

Vicariate V Synod Listening Session

1) Strengths

- Religious education for children and adults
- Outreach programs
- A.R.T program
- Catholic Charities
 - Morning Glory breakfast program
 - Family loan program
 - Homeless outreach
 - Outreach to mentally ill
- Men's Ministry
- Perpetual adoration chapel
- Bishop Caggiano supporting the Latin Mass
- Courage apostolate
- Schools
- Diversity of population
- RCIA programs
- Schools
- Seminary program
- Deaconate program
- Catholic Charities
- Service programs
- Catholic schools
- Pastoral Services office
- Chaplaincy Program
- Efforts to strengthen the faith of the youth
- Very good Confirmation program
- Cursillo Movement
- Adult formation programs
- You can find a home in the Diocese of Bridgeport
- 24 hour adoration chapels
- Religious Education volunteers
- The Synod
- High School Apostles
- Fan the Fire
- Programs that minister to the different stages of life
- The Synod
- The Synod

2) I would like to see the diocese outreach to...

- Spiritual growth opportunity for teenagers
- There is a lack of available sponsors and Godparents
- Improved outreach to the sick and the elderly
- Outreach to non-Catholics
- Outreach to the disenfranchised
- Outreach to Catholics who have fallen away from the Church
- More Adult Formation opportunities in the parishes
- More retreat for adults in the parishes
- Outreach to disenfranchised, especially those who are divorced and separated
- Create long-range strategic solutions to the shortage of priests
- Outreach to disenfranchised Catholics
- Create opportunities in which people will truly encounter Jesus Christ
- Encourage a much better understanding of the Mass
- Weekly Bible studies
- Catholic Engage Encounter needs to be started in our diocese
- Outreach to disenfranchised
- Welcome back programs for those who have left the Church
- Emphasis on parents being the first teachers of the faith
- Outreach to teens who have unwed pregnancies
- Young adult ministry
- Greater funding for religious education programs
- Share resources and opportunities between parishes
- Keep in mind during the Synod those issues that can only be changed by Universal Church
- More support for the Emmaus retreats
- Theology of the Body classes and formation for children and the youth
- More opportunities for Adoration
- Offer Life in the Spirit seminars
- Religious formation rather than religious education
- Outreach to people where they are at
- Outreach to those who do not know the mercy and comfort of Jesus Christ and teach them that reality
- Outreach to those who are disenfranchised
- Develop efforts to welcome people
- Outreach to the priests
- Legal services and pastoral services for those who are incarcerated
- Outreach to couples who have lost children through miscarriages
- We need young adult ministries

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

- We need to communicate the services that are already available throughout the diocese
- Leverage how we do maintenance, purchase heating oil, etc.
 - Allow the laity to assist with this process
- Use social media to catechize and get the word out
- Respect Life should be much more than anti-abortion.
- Opportunities for the youth to be able to ask important faith questions. They need to be listened to
- More opportunities for Adoration
- Priests to encourage Adoration
- Change the culture that the youth are not the future of the Church but are part of the Church right now
- More Adult Education
- Communicate the wide variety of resources already available through the diocese and beyond
- Sacramental preparation for the parents of children who will receive the Sacrament of Initiation
- Revamp religious education
- Outreach to young adults
- Improve the homilies
- Better financial transparency
- More Guidelines from the diocese
- We need to be more welcoming
- Allow the laity to take over the responsibilities that priests have no training in
- Catechize adults from the standpoint that they previously had very poor catechesis growing up
- Diocesan mandates about adult catechesis
- Catechists who are well-formed
- We need to study the Saints
- Better communicate the services of Catholic Charities
- Stronger efforts towards adult catechesis
- Greater efforts towards getting housing for the homeless
- People need to know the Lord and then share the joy of having that relationship.