Faith well enough to withstand troubles in life; need courage to witness  
 Move to have sense of whole; some division regarding support of school  
 Getting enough priests to serve  
 Missions underserved  
 Access to sacraments  
 Desire young priests for school  
 Respect for all roles in parish  
 Lack of attendance  
 More volunteers instead of just the same ones  
 Bring back those Fallen away or those not coming post covid

Families split; not a commitment for some  
 Recruitment of seminarians  
 Church attendance down Covid  
 Increased confession times  
 Diocesan programs are far away  
 Need new sound system  
 Percentage of people who don't believe in Real Presence  
 Attendance post covid  
 Contributions down  
 Youth come to CCD but most don't come to Mass; family breakdown  
 3<sup>rd</sup> grade confirmation; some quit coming; is older grade better?  
 Discussion on both sides  
 Vocations needed deacons & priests  
 Reverence for Eucharist; need for this  
 Cultural dynamics; overcoming anti-Catholic & anti-Christian bias  
 Grow; new members & families  
 Of those families, get them back in pews  
 Need to have financial parish/finance councils  
 Bring youth & people back  
 Musicians needed  
 Priests are spread thin among parishes  
 Need for Eucharistic Adoration

Financial stability when forming clusters; burden on some  
 Keeping families engaged after confirmation, especially teenagers; attendance drops as they get older; confirmation age?  
 Building domestic Church  
 Positive identity as Catholics; sports is a draw instead  
 Engaging young adults in parish life  
 Advertising of events  
 Young adult attendance  
 Bible studies  
 Empowering leaders  
 Active participation  
 Uniform Liturgy  
 Separate Masses seem like isolated communities  
 Lack of Mission focus  
 Young families not as involved  
 Difficult to have new committee members  
 Younger members not as involved – not learning how to do activities  
 Church losing millennials.  
 Lack of fatherly, pastoral care in parishes  
 Lack of Eucharistic reverence  
 Availability of Mass and confessions  
 Talking loudly before and after Mass  
 Starting cars during Mass  
 Priests answering cell phone in confession  
 Clarity of teaching at the local level  
 RE needs help  
 Decrease in Eucharistic reverence  
 Need good Catholic teachers  
 More money for Catholic schools  
 More vocations and support of our priests  
 Lack of parent involvement  
 Need Catholic middle and high school in GF  
 Need diverse opportunities for women  
 Pastoral transition hard  
 More youth and adult activities in parishes  
 Parish dinners  
 Lack of communication among organizations, lower membership  
 Increase in training in altar servers  
 Train girls in other areas  
 More confession and adoration times  
 When a Priest is accused, News loud, Diocese quiet – way to support priests  
 me period  
 More adult retreat activities in different areas  
 Reverence for Eucharist  
 Communion rails  
 Ad Orientum  
 Talking in church

Lack of participation among younger generation  
 Culture and sports taking over, we are not counter acting  
 Priests over burdened, how to help  
 How to be a missionary, speak about faith  
 Live streaming allow people not to come to church in person  
 Language barrier  
 RE education  
 Regular participation after COVID  
 Participation in RE after 3<sup>rd</sup> grade  
 People taking on leadership positions  
 Missing generation 20-40s in parish  
 RE attended but not Mass by same family  
 Numbers declining after COVID  
 More volunteers  
 Mass and Confession for families  
 Priest assigned to several parishes  
 Improve aesthetics of Liturgy  
 Limited attendance at Mass and RE  
 Limited priests  
 Desire for school beyond 5th grade  
 Need to work in collaboration with other parishes for adoration, etc.  
 Disconnect with losing Mass and confession times  
 Outreach to those who have fallen away from the faith  
 Catechesis for all ages  
 Lack of religious sisters and brothers  
 Mass attendance  
 Low attendance of youth at Mass  
 Continuing Ed for parents  
 Confession times not as accessible  
 Divorce rate among Catholics  
 More servers at Mass  
 Dysfunctional sound system and lights distracting  
 More room for gatherings  
 Reverence in receiving Eucharist at Mass  
 Youth activities in Diocese  
 Worldly distractions  
 youth participation  
 Priest not able to be involved in Mission parishes  
 Education about eucharistic adoration  
 Faith challenged with society activities  
 Reforming RE and continuing education  
 Sacraments of initiation being combined  
 Confirmation age  
 Post covid attendance  
 Need to build more community  
 Finding more vocations to priesthood and sisters  
 Homilies  
 Disunity in liturgical celebration  
 Electronically needy  
 Membership and attendance  
 Youth attending after confirmation

Fallen away Catholics  
 Confirmation age  
 Adoration times  
 Get youth to make God central in life  
 Family prayer  
 First communion and confirmation at the same time  
 Not enough volunteers active in ministries  
 Lack of adult formation and support  
 Lack of understanding etiquette in church  
 Lack of ushers  
 Overuse of current volunteers  
 Lack of participation and volunteers  
 Safe place to ask tough questions and advice  
 Lack of participation in liturgical ministries  
 age of buildings and maintenance  
 Priests focus on ministry  
 Lack of leadership opportunities for women in Diocese  
 Bringing lapsed Catholics back  
 Getting youth to attend  
 Group for widows or widowers  
 Mandatory faith formation books not at the level; too hard  
 Shortage of priests  
 Need paid deacons  
 Children to be more involved; distraction of sports  
 Get people to come back post Covid  
 Don't cancel Mass in the future  
 Mass attendance  
 Commitment & priorities  
 Rising expenses  
 Struggle for vocations; priests and deacons  
 Family breakdown  
 Crisis of masculinity; lack of Fathers/husbands  
 Lack of catechesis  
 Increase in adult ed opportunities  
 Get Catholics back; bring back non-attendeess; encourage sacraments  
 Competition with school sports and activities  
 Doing away with negative images of Church  
 Bring back Fr. Pfieffer  
 Building maintenance  
 Concern people back after COVID  
 Poor communication at parish & diocesan level  
 Liturgically inappropriate music  
 Lack of reverent silence  
 Attendance & involvement challenge  
 School involvement good- translate to parish involvement too  
 Fallen-away youth  
 Limited number of priests for parishioners and priests

Religious Education at Basilica; needs more attention  
 How to set hearts on fire?  
 More guidance for young parents on complex issues of the day  
 Attendance of younger people  
 Priest shortage  
 Need for more community for parents  
 Decline in marriage & baptism  
 Retroville retreats  
 How to deal with loss of pastors  
 More guidance & communication from the diocese  
 Balance of what we offer vs what we need; being overly active  
 Local support for women  
  
 More people involved  
 More in-person participation in Mass attendance  
 Keeping people involved and attending retreats  
 More one-on-one contact  
 Facilities need work  
 Keeping number of volunteers - need more  
 Need more cooks  
 Youth leaving  
 Confirmation age  
 Losing families to another denomination  
 Leaving Mass early  
 Keeping youth involved – mentorship  
 Bulletin on-line  
 Communicate to those who have fallen away  
 Ongoing maintenance for projects at Church  
 Ad Orientum, Latin  
 Liturgy  
 Decreased School attendance  
 Mass helpers  
 More reverence at Mass  
 Aging population  
 Fewer people in parishes  
 Not enough volunteers  
 Evangelization especially with Youth  
 Cost maintaining old facilities  
 Migration of older people to town  
 Aging of parish, those under 50 not coming and not volunteering  
 Excessive loud talking before and after Mass  
 Poor catechesis for youth – don't know basics  
 Desire for fewer female servers  
 Less active volunteers for ministries  
 Young families not attending  
 Confirmation age  
 Need Youth person  
 Interfaith marriages  
 Getting people back to the church – watching tv or lax  
 Reverence for the Eucharist  
 Disconnection from Diocese at large

Upbeat music at Mass  
 Catholics too strict rules  
 Mass attendance  
 Teen involvement  
 Vocation crisis  
 Would like to see Sisters  
 Dwindling Congregation  
 Keeping young people in  
 Aging volunteers  
 Secular Worlds  
 Business of younger people  
 How to get kids & families back  
 Financial support for church down with lower numbers  
 Only 1 hr of religious education  
 Evangelization; how to reach out  
 How to invite other denominations  
 Catechesis lacking in some areas; foundations  
 More welcoming of new parishioners/invitation  
 Shortage of volunteers in music ministry  
 Priest shortage  
 Secular society; challenged with sports & other activities that pull away from Church  
 Numbers down in the pews  
 Catholics leaving the Faith/sacraments/schools  
 Welcoming others; challenge; cliques  
 Serving the poor  
 Declining numbers post Covid  
 Fewer younger families  
 Volunteers; challenge with busy-ness  
 Attendance at Mass younger kids – young confirmation age related  
 Communication challenges  
 Difference between urban and rural parishes within the diocese; needs are different  
 Reaching out to newcomers  
 Evangelizing non-Catholics or those who have fallen away  
 Welcoming newcomers challenge  
 More help from laity/volunteering  
 Getting teens involved – participation in various ways; opportunities to serve & live vibrant faith  
 Lack of organization  
 Financial struggles especially rural parishes  
 Young Disciples – will it come back or will there be replacement?  
 Driving distance & Weather – affects parish events  
 Aging population  
 Younger people moving away  
 Same volunteers to do the work  
 Adult Education so they can teach children; the why's behind our Faith  
 Younger people not prioritizing faith  
 Loss of Reverence for Eucharist and lack of faith in Real Presence

Closing of Churches & Live Streaming; too comfortable not coming  
 Religious Ed; keeping youth involved after 3<sup>rd</sup> grade  
 Priest shortage; more involvement for sacraments & access  
 People not coming back post Covid  
 Everything is in Fargo  
 Participation at Mass post Covid  
 Prioritization of Mass & Real Presence  
 Understanding of the Faith so not taken for granted  
 Evangelization/education/message  
 Lack of volunteers  
 Youth/youth participation; need higher expectations  
 Beauty of Catholic Faith needs to be better emphasized  
 Lengthy confession  
 Struggle to support abuse victims  
 How to talk positively about the Church  
 More young couples to come to Church

More young people to come to these type of meetings  
 Why more Latin Responses? Not familiar  
 Attendance low for some Masses  
 Transparency at the Diocese for our community and others affected  
 Need help in parishes; desire more help from the top at Diocese for the recent situation  
 Counseling for the parishioners  
 How do we address the community; not just a parish issue  
 Female Spiritual directors needed  
 More leaders needed ie for rosary; adorers for certain times  
 Give Reverence to Jesus in the Chalice  
 Judging of people  
 New people don't feel welcome at times  
 Challenge with volunteers for some positions  
 People late for rosary  
 Difficult to have youth, young adult retention  
 Lack of understanding of the Eucharist  
 Fewer Church community functions  
 Evangelization; reaching out to the wider community  
 Weekly Mass attendance challenge  
 Challenges; lack of priest and they have so much to do  
 Desire Preaching at Mass; teachings/catechism  
 Challenge of interdenominational marriages  
 Reverent Masses; desire sacredness throughout the Diocese

Getting more people involved especially youth  
 Getting Congregation to sing  
 Music ministry; finding volunteers challenge  
 Clarification from diocese about use of recorded music  
 Getting people back to Mass  
 Getting volunteers; training  
 Disagreement regarding Mass  
 Priests Isolated in rural communities  
 Lack of openness to trying new things  
 Lack of hospitality; newcomers  
 Need more young people in organizations  
 Lack of spiritual directors/ counselors/ healing  
 Resources on Giving; what are good or bad charities  
 Handling of former priest; lots of hurt, anger, betrayal  
 Would like our priest to be more available  
 Challenge to bring back fallen away  
 Hurt; lack of trust in priests and hierarchy of the Church  
 Pride of being Catholic but the challenge; "where would I go?"  
 Eucharistic respect;  
 Covid; staying home to watch – this was Fear over Faith  
 After Covid- some didn't come back  
 Eucharistic revival; we need to make Eucharist #1  
 Attacks of the Evil one, pressures of the world, distractions, present scandal – all challenge faith  
 Failures of the last few years in the covid era  
 Prioritizing physical health over spiritual  
 Blind obedience to civil authorities that did not have our best interests in mind  
 Relative silence on the difficult teaching of the Church  
 Hurting people being misled & the Church is relatively silent;  
 Attacks on marriage & family; gender issues; fear to speak out  
 Liturgy; bold efforts to renew are lost  
 Appreciation for TLM; suppression causes concern  
 In strong faith community; when Church is silent, causes concern  
 Getting people; musicians, adoration  
 Create a relationship with God so not just reciting  
 Real Presence, respect, devotion  
 Latin Mass; things lost in translation  
 Sunday Sports  
 Sports tournaments that take people away

Lack of strong vocations  
 Kids lack direction for discerning path  
 Small family sizes  
 Engaging lukewarm Catholics  
 Breaking addiction to youth/high school sports; priorities in order  
 Lack of involvement of Parish Council members  
 Diocese; communicate on programs; visits from vocational directors  
 Evangelization; outreach to fallen away Catholics  
 Keeping youth involved  
 Fear of the unknown; losing priests because of moves  
 Fear of the future; losing people  
 Small parishes; will we be closed?  
 Welcoming new members/visitors  
 Extending invites to those not coming  
 Why are we the only ones here?  
 Parents help with Faith Formation  
 Established members won't let new people get involved  
 Desire separation of First Communion & Confirmation  
 More adult Formation opportunities; local or diocesan level;  
 Attendance; parishioners after Covid; keeping youth in religion classes  
 Programs can be a challenge for families with young children  
 Burnout; same people get asked  
 Difficult topics; divorced  
 Trying to get more men involved in the church  
 lack of personal ownership of mission  
 overreliance on programs to evangelize  
 lack of formation of the "why" we do what we do  
 preparing for after college  
 lack of unity –in diocese and between parishes  
 Irreverence of Eucharist  
 Tradition  
 Lack of Communion kneelers  
 Separation in social circles  
 Adaptability  
 Moral decline  
 Low attendance  
 Catechesis  
 Apologetics  
 Young adult/post college ministry  
 Rural ministry and evangelization  
 adult faith formation to luke warm Catholics  
 Reverence during consecration  
 Need for greater access to Extraordinary form  
 Decreased attendance at Mass  
 Support the family  
 Dealing with the culture  
 Vision for the future for us and those un-churched

Liturgy and reverence  
 Returning to what church teaches  
 RE, truth, goodness and beauty  
 Evangelize  
 Availability of confession  
 Leadership  
 More teaching events  
 Reaching out to those not coming  
 Communication to all  
 On-line Masses causing drop in in-  
 person attendance  
 What is Catholicism  
 Not passing down Catholic belief  
 Instilling in leaders taking faith  
 seriously  
 Lack in knowledge of vocations  
 and HOW to discern that vocation  
 Lack of young men and women's  
 groups  
 What reverence is and why  
 reverence?  
 Increased knowledge of faith  
 Outreach to those outside our  
 community  
 Reaching those not going to church  
 Church renovation; 3<sup>rd</sup> priest since  
 beginning of campaign; lack of  
 unity in decision making  
 More direction from Diocese;  
 outside decision making to assist  
 Attendance; how to get families to  
 return & be involved  
 How to get people to take on roles  
 Why Confirmation age so young ;  
 they drift away  
 School recruitment

Lack of activities for incoming  
 families  
 Lack of persons involved for roles  
 of service  
 Mass times a challenge  
 Attendance & involvement  
 Reaching out to inactive; finding  
 reasons  
 Parish Project  
 Exiting and non-active members;  
 attendance down  
 Young families; extracurricular  
 activities take 2<sup>nd</sup> to Church  
 Church scandal; all is quiet is a  
 challenge; could be linked to  
 attendance  
 Money/  
 fundraising in rural area  
 Younger generation ; how to keep  
 active  
 Renovation questions  
 Financial stability will younger  
 generation continue  
 Separate Confirmation & First  
 Communion to promote long term  
 involvement in parish  
 Altar Servers; more recruitment  
 needed  
 One Saturday Mass and 2 Sunday  
 Masses desired  
 Age of confirmation; younger age  
 not in best interest of children

Concern if curriculum up to date  
 Attendance down  
 Struggle with welcoming/drawing  
 minorities  
 Parishioners seek other faiths;  
 challenge  
 Family unit challenge  
 Mass times; people just on time  
 and leave early  
 Evangelization; can we defend our  
 Faith? Are we willing to talk about  
 it; apologetics