

Vicariate III Synod Listening Session

1) Strengths

- enormous amount of people who volunteer in their parishes
- Wonderful work for people with special needs
- Performing the corporal works of mercy
- FCC is a great benefit
- HSA programs
- Marriage Prep program run by the diocese
- St. John Fisher Seminary
- Rite of Election
- Spectacular job done by Catholic Charities
- Catholic Schools
- St. John Fisher Seminary
- My pastor does wonderful work to get the children/youth involved in the parish and Mass
- Encouraging the Sacrament of Reconciliation: LCC
- Vocation program
- Catholic Schools
- Adult Formation Programs: SHARE & Emmaus
- Youth Programs
- Transition into the Cathedral Parish went very well
- Diversity of cultures
- Clergy
- Safe Environments program
- Chaplains at the High Schools
- Financial transparency
- The Synod
- The Sacraments
- Variety of parishes
- Pilgrimages run through Diocesan Adult Formation Office
- Variety of Mass schedules
- Variety of Adoration options
- Religious Orders
- Bishop Caggiano

- 2) I would like to see the diocese outreach to...
- Revitalization of parish liturgy committees
 - Involve the youth from infancy through HS
 - Rapid response team to the media who are often attacking us
 - Outreach to teenagers
 - Outreach to Young Adults
 - Teach practicing adults how to reach out to fallen away Catholics
 - Journey of Hope – for divorced and separated Catholics
 - Outreach to divorced Catholics
 - Outreach to single Catholics
 - NFP should be part of all marriage prep courses
 - Stewardship commission in parishes
 - Outreach to the mentally ill
 - Return to the small Christian Communities
 - Training, enrichment programs for catechetical leaders
 - Join parishes in all aspects: spiritually, socially, programs, etc.
 - Programs to welcome back lapsed Catholics
 - Children's component to the ABA – teach kids to give
 - Standardized RCIA programs around the Diocese of Bridgeport
 - Crisis pregnancy center in Bridgeport
 - Commissions on best practices that share great programs with all parishes
 - Explore new models of Religious Education – Family catechesis
 - Ecumenical outreach
 - Support for divorced Catholics
 - Need help at the Merton House
 - Outreach to lapsed Catholics
 - Outreach to youth from public schools
 - Make better use of social media
 - Outreach to Young Families
 - Diocesan Library
 - Outreach to women who are considering a religious life
 - Outreach to public school kids
 - Streamlined approach to religious education
 - Outreach to young adults – college graduates
 - Marketing our Catholic Schools
 - Pre-baptism program
 - Ecumenical outreach
 - Catechetical programs for senior citizens
 - More programs that feed people in the pews and enliven our faith
 - Missions in parishes
 - Leadership of diocese to review movies and share whether or not they are appropriate
 - Outreach to veterans/returning military
 - Advertising campaign why it's important to go to Mass

- Outreach to young people
- Outreach to homebound
- NFP classes
- Up to date demographics to satisfy our outreach to the poor
- Welcome back programs
- Outreach to those affected by violence
- Encourage parish programs that help people to get to know each other in parishes.
- Catholic radio programs
- More support for immigrant families
- Outreach to young adults
- Share resources between parishes
- Tabernacle behind the altar and very visible
- Outreach to the unemployed
- Theology on Tap
- LCC – variety of times and locations
- Small group bible studies for all age groups
- Catechetical programs for adults
- Parish missions

3) Things that we already have but need improvement...

- Require the St. Cyril of Jerusalem program for all Catechetical leaders
- Regain the moral credibility of the Church
- Celebrate the wonderful things that we do
 - People clapped
- Guidelines for RCIA program for children
- Outreach to young couples
- Equal education for all people
- More parishes to offer reconciliation before Masses
- More opportunities to creatively offer/teach prayer
- Increase vocations
- Allocating funds for underprivileged parishes
- Outreach to parishes with diverse populations that may not speak English
- Focus more on substance in catechesis rather than just fun
- Communicate outreach opportunities at parishes and diocese
- Sharing of resources between parishes
- Get more aggressive politically
- Better homilies
- Communicate catechetical programs that we already offer
- Ongoing formation for priests
- More boys should be altar servers than girls

- Improve the religious ed programs
- Better homilies
- Better network for the religious ed teachers
- Share the resources between parishes
- USCCB to much better reflect the views and example of the Holy Father
- Improve the music at Mass