

# Frequently Asked Questions



Updated: Aug. 3, 2022

## 1. Why is the diocese conducting a survey?

**A:** The diocese wants to hear from as many Catholics as possible in San Diego and Imperial Counties. The diocese recognizes that not everyone was able to attend the small-group sessions organized by parishes, schools and allied organizations. The survey is the second phase of the consultation, or synod, the diocese is undertaking at this crucial moment for our Church, when we continue to renew our parishes and ministries after emerging from the pandemic.

## 2. When is the survey expected to be sent?

**A:** The survey is planned for Sept. 6, 2022.

## 3. How will the survey be shared?

**A:** The survey will be shared through the diocesan Flocknote account, which will reach everyone who has registered on this platform with their parish. However, each parish should make every effort to intentionally reach out to people within their community and beyond to engage additional voices who may not have participated in the small-group sessions and who do not participate regularly in their church.

## 4. How long is the survey and how long will it take to complete?

**A:** The survey has 39 questions. It should take 15 minutes or less to complete.

## 5. What if a person takes it more than once?

**A:** We encourage everyone to take the survey once and invite others to participate, such as family members. A survey response submitted on behalf of another person, such as a spouse or family member without access to email, is permitted.

## 6. Is the platform secure? Will any personal information be asked of me?

**A:** The platform is secure and no personal questions will be asked that will reveal your identity.

## 7. What will be covered in the survey?

**A:** The survey will ask a few demographic questions related to age, gender, education, etc. The survey will also ask a few questions regarding the level

of participation in the Catholic Church. The majority of the questions will be related to the major themes and issues that emerged during the small-group synod sessions held in March and April.

**8. Will it be available in another language besides English?**

**A:** Yes, the survey will be available in Spanish.

**9. Can the survey be mailed?**

**A:** Hard copies of the survey can be printed for special circumstances. However, these must be returned to the parishes, where staff will have to input the responses electronically and submit them. The diocesan synod office is not equipped to handle responses sent through regular mail.

**10. When is the survey due?**

**A:** Within 30 days of the survey being sent. The survey will be distributed on Sept. 6, 2022.

**11. How will this data be used?**

**A:** The information gathered from the survey responses will better inform the needs of our local church in San Diego and Imperial Counties. The survey data will be analyzed by consultants from SDSU and USD who are working closely with the Diocesan Synod Commissions and Steering Committee, which will interpret the findings and recommend an action plan to address the needs identified by the synod participants. The data will be for the exclusive use by the Diocese of San Diego, however.

**12. Can people who participated in the small-group sessions participate in the synod survey?**

**A:** Yes, everyone is encouraged to participate: Those who took part in the small-group sessions and those who have not yet participated.

**13. What happened to the responses from the listening sessions that do not fall under the eight themes?**

**A:** The majority of the issues that were raised fell within the eight themes described in the diocesan synthesis report. Items that may not have been covered are noted and will be further discerned for potential action. All parishes have received their parish synod reports (if they submitted one). Each parish will explore ways to address the issues raised.

**14. Will the diocese be able to reach all members on Flocknote?**

**A.** Yes, all registered members on Flocknote will receive the synod survey.

**15. Do we need approval from parishioners to share their email address?**

**A.** No, people who are on Flocknote have already agreed to receive notifications.

**16. Do we need to use Flocknote if we make the parish keyword and QR code available?**

**A.** Yes, we need to maximize our efforts and utilize as many avenues to share the synod survey. We encourage you to use Flocknote and to print and distribute the QR code amongst your parishioners, making a concerted effort to engage those who have fallen away or are no longer practicing their faith. This is an opportunity to engage with others.

**17. Are the themes described within our diocesan report consistent with those from across the U.S.?**

**A.** As more diocesan reports become available, we have seen many similarities in the themes that surfaced. Many of these will be further addressed in the coming phases.

**18. When the survey becomes available, will the survey be submitted directly to the diocese or will the synod coordinator be responsible for putting together an additional report?**

**A.** The responses will be collected by the firm Survey Monkey and the data will be analyzed by our consultants. Further guidance will be provided on what information will be shared with parishes.

**19. Will there be an option to skip questions?**

**A.** No, all questions require a response.

**20. Will the survey be anonymous?**

**A.** Yes, the survey will be completely anonymous.