

Top Synod Initiatives

Evangelization

1. Educate and develop small faith-sharing communities at the parish level to provide opportunities for people to share their faith stories, develop relationships, and make their parish a more vital faith home. *(26 percent)*
2. Make the Catholic faith more relevant for youth by creating engaging faith activities and contemporary events in which they can participate. *(12 percent)*

(four-way tie for third highest number of votes)

- 3a. Provide apologetics formation in order to intelligently promote and explain Catholic teachings and beliefs. *(11 percent)*
- 3b. Intentionally reconnect with and provide support for marginalized and disengaged Catholics. *(11 percent)*
- 3c. Provide energizing adult formation opportunities in the diocese. *(11 percent)*
- 3d. Enhance evangelization through strong inter-parish communication and networking, celebrating that we are all dynamic parts of the Church of the Diocese of Gary. *(11 percent)*

Sacraments, Prayer and Worship

(two-way tie for most votes)

- 1a. Responding to their baptismal call, parents are called upon to be primary teachers of the faith to their children. They have the principal duty and responsibility of bringing up their children in the Catholic faith. Emphasize the role of parents in their children's formation and growth in the faith by instilling in them that faith formation is a family affair. *(24 percent)*
- 1b. Encourage a stronger connection between faith and prayer by providing opportunities to teach the fundamentals of prayer and offer a variety of prayer experiences across the diocese that awaken the full potential of a Christian prayer life. *(24 percent)*

(two-way tie for next highest number of votes)

- 2a. In light of their baptismal calling, encourage youth and adults toward full, conscious, and active participation in the Mass. *(11 percent)*

2b. Realizing Pope Francis' expression to, "meet people wherever they are," extend a heartfelt welcome to divorced Catholics in order to embrace and support them, reminding them and ourselves that they are still a meaningful part of their faith community. *(11 percent)*

Discipleship/Formation

1. Establish opportunities for families, adolescents, and young adults to get involved in service projects that fulfill their missions as disciples but also benefit others and our communities. *(23 percent)*
2. Create post-confirmation opportunities for teens and young adults to continue their faith journey and remain active in the Catholic Church. *(18 percent)*
3. Develop comprehensive and inclusive diocesan and parish adult formation opportunities featuring expert speakers addressing a wide variety of faith and social justice topics helpful to individuals, members of traditional families, and members of non-traditional (non-nuclear) families. *(14 percent)*

Social Teaching

1. Educate and evangelize people on Catholic social teaching as a "constitutive" part of the Church's mission to the world in order for them to better understand their role in proclaiming, preserving and protecting the moral vision for our society as a people of God. Actively committing to peace and justice is essential to living our faith life with authenticity and fidelity to the Gospel of Jesus. *(61 percent)*
2. Develop and implement a strategic communication plan among all parishes within the Diocese of Gary that focuses on building awareness related to charitable organizations, parish ministries, and social causes as well as educates parishioners on various programs and services available to those in need. *(9 percent)*
3. Engage families, adults, and youth to be active parishioners within each parish community by providing programs for them to join that align their passions and make a positive impact on their neighbors. *(7 percent)*

Marriage and Family

1. Foster a community of Catholic families throughout the diocese and equip these families to live Christ-centered lives through events, programming, and online resources. *(31 percent)*

2. Develop diocesan and parish programs as well as online resources to prepare men and women for the sacrament of marriage. *(25 percent)*
3. Provide pastoral support and resources for those navigating troubled marriages, separation and divorce. *(15 percent)*

Young Catholics

1. Provide young Catholics with opportunities to gather and experience the richness of the Catholic Church and her teachings at the parish, regional, and diocesan levels. *(34 percent)*
2. Develop collaborative strategies for youth and young adult ministries that allow youth to experience the faith beyond the parish boundaries, including events and ministries that are shared-parish, deanery, regional, diocesan, national, or international. *(15 percent)*
3. Develop intentional ministry strategies that animate and inspire confirmed high school teens and young adults in their 20s and 30s. *(13 percent)*

Stewardship

1. Form and train parishioners in stewardship, encouraging the embrace of a discipleship lifestyle generous with contribution of time, talent and treasure. *(31 percent)*
2. Organize and spearhead an inter-parish resource sharing system in which the parishes throughout the diocese can cluster, collaborate, and share their unique gifts and strengths for stewardship. *(29 percent)*
3. Provide opportunities for parishioners to become disciples of Jesus Christ, which naturally leads to the practice of stewardship. *(13 percent)*

Vocations and Leadership Formation

1. Proclaim the Good News by example and promote an atmosphere of "right relationships" to provide positive role models for vocations. *(25 percent)*
2. Educate and inspire youth on discipleship, and they will understand and appreciate the different vocations. *(23 percent)*
3. Valuing the baptismal call of the laity to assist in the mission of the Church, develop a plan that promotes and empowers the role of lay leadership within each parish. *(19 percent)*