



DIOCESE of PROVIDENCE

PARISH ASSEMBLY OUTLINE

Prayer (10–15 minutes)

Come, Holy Spirit (Veni Sancte Spiritus)

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and enkindle in them the fire of your divine love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created, and you shall renew the face of the earth.

Let us pray. O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant us by the same Holy Spirit to relish what is right and just and always to rejoice in his consolation, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Introduction and Overview (10 minutes)

- Have small group members introduce themselves.
- Reminder of what the assembly is:
 - The assemblies taking place throughout the diocese provide an opportunity for the clergy and parishioners to gather for prayer and guided discussion with the purpose of setting pastoral priorities. Assemblies are not intended to change the liturgy, dogmas, or doctrines of the Church. Rather, they are a means to listen together for how the Holy Spirit is calling us to live the Church's mission more faithfully in our time and place, to identify pastoral needs, to discern next steps for ministry, evangelization, and renewal, and to strengthen shared responsibility for the mission of our parishes and our diocese.
- Go over "rules of conversation":
 - Each person in the small group is given the opportunity to briefly answer the given question.
 - Everyone listens to each other without interruption.
 - If there is time leftover, then people will be invited to share more. This is not a time to comment on what was already said by others.

Small Group Discussion (90–120 minutes)

- Recommend small groups of no more than 6 people, including the small group facilitator.
- For each question, the parish assembly will follow the same pattern: Small group discussion: 10–15 minutes. Brief reporting from groups: 5 minutes total for the whole assembly. The 5 minutes of reporting is not 5 minutes per group. It is the total time for all groups to share brief highlights before moving to the next question. Please follow this format:
 - Question 1: What is our parish doing well?
 - Question 2: What needs to be strengthened or improved?
 - Question 3: What is something the parish needs to begin doing?
 - Question 4: What is something the parish needs to stop doing?
 - Question 5: What do you need from the Church at this moment?
 - Question 6: What should the diocesan priorities be at this time?

Final Thoughts (5–10 minutes)

- Next Step: Diocesan Assembly
 - Monsignor/Father will be choosing parishioners to represent us at the Diocesan Assembly on November 14. Please pray for those who will represent us.
- Thank you for being here!

Prayer