



Presbyteral Convocation Survey: Key Themes and Areas for Attention

Theme
<p style="text-align: center;">Theological and Ecclesiological Considerations</p> <p>Need spiritual foundation/grounding Reliance on Holy Spirit, must be rooted in prayer</p> <p>Centrality of Mass and sacraments How to prioritize Mass? Need sacramental formation Cannot take sacramental nature of the Church for granted Salvation of souls</p> <p>The theology and nature of the parish Role of diocese, role of parish Stay focused on mission, Gospel, bright future possible Frame of reference: How does this bring us closer to Christ? See this as an opportunity to evangelize Need conversion – do the hard work of embracing the unknown Recognize the relationship between the parish and the Domestic Church</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">The Church</p> <p>Parochialism, Church bigger than parish Desire that people feel at home at their parish and at the same time understand themselves as part of the archdiocesan/Universal Church; Change the culture – how?</p> <p>Reflect on and learn from previous planning processes, institutional memory Real change must affect all Build credibility and trust</p>

Theme

The Laity

Involvement, participation, inclusion, staff, parishioner leaders
Priests and people need to be integrally involved
Preparation for priests and laity for process of discernment
Priests and people share co-responsibility (some saw this as a positive, others as a negative)

Preparation, conversion of people, changing hearts and minds
Evangelization of people
Help people see bigger picture, need for change
How to bring people together positively?
Managing resistance
Acknowledge gift of Hispanic community
Accompanying people as they grieve, prepare for change
Look for opportunities to bring people to greater sense of communion
Need persuasive communication to bring people to vision of parish as beacon of light

Priests

Understand nature of the priesthood, theology of the priesthood Priest as spiritual father
Come from the perspective of the priests 'desire to lead mission and serve

Training, resources for priests
Priests will have to deal with anger, criticisms of people, anticipating difficulties that lie ahead
Ensure priests are set up for success
Support for priests, don't make the priest the fall-guy
Priests are already overwhelmed – concern about this on top of everything else – where to find the energy?

Fraternity among priests
Concern for health and well-being of priests, spiritual, physical, psychological, morale
Continue fostering vocations to priesthood
Need commonality/unity among presbyterate
Some are eligible to retire, be sensitive to younger priests who will live with decisions in the long-term

Theme

Role of Archdiocese, Pastoral Center staff

Trust, relationship

Importance of hearing from Archbishop – encouragement, support, importance of process, expectation that all participate

Backing when difficult situations ensue

Open to criticism/critique

Listen to priests

Be mindful of Canon Law

Lumen Gentium

Radiate Christ, Vatican Instruction

Communication

*While this topic does not have as many discrete entries,
the need for communication was overwhelmingly and consistently raised

Communication, consistency in message, transparency

Provide specific talking points, materials, similar to CMA

Need compelling communication with visuals

Guideposts along the way

Organization

Timeline: Is it reasonable? Can this be done?

What is different about this process (vis a vis previous processes)?

Need assurance this is not a done-deal

Need parameters and ability to maneuver within them

Consistent, clear criteria

Need direction, one size does not fit all

Enormity of task – lots of moving parts

Could have spent longer on the high-level timeline

Design of process that recognizes unique character of parishes

Openness to diversity

Build on Catholic culture already present

Theme

Coming Together

Regions - is it necessary to change name?

One pastor, one parish - necessary across the board? One deanery? Possible deanery model of cooperation/collaboration?

Balance with need to close locations, reduce number of Masses in some parishes/regions

Priest as spiritual father is often lost in current regions – how will this be different?

People in parish groupings need time to come together

Awareness of physical/driving distance between parishes

Honor differences and acknowledge what is working in parishes/regions/areas within Archdiocese

Some regions are working

Recognize the role of parish culture

Acknowledge and build on already-existing vibrancy in some parishes

Consistency in participation in process

Importance of Catholic presence in urban, rural areas

Communio is sometimes challenged by geography

Schools

Managing multiple schools in multiple parishes

How can schools be tools for evangelization?

Concerns

Acknowledge Above the Line, Below the Line - while this was not the intent, some viewed as manipulative, some felt the message was to dismiss concerns, questions, "suck it up and get above the line"

Acknowledge the impact of Covid-19