



Diocese of Dallas SYNOD 2024

Through this Diocese of Dallas Synod listening session, we invite you to prayerfully consider and answer these questions as we seek to create a dialogue, find solutions and develop strategies to help chart the future of the Diocese of Dallas.

QUESTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED DURING THE OCTOBER 21 SYNOD LISTENING SESSION ON RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, PROJECT PLANNING AND GROWING THE CHURCH

1. How can the Diocese plan best for future needs of the Church, including population increases and decreases due to immigration and business migration? In particular, what should be considered when planning for the future of existing parishes and potential new parishes?
2. What are some of the Diocese of Dallas's greatest assets (i.e. priests, personnel, laity, land holdings, geographic spread, financial assets)? How can they be protected or grown?
3. What do you see as the top three struggles or challenges to the Diocese of Dallas in the next 20-30 years? What do you see as its top three opportunities?
4. How would you describe the ideal relationship between the diocese, a parish, and their respective staffs, particularly as both entities try to assess the future needs and growth of that parish? What structure of communication between parishes and dioceses would best support current operations and future growth?
5. Describe your confidence in the financial outlook of the Diocese of Dallas, including all of its entities. What justifies your current level of confidence?
6. Overall, do you think facilities and properties of the Diocese are well-maintained? What could be done to improve facilities oversight across the Diocese?
7. Has the location of a Catholic parish or school influenced where you live or work? If yes, please describe what factors you considered in making this decision.
8. In the near future, Catholic elementary and high schools will be faced with an opportunity to meet needs of students in a new way due to population growth. What would you suggest they consider in order to meet these growth needs?
9. According to the 2020 Census, Dallas county has grown 10.4% since 2010 and has surpassed 2.6 million residents. The Catholic Church has experienced a lower rate of growth overall in registered parishioners and mass attendance over the same time frame. What, in your opinion, would attract new parishioners and families to parishes? What would help the Church retain current members?
10. What type of facility structure, event, or gathering space do you see as helpful for building community in the Church? What solutions would help meet our need for more community gathering and hospitality spaces? Where would these be, and who would maintain them?

How Can I Learn More? Visit our website to get helpful resources, check the latest updates, and download the synod prayer card: cathdal.org/synod

