



Embracing our mission

A preliminary report on the Diocese of Dallas Synod 2024

Four years ago, Bishop Edward J. Burns recognized a significant moment in the history of the Diocese of Dallas and initiated a synodal process—an invitation to prayer, discernment, and renewal. This journey aimed to deepen the faithful's attentiveness to the Holy Spirit and to one another, fostering a renewed dedication to Christ's mission throughout the local Church.

Two months ago, the Diocese of Dallas Synod Assembly marked the culmination of this process, bringing together clergy, religious, and laity for four days to reflect on the insights gathered over the past several years. Now, the Office of the Synod is sharing a summary of the key themes and resolutions that emerged, offering transparency and gratitude to all who participated in this historic effort.

The preparatory phase of the synod involved 30 listening sessions across the diocese, engaging thousands of faithful from diverse backgrounds. Those voices, concerns, and hopes for the local Church were prayerfully considered, shaping the 376 resolutions that formed the foundation of the Synod Assembly discussions and votes.

Inside this edition, readers will find a snapshot of some of those resolutions discussed at the assembly. The following report, prepared by the Office of the Synod, presents selected highlights from the Synod Assembly's voting results, reflecting the priorities and themes that emerged. Please know that this summary is not exhaustive but offers a glimpse into the direction of our diocesan renewal. It is important to remember that while voting provides valuable guidance, the votes are solely recommendations. Each resolution must still undergo further discernment and pastoral implementation under the leadership of our bishop.

As we continue this journey, let us remain united in prayer, trusting in the Holy Spirit to guide us forward in faith and mission.



Michael Gresham is the editor in chief of The Texas Catholic and Revista Catolica Dallas.





Diocese of Dallas SYNOD 2024



PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE DIOCESAN SYNOD

Four years ago, recognizing that our diocese was at a pivotal moment in its history, Bishop Edward J. Burns called for the beginning of the synodal process—an effort to discern the Holy Spirit’s guidance and to renew our commitment to carrying out the mission of Jesus Christ in every aspect of our local Church. The Diocesan Synod has truly been a journey of prayer, discernment, and unity that has drawn us closer to the heart of Christ and to one another.

Two months ago, we concluded the Diocese of Dallas Synod Assembly, the culmination of years of preparation and listening. Today, the Office of the Synod has decided to share a summary of the insights and resolutions that emerged from the assembly, as well as express heartfelt gratitude to the clergy, religious, laity, and all who participated in this transformative effort. Together, we continue to walk in faith, guided by the Holy Spirit, as we seek to renew and strengthen the life of the Church in our Diocese.

THE PREPARATORY PHASE AND LISTENING SESSIONS

Over the course of two years, the Synod Preparatory Commission facilitated 30 listening sessions across the Diocese of Dallas. These sessions brought together thousands of members of the faithful, representing the diverse voices of our diocesan community. Through your heartfelt participation, we listened to your hopes, your challenges, and your dreams for the Church. These contributions were prayerfully distilled into 376 resolutions, organized into 5 parts and 17 chapters, and served as the foundation for the discussions and votes at the Synod Assembly. Those 5 parts and 17 chapters are listed below.



I. CATECHESIS AND FORMATION

1. Catechesis
2. Spiritual Formation
3. Schools and Education



III. EVANGELIZATION

7. Outreach and Hospitality
8. Communications



II. CELEBRATION AND SANCTIFICATION

4. Celebration and Administration of Sacraments and Sacramentals
5. Devotions
6. Celebration of the Mass and the Eucharist



IV. VOCATION AND DISCERNMENT

9. Clerical Vocations and Consecrated Life
10. Clerical Life, Support, and Formation
11. Couples and Marriage
12. Employee and Lay Minister Formation
13. Community Building and Development
14. Accompaniment and Charitable Services



V. ADMINISTRATION

15. Diocesan Administration
16. Parish Administration
17. Safe Environment



THE SYNOD ASSEMBLY

Months before the Synod Assembly began, delegates were provided with the 376 resolutions to study carefully and prepare their votes. They were also reminded of the nature of their role in the Synod process: Their votes are consultative; they are not binding or part of a democratic process, but instead they serve to inform and assist the Bishop, as the shepherd of this flock, in leading the Church in the years to come. They were, in other words, providing recommendations (or discouragements as the case may be) to the Bishop as he discerns the best course

of action in leading the Diocese.

On the first Sunday of Advent, 284 delegates—clergy and laity alike—gathered from every corner of the Diocese for four days of prayer, discernment, and collaborative work at the Synod Assembly. Each day of the Synod Assembly was structured around two key activities: periods of discussion, where delegates shared their thoughts and insights on specific resolutions, and periods of voting, during which delegates cast their votes on blocks of resolutions. Voting was conducted

using a scale from 1 (Strongly Discourage) to 5 (Strongly Recommend), with the addition of 0 (Abstain).

On the final day of the assembly, delegates participated in a prioritization vote, guided by the reflective question: “In 2031, when you look back at our diocese, what areas do you hope to have seen improved?” During this vote, each delegate selected the 50 resolutions of the 376 that they considered to be the most critical for the Diocese and ranked the 17 chapters by order of importance.

OUTCOMES OF THE SYNOD VOTING PROCESS

The Diocese wishes to share some of the results of the voting from the Synod assembly, highlighting key themes that surfaced from both the discussions and the data we received. Please note that, as the work of discerning and processing the voting data is still ongoing, **the following report is not intended to be comprehensive or definitive.** It serves, rather, to provide a transparent account of the priorities and results identified during the Synod Assembly, a snapshot of where the process is now. Please also know that this is not the full list of the results, but is simply a selected portion to highlight some important themes that have emerged.

It should also be remembered that while a particular resolution may have received overwhelming support or significant opposition, this does not immediately translate into concrete action. The vote serves as a valuable guide for the Bishop, who is called to prayerfully

discern the best course of action in the best time for the good of the Diocese. Much work remains in order to begin the practical implementation of these resolutions.

Emergent themes

Preliminary analysis of the data from the Synod Assembly has allowed us to identify five key themes that emerged from the priorities expressed by delegates during voting and discussions. These include: (1) fostering a culture of vocations, emphasizing the need to inspire and support vocations to the priesthood, religious life, and lay ministry; (2) strengthening life and family foundations, addressing issues such as marriage, parenting, difficult moral issues, and the sanctity of life; (3) nurturing personal and spiritual growth, improving sacramental preparation and ensuring opportunities for deeper formation and engagement in the faith; (4)

enhancing diocesan growth and operational excellence, focusing on the efficient and effective management of resources to support a growing Diocese; and (5) supporting and empowering our priests, providing resources and structures to sustain and encourage clergy in their ministry.

Results

What follows is specific data results of the resolutions discussed and voted upon at the Synod Assembly. The results are organized as follows: (1) the location of the resolution by the part and chapter noted above, with an introduction to each respective chapter, (2) the resolution text as voted on by the Synod body, and finally (3) the results of that vote. Again, please note that **a selection of resolutions were taken from each chapter, but every resolution is not included below.**

VOTING RESULTS KEY

0

Abstain

1

Strongly Discourage

2

Discourage

3

Neutral

4

Recommend

5

Strongly Recommend



PART I: CATECHESIS AND FORMATION

CHAPTER 1: CATECHESIS

Catechesis—the education in the faith of children, young people, and adults—emerged as a consistent concern among the faithful during the listening sessions.

Throughout both the listening sessions and the Synod Assembly, a strong desire was expressed for increased and improved catechesis, particularly on the sacraments

(especially the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist) and clear and compassionate teaching on important areas such as the sanctity of life, human sexuality, and social justice.

RESOLUTION 1: That the Bishop take a special role in engaging the faithful of the Diocese of Dallas, personally offering catechetical instruction through popular means of social communication (in-person talks, engagement on social media, podcasts, and video).

0. Abstain	1. Strongly Discourage	2. Discourage	3. Neutral	4. Recommend	5. Strongly Recommend
0%	3.62%	5.80%	14.13%	35.51%	40.94%

RESOLUTION 2: That the Diocesan Pastoral Center evaluate the viability of utilizing a priest in a full-time catechetical position where he can more easily reach out to the laity through popular means of social communication (in-person talks, engagement on social media, podcasts, and video).

0. Abstain	1. Strongly Discourage	2. Discourage	3. Neutral	4. Recommend	5. Strongly Recommend
0%	17.33%	16.25%	14.44%	32.49%	19.49%

RESOLUTION 10: That the Diocese renew its efforts to catechize the faithful about all life issues, including abortion, euthanasia, immigration, human trafficking, racism, and end-of-life concerns using commonly understood language. These efforts should not be made from a political perspective and should always be undertaken in line with the Magisterium of the Church.

0. Abstain	1. Strongly Discourage	2. Discourage	3. Neutral	4. Recommend	5. Strongly Recommend
0%	1.42%	1.06%	4.96%	27.66%	64.89%

RESOLUTION 15: That the Diocese speak compassionately, openly, and clearly through various means to those with same-sex attraction and those who struggle with gender identity, including a pastoral letter from the Bishop, resources on the diocesan website, and guidance and policies for those ministering to individuals in these circumstances.

0. Abstain	1. Strongly Discourage	2. Discourage	3. Neutral	4. Recommend	5. Strongly Recommend
0%	2.85%	1.78%	8.19%	24.20%	62.99%

RESOLUTION 16: That the Diocesan Pastoral Center identify resources appropriate for families, elementary, middle, high schools, and college-aged students concerning the Church's teaching on the human body, human sexuality, and the virtue of chastity.

0. Abstain	1. Strongly Discourage	2. Discourage	3. Neutral	4. Recommend	5. Strongly Recommend
0%	1.06%	0.71%	4.61%	28.72%	64.89%

CHAPTER 2: SPIRITUAL FORMATION

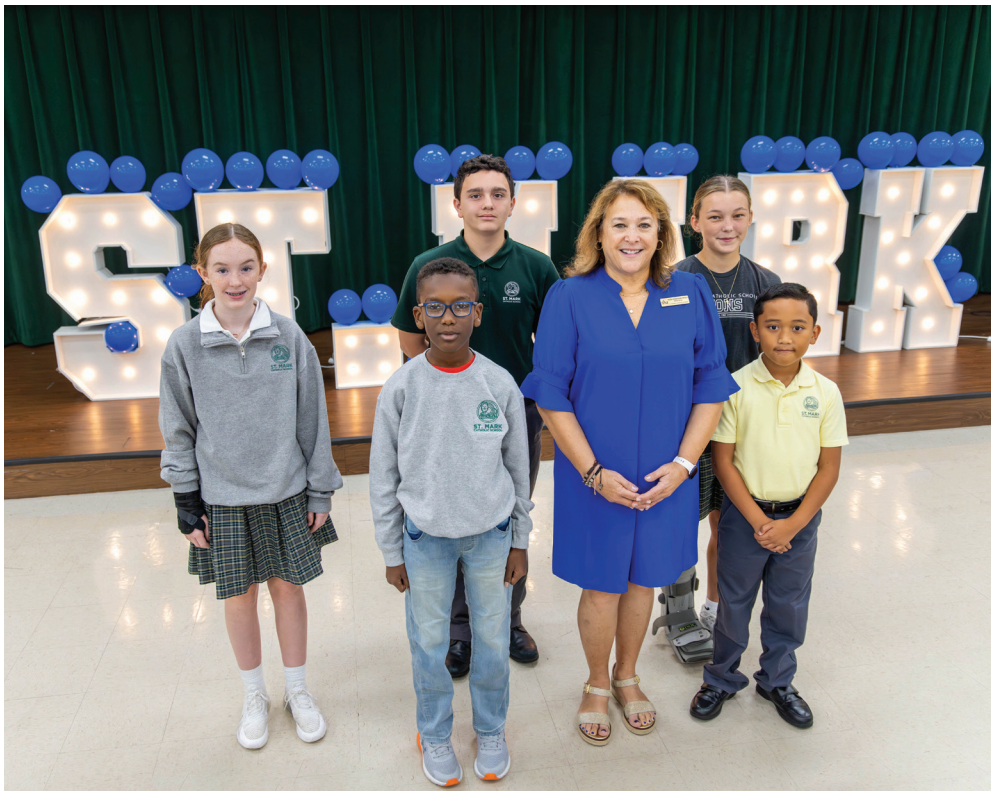
The need for expanded spiritual formation emerged as a key theme during the listening sessions and Synod

Assembly. Many called for deeper opportunities for prayer, retreats, and spiritual direction, along with stronger support

for family formation to equip parents as primary catechists and foster a culture of prayer and discipleship at home.

RESOLUTION 28: That parishes offer continuing adult faith formation opportunities (ideally during the same time as their children's faith formation) for newly received Catholics as well as cradle Catholics to encourage growth and understanding of the faith, recognizing that people are in different stages of their catechetical formation and therefore need to be approached in different ways.

0. Abstain	1. Strongly Discourage	2. Discourage	3. Neutral	4. Recommend	5. Strongly Recommend
0%	0.72%	1.80%	7.55%	38.49%	51.44%



CHAPTER 3: SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION

Catholic education, rooted in family life with parents as primary educators, is vital to Christian formation. The Diocese of Dallas Synod emphasized

renewing Catholic identity in schools through catechesis, liturgy, and faith integration. The University of Dallas in Irving was highlighted as a

key partner in supporting Diocese of Dallas efforts to enhance formation for clergy, lay leaders, and the faithful.

RESOLUTION 40: That the Diocesan Pastoral Center make available a program to form parents on their role as primary educators of their children, regardless of where the student attends school.

0. Abstain

0%

1. Strongly Discourage

2.52%

2. Discourage

3.24%

3. Neutral

11.51%

4. Recommend

38.49%

5. Strongly Recommend

44.24%

RESOLUTION 42: That the Diocesan Pastoral Center evaluate the viability of offering a discount to Catholic schools for families who have multiple children in Catholic schools within the Diocese of Dallas as well as for employees of parishes, schools, the pastoral center, and those who sustain parishes through significant volunteerism.

0. Abstain

0%

1. Strongly Discourage

2.15%

2. Discourage

3.58%

3. Neutral

6.81%

4. Recommend

33.69%

5. Strongly Recommend

53.76%

RESOLUTION 52: That the Diocesan Pastoral Center evaluate the viability of an optional four-day school week for Catholic schools.

0. Abstain

0.36%

1. Strongly Discourage

47.33%

2. Discourage

17.08%

3. Neutral

19.57%

4. Recommend

11.03%

5. Strongly Recommend

4.63%

RESOLUTION 53: That the Diocesan Pastoral Center, following a recently completed review of all Catholic school curricula within the Diocese, ensure that all schools appropriately adhere to the expectation of upholding Catholic identity in all elements of education and formation.

0. Abstain

0%

1. Strongly Discourage

0.36%

2. Discourage

1.79%

3. Neutral

4.30%

4. Recommend

24.01%

5. Strongly Recommend

69.53%

RESOLUTION 74: That the Diocesan Pastoral Center establish a formal partnership with the University of Dallas to address the new opportunities that arise from this Synod assembly.

0. Abstain

0.72%

1. Strongly Discourage

1.43%

2. Discourage

5.02%

3. Neutral

15.05%

4. Recommend

34.05%

5. Strongly Recommend

43.73%



PART II: CELEBRATION AND SANCTIFICATION

CHAPTER 4: CELEBRATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF SACRAMENTS AND SACRAMENTALS

The sacraments are the means through which Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit, communicates the fruits of His Paschal mystery, sanctifies the faithful,

and builds up the Church. During the synod process, the faithful expressed a strong desire for more robust sacramental preparation, particularly for baptism,

confirmation, and matrimony, in order to foster a deeper understanding of the sacraments and their role in the life of faith.

RESOLUTION 83: That the Diocese consider offering the sacraments of initiation in the traditional order of baptism, confirmation, and then Eucharist to deepen awareness of the spiritual significance of Confirmation and the “unique place” of the Eucharist, as well as to promote a culture of lifelong formation in faith, offsetting the false impression that confirmation is merely a cultural rite of passage or “graduation” on the way to high school.

0. Abstain

0.36%

1. Strongly Discourage

18.57%

2. Discourage

11.43%

3. Neutral

10.71%

4. Recommend

20.36%

5. Strongly Recommend

38.57%

RESOLUTION 91: That parishes ensure that, during the period immediately following the reception of baptism, confirmation, and holy matrimony, a plan is in place through which recipients of these sacraments are able to receive ongoing instruction in the faith, are given direction for growth in the spiritual life, and have opportunities to serve the Church and participate more fully in parish life.

0. Abstain

0%

1. Strongly Discourage

1.06%

2. Discourage

1.77%

3. Neutral

6.03%

4. Recommend

31.91%

5. Strongly Recommend

59.22%





CHAPTER 5: DEVOTIONS

The Diocese of Dallas synodal process highlighted a desire for the renewal and encouragement of traditional and popular Catholic devotions as integral

to catechesis and a deeper understanding of the sacraments. The Church teaches that devotions and sacramentals, while distinct from the sacraments,

extend the liturgical life of the Church, sanctify everyday life, and help dispose the faithful to receive divine grace.

RESOLUTION 94: That parishes utilize digital technology in the offering of devotions over the Internet or through video communications for the faithful where access to these devotions is otherwise impeded.

0. Abstain	1. Strongly Discourage	2. Discourage	3. Neutral	4. Recommend	5. Strongly Recommend
0.98%	13.17%	18.05%	27.32%	25.37%	15.12%

RESOLUTION 99: That parishes focus on cultivating prayer in the lives of the faithful by providing silent spaces, teaching the value of silence, forming prayer groups, and supporting family and personal prayer. It also emphasizes including the homebound and elderly to deepen their spiritual connection to the parish. These efforts aim to enrich prayer life for all parishioners.*

0. Abstain	1. Strongly Discourage	2. Discourage	3. Neutral	4. Recommend	5. Strongly Recommend
0%	0.71%	1.78%	5.69%	23.49%	68.33%

CHAPTER 6: CELEBRATION OF THE MASS AND THE EUCHARIST

The Eucharist, as the source and summit of the Christian life, holds a central place in the Church's mission, uniting the faithful to Christ's Paschal mystery and dispensing divine grace. The synod

process emphasized the need for deeper catechesis and reverence in the celebration of the Mass, including the liturgical actions, preaching, and sacred music, to foster greater understanding and participation. By

promoting proper dispositions and active engagement, the Eucharist continues to sanctify the faithful, glorify God, and guide the Church in its mission of holiness and worship.

RESOLUTION 102: That the Diocesan Pastoral Center develop resources for priests and deacons to assist them in delivering homilies that speak to issues of the day, including training in skills related to public presentation, as well as to the discernment of an appropriate length and content.

0. Abstain	1. Strongly Discourage	2. Discourage	3. Neutral	4. Recommend	5. Strongly Recommend
0%	3.57%	5.00%	10.71%	33.93%	46.79%

RESOLUTION 118: That, with guidelines made available by the Diocesan Pastoral Center, parishes assess and, if appropriate, improve the quality of church acoustics, microphones and speaker systems, as well as spaces in which the faithful prepare and experience the liturgy, such as the narthex and cry-room.

0. Abstain	1. Strongly Discourage	2. Discourage	3. Neutral	4. Recommend	5. Strongly Recommend
0%	3.21%	5.36%	12.14%	33.57%	45.71%

* Denotes that the resolution is a summary of the original, longer resolution.



PART III: EVANGELIZATION

CHAPTER 7: OUTREACH AND HOSPITALITY

The Church's mission of healing and sanctification is fulfilled through evangelization that engages culture and science to share the Gospel. The Synod

highlighted the need to strengthen outreach, especially in welcoming others, engaging youth, and embracing cultural expressions like art and music.

This mission requires active collaboration between clergy and laity to transform individuals and society through the Gospel.

RESOLUTION 134: That the Diocesan Pastoral Center develop a comprehensive strategy for identifying and reaching out to all those who currently are not part of or who feel alienated from the Church.

0. Abstain	1. Strongly Discourage	2. Discourage	3. Neutral	4. Recommend	5. Strongly Recommend
0%	2.84%	4.26%	10.28%	32.62%	50.00%

RESOLUTION 140: That parishes work to build a culture of hospitality which encourages parishioners to reach out to new members and those they meet at Mass or at other parish or diocesan activities, attentive to the needs of those around them and in their parish, such as the elderly, young families, and those unfamiliar with the Church.

0. Abstain	1. Strongly Discourage	2. Discourage	3. Neutral	4. Recommend	5. Strongly Recommend
0%	1.77%	0.71%	3.55%	32.62%	61.35%

RESOLUTION 148: That the Diocesan Pastoral Center evaluate and identify the most effective evangelization and outreach events for youth and young adults that have taken place in the Diocese in order to expand and support them at the parish level.

0. Abstain	1. Strongly Discourage	2. Discourage	3. Neutral	4. Recommend	5. Strongly Recommend
0%	1.78%	2.49%	6.76%	33.81%	55.16%

CHAPTER 8: COMMUNICATIONS

Communication is essential to proclaiming the Gospel and fostering communion within the Church. The Diocese seeks to improve local coordination and embrace modern media for evangelization, catechesis, and formation while encouraging discernment and moderation to ensure these tools serve the Gospel and uphold human dignity.

RESOLUTION 167: That the Diocesan Pastoral Center conduct a comprehensive review of its communication strategy in order to ensure effective communication to all the faithful of the Diocese, including priests, deacons, parishioners, teachers, parents, and students. This review should examine the content, clarity, edifying quality, means of distribution, and recipients of all communications.

0. Abstain	1. Strongly Discourage	2. Discourage	3. Neutral	4. Recommend	5. Strongly Recommend
0%	1.07%	2.49%	8.19%	27.40%	60.85%





PART IV: VOCATION AND DISCERNMENT

CHAPTER 9: CLERICAL VOCATIONS AND CONSECRATED LIFE

The priesthood and consecrated life are vital to the Church's mission, reflecting Christ's call to care for His flock. The Synod highlighted the shared

responsibility of families, schools, and parishes in fostering vocations, while also emphasizing the need to support the well-being of clergy and religious.

Additionally, there was a strong desire to attract and sustain vibrant religious communities to enrich the Church's holiness and mission.

RESOLUTION 188: That the Diocese publicly and actively embrace a culture that promotes and encourages vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and religious life, so that it becomes common for the faithful to ask individuals in their communities whether they have considered these vocations.

0. Abstain	1. Strongly Discourage	2. Discourage	3. Neutral	4. Recommend	5. Strongly Recommend
0.36%	1.42%	0.36%	3.56%	23.13%	71.17%

RESOLUTION 191: That the Diocesan Office of Vocations guide vocational committees at parishes and schools to encourage the presence of members of religious communities into the lives of parishes, Catholic schools, and ministries where youth and young adults are present as well as encourage priests at parishes with schools to be active and visible in school activities, regularly conduct school Masses, and join in parent meetings whenever possible.

0. Abstain	1. Strongly Discourage	2. Discourage	3. Neutral	4. Recommend	5. Strongly Recommend
0%	1.07%	1.78%	5.34%	28.11%	63.70%



CHAPTER 10: CLERICAL LIFE, SUPPORT, AND FORMATION

The Diocese of Dallas Synod emphasized the essential role of priests and deacons, highlighting the need for ongoing formation to

support their spiritual, pastoral, and personal well-being. Fraternity among clergy and clear guidelines for deacons were identified as vital

for strengthening their ministry. These efforts aim to enhance their service to the faithful and the Church's mission.

RESOLUTION 199: That the Diocesan Clergy Office prioritize ongoing formation and wellness for priests, particularly in their first five years of ministry. The proposal includes expanding mentorship programs, organizing formation events on spirituality, pastoral practice, cultural diversity, and practical skills like parish management and communication. It also emphasizes supporting extern priests in adapting to American culture and improving their language skills, while collaborating with the Office of the Diaconate to enhance formation for permanent deacons.*

0. Abstain	1. Strongly Discourage	2. Discourage	3. Neutral	4. Recommend	5. Strongly Recommend
0.89%	4.46%	3.57%	7.14%	35.71%	48.21%

RESOLUTION 203: That the Diocesan Pastoral Center establish a committee to ensure priests' well-being, addressing sabbaticals, wellness programs, care for retirees, regular days off, retreats, spiritual direction, and mental health support, and to foster a culture where priests feel supported and encouraged to seek help from the Diocese.

0. Abstain	1. Strongly Discourage	2. Discourage	3. Neutral	4. Recommend	5. Strongly Recommend
0%	2.63%	2.63%	7.89%	25.44%	61.40%

* Denotes that the resolution is a summary of the original, longer resolution.



CHAPTER 11: COUPLES AND MARRIAGE

Marriage, instituted by God, is a sacred vocation central to the well-being of families, the Church, and society. The Synod emphasized the need for

clearer catechesis and stronger support for couples, especially in marriage preparation and addressing modern challenges. Recognizing marriage as the

“domestic Church,” the Diocese seeks to guide families in living out their vocation with fidelity and grace.

RESOLUTION 219: That the Diocesan Pastoral Center develop and incorporate lifelong formation for marriage for all in an age-appropriate way, with a particular emphasis on providing healthy examples of marriage for those who have witnessed poor examples of marriage in their parents, family, or friends, and are at risk of becoming disillusioned in seeking marriage themselves.

0. Abstain	1. Strongly Discourage	2. Discourage	3. Neutral	4. Recommend	5. Strongly Recommend
0%	2.85%	3.56%	8.54%	36.30%	48.75%

RESOLUTION 222: That the Diocesan Pastoral Center evaluate the existing marriage preparation programs and establish a standard to be used by all parishes which can be considered sufficient for marriage at any parish in the Diocese.

0. Abstain	1. Strongly Discourage	2. Discourage	3. Neutral	4. Recommend	5. Strongly Recommend
0.36%	4.64%	2.86%	7.50%	25.71%	58.93%

RESOLUTION 239: That the Diocesan Pastoral Center establish a directory of Catholic professionals and Catholic-sensitive professionals in both counseling and medicine who can assist couples who are struggling with various issues related to marriage and family life.

0. Abstain	1. Strongly Discourage	2. Discourage	3. Neutral	4. Recommend	5. Strongly Recommend
0%	0.36%	0.71%	3.91%	29.18%	65.84%

RESOLUTION 241: That the Diocesan Pastoral Center audit the current practices of the Tribunal in order to determine reasonable changes in line with canon law to lower the barriers in administrative function, such as length of application process, complexity of process, insufficient personnel, and costs associated with the process for those seeking an annulment.

0. Abstain	1. Strongly Discourage	2. Discourage	3. Neutral	4. Recommend	5. Strongly Recommend
0%	1.08%	3.23%	5.73%	18.64%	71.33%

CHAPTER 12: EMPLOYEE AND LAY MINISTER FORMATION

The Diocese of Dallas Synod process revealed a strong desire among diocesan employees and lay ministers for better formation to equip them for

their roles in teaching and service. With resources like the University of Dallas, the Diocese is well-positioned to provide continuing education and

formation, empowering the laity to fully participate in the Church’s mission as envisioned by the Second Vatican Council.

RESOLUTION 250: That the Diocese collaborate with the University of Dallas and other relevant organizations to enhance lay ministry formation through a catechist certification program, accessible continuing education, recruitment of Catholic school educators, and specialized training on contemporary issues for catechists, clergy, and parents.*

0. Abstain	1. Strongly Discourage	2. Discourage	3. Neutral	4. Recommend	5. Strongly Recommend
0%	15.66%	8.54%	6.05%	31.67%	38.08%

* Denotes that the resolution is a summary of the original, longer resolution.

CHAPTER 13: COMMUNITY BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT

Jesus called His disciples to be known by their love and unity, a desire echoed throughout the Synod process for parishes to reflect Christ's

mercy and welcome. Strengthening community through shared events and a spirit of charity fosters the Church's mission of unity. Authentic,

joyful parishes can attract others to the faith and fulfill the Church's call to reconcile humanity in Christ.

RESOLUTION 257: That the Diocesan Pastoral Center designate at least one day each year for the faithful as a community to exercise corporal and spiritual works of mercy, coordinating with existing charitable entities such as Catholic Charities, St. Vincent de Paul, and others where appropriate.

0. Abstain	1. Strongly Discourage	2. Discourage	3. Neutral	4. Recommend	5. Strongly Recommend
0%	3.23%	5.02%	14.34%	27.24%	50.18%

CHAPTER 14: ACCOMPANIMENT AND CHARITABLE SERVICES

In the listening sessions and Diocese of Dallas Synod assembly, the faithful expressed a strong desire to build up the Body of Christ through

charitable works, promoting a culture of life and reaching those in need with compassion. This commitment reflects the Church's understanding

that love, rooted in God, is the foundation of its mission, guiding both personal and societal relationships.

RESOLUTION 297: That the Diocesan Pastoral Center make available a list of counselors who are qualified, Catholic, appropriately trained, and sensitive to the needs of the faithful, as well as identify counseling resources offered for those in need.

0. Abstain	1. Strongly Discourage	2. Discourage	3. Neutral	4. Recommend	5. Strongly Recommend
0%	0.36%	0%	2.19%	28.47%	68.98%

RESOLUTION 306: That the Diocese support initiatives that offer direct material assistance to the poor, homeless, and immigrant, including food, shelter, clothing, as well as burial support.

0. Abstain	1. Strongly Discourage	2. Discourage	3. Neutral	4. Recommend	5. Strongly Recommend
0%	1.81%	1.81%	7.97%	26.09%	62.32%



PART V: ADMINISTRATION

CHAPTER 15: DIOCESAN ADMINISTRATION

Throughout the Synod process, the faithful in the Diocese of Dallas expressed a desire to participate in Church governance and contribute their talents in ways

that align with their vocation and enrich the Church's mission. Additionally, a renewed focus on justice and dignity for diocesan employees, coupled with a missionary

outreach to the broader community, highlights the call for creative renewal in diocesan administration to better reflect the life and teachings of Christ.

RESOLUTION 324: That the Diocesan Pastoral Center review policies that bear on the relationship and balance between work and family life, especially with respect to maternity and paternity leave, compensation sufficient to support family life, and flexible schedules for employees who are parents of young children or who serve as caregivers for other family members.

0. Abstain	1. Strongly Discourage	2. Discourage	3. Neutral	4. Recommend	5. Strongly Recommend
0%	0.36%	1.08%	8.27%	27.34%	62.95%

RESOLUTION 325: That the Diocesan Pastoral Center consider ways to integrate work with the spiritual formation of employees.

0. Abstain	1. Strongly Discourage	2. Discourage	3. Neutral	4. Recommend	5. Strongly Recommend
0%	0.73%	1.10%	11.36%	33.70%	53.11%

RESOLUTION 330: That the Diocesan Pastoral Center establish a real estate task force to conduct a study on the creation of new parishes and schools, especially within areas with large growth, such as the northern, southern, and eastern extremities of the Diocese, recognizing that many existing diocesan facilities remain underutilized.

0. Abstain	1. Strongly Discourage	2. Discourage	3. Neutral	4. Recommend	5. Strongly Recommend
0%	2.55%	3.64%	6.55%	24.00%	63.27%

CHAPTER 16: PARISH ADMINISTRATION

The parish is central to the Church's liturgical and communal life, gathering the faithful for worship, catechesis, and service. The Diocese of Dallas Synod process emphasized the need for parish renewal to meet diverse needs in ministry, formation, and outreach. As eucharistic communities, parishes are where clergy and laity work together to live out the Gospel through worship and service.

RESOLUTION 359: That the Diocese provide further accommodations so that those with disabilities and special needs are able to receive the sacraments and participate in parish life.

0. Abstain	1. Strongly Discourage	2. Discourage	3. Neutral	4. Recommend	5. Strongly Recommend
0%	0.74%	0.74%	5.51%	26.84%	66.18%

CHAPTER 17: SAFE ENVIRONMENT

The Church is called to tirelessly protect the young and vulnerable from abuse, ensuring safe environment practices across the Diocese remain a priority. The Synod

process affirmed the need for effective, accessible training for all who teach or minister, emphasizing prevention and healing for victims. This commitment aligns with Pope

Francis' call for profound conversion and the USCCB Charter's dedication to eliminating abuse and fostering reconciliation within the Church.

RESOLUTION 365: That the Diocesan Pastoral Center emphasize diligent compliance with Safe Environment policies, which are mandatory for all parishes, organizations, ministries, and events.

0. Abstain	1. Strongly Discourage	2. Discourage	3. Neutral	4. Recommend	5. Strongly Recommend
0%	1.09%	0%	5.47%	13.14%	80.29%

PRIORITIZATION VOTE

The prioritized resolutions will serve as a strategic focus for implementation, ensuring that the Diocese directs its resources and efforts toward areas with the greatest potential for spiritual, pastoral, and communal growth. While Bishop's discernment will still guide the overall process and timeline, what follows here are the fifteen resolutions that emerged as the highest priorities:

TOP 15: Highest Priority Resolutions

Rank	Resolutions
1	188. That the Diocese embrace a culture of vocations.
2	10. That the Diocese emphasize teachings on life issues.
3	330. That the Pastoral Center establish a real estate task force for new parishes/schools.
4 (tie)	365. That the Pastoral Center emphasize compliance with Safe Environment policies.
4 (tie)	199. That the Pastoral Center focus on the formation and support of clergy.
6	15. That the Diocese speak faithfully on same-sex attraction and gender issues.
7	83. That the Diocese consider offering the sacraments of initiation in the restored order.
8	241. That the Pastoral Center audit the tribunal for efficiency.
9	99. That parishes cultivate the prayer lives of the faithful.
10	53. That the Pastoral Center ensure that schools uphold Catholic identity.
11	222. That the Pastoral Center evaluate existing marriage preparation to improve it.
12	203. That the Pastoral Center establish a priest support committee.
13	191. That the Vocations Office promote clergy and religious presence in parishes and schools.
14	297. That the Pastoral Center make a list of Catholic Counselors available.
15 (tie)	16. That the Pastoral Center identify resources for the faithful regarding sexual morality.
15 (tie)	140. That parishes work to build a culture of hospitality.
15 (tie)	324. That the Pastoral Center review policies related the balance of work and family life.

THE IMPLEMENTATION PHASE

Immediately following the conclusion of the Synod Assembly, a team was selected to lead the implementation phase. In the months ahead, the Bishop will carefully review the consultative votes, along with the written feedback and comments, in collaboration with the priests and deacons of the Diocese, the Implementation Commission, and diocesan and parish staff. Together, the Diocese will develop a comprehensive action plan for the entire Diocese, which the Bishop will outline in a pastoral letter to the faithful later this year.

CONCLUSION

As we conclude this initial phase of the Synod process, we recognize it as the beginning of a journey toward renewal and growth in our Diocese. The insights and resolutions gathered during the Synod Assembly reflect the faith, hope, and commitment of our diocesan community to live out the Gospel in every aspect of the Church's life. Guided by the Holy Spirit and rooted in prayer, we now embark on the challenging yet promising work of implementing these priorities, trusting that God will bless our efforts to build a stronger, holier, and mission-driven Church for generations to come.