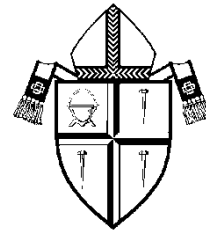


CWG V: The Challenge to Bring Spiritual Depth to Family Life



Summary of Proposals/Details

September 10, 2016

This CWG had three questions to focus on and the 30 in attendance were divided into 5 tables, each table being assigned one question.

The questions addressed are:

1. How can parishes bring prayer more into the center of family life, with specific attention to the multi-cultural dimensions of this challenge?
2. What steps can our local church take to increase the participation of families at Mass, particularly in their identities as families?
3. What specific steps can the diocese take to build a spirituality of care, consolation, love and realism in our families?
4. How can we promote a substantial spiritual life shared between husbands and wives?
5. What can lead to a spirituality of evangelization and solidarity in family life rather than a spirituality of insularity?

There were three discussion periods, each followed by general feedback from all delegates on the work of each of the five table's presentations. Feedback explored affirmation for what was presented, comments for fine-tuning and recommendations. In some cases other proposals were suggested to be explored by the table. During the last session delegates had time to reflect on the proposals and to prioritize them based on where their passion was and given there were five questions, delegates had five preferences, 1-5 with one being the greatest. The below proposals are listed by priority of the working group. All proposals received priority and will remain for consideration by the Synod General Assembly. Actually, the top five priorities each were related to one of the five questions.

Fourteen Proposals for Consideration

V-1: (25) Create an Office for Family Spirituality (Q,3)

(13#1, 4#2, 7#3, 1#4, 0#5=25 out of 30)

- Marriage preparation
- Outreach to LGBT Catholics and their families
- Develop resources for parishes to minister to fragmented families (divorced, single-parent, widowed, deployed, deported, multigenerational households)
- Develop resources for family activities to promote family unity/solidarity
- Publish a handbook of resources for family prayer and spirituality for the home
- Sponsor days of prayer and retreats for couples, families and festivals of faith for children at an annual diocesan "open house"
- Identify, screen and train spiritual directors for Catholics through the Diocesan Institute

V-2: (16) Create a new culture for a more welcoming Catholic worship to foster family participation.

(Q,2) (3#1, 1#2, 5#3, 2#4, 5#5=16 out of 30)

- “Family” participation
- Greeting, mentoring new families and struggling families
- Provide training for you and children in liturgy
- Provide childcare so that parents can come together
- Have religious education prior/after family masses
- Make attempts to use the prayer of the mass to invite children to understand what is going on and make them feel welcome and engaged

V-3: (16) Create a variety of prayer experiences for parents to lead their children in prayer. (Q,1)

(5#1, 4#2, 1#3, 2#4, 4#5=16 out of 30)

V-4: (15) Support single parent family life experiences. (Q, 5)(Death, Deployment, Divorce, Deported, Single) (2#1, 0#2, 1#3, 4#4, 8#5=15 out of 30)

V-5: (13) Sponsor married couple retreats

(Q,4) (1#1, 1#2, 4#3, 5#4, 2#5=13 out of 30)

- Focus on strengthening and growing relationships
- Incorporate diversity by culture, language, age and married status etc.

V-6: (11) Sponsor mini retreats/days of recollection for parents in parishes or deanery clusters

(Q,1)

(2#1, 1#2, 1#3, 5#4, 2#5=11 out of 30)

V-7: (10) Promote sustained relationship growth in SCC, mentorship, faith formation programs.

(Q,4)

(0#1, 5#2, 1#3, 3#4, 1#5=10 out of 30)

V-8: (9) Provide childcare for parish activities so that husbands/wives can participate together.

(Q,4)

(0#1, 3#2, 3#3, 1#4, 2#5=9 out of 30)

V-9: (9) Create an Office of Communications. (Q,3)

(1#1, 4#2, 2#3, 2#4, 0#5=9 out of 30)

- Develop digital media platforms to reach out to families
- Use social media for text alerts, daily meditations, prayers, links to other Catholic resources
- Develop a “Catholic Family App”

V-10: (3) Give space to cultural expressions of prayer grounding families in solid catechesis and making them pathways to Christ for their children. (Q,1) (0#1, 2#2, 1#3, 0#4, 0#5=3 out of 30)

V-11: (3) Connect multigenerational pieties, liturgy and religious traditions. (Q,5)

(0#1, 1#2, 0#3, 1#4, 1#5=3 out of 30)

- Celebrate key religious family feasts, Sts. Joachim and Anne, Holy Family etc.

- Celebrate key ethnic/cultural festivals
- Celebrate grandparents' day and other family oriented days

V-12: (2) Expand counseling services for Catholic families. (Q,3)
(0#1, 1#2, 0#3, 1#4, 0#5=2 out of 30)

- Identify counselors who appreciate and value the faith dimension of Catholic families

V-13: (2) Recognize life experiences among parishioners. (Q,5)
(0#1, 0#2, 1#3, 0#4, 1#5=2 out of 30)

- Acknowledge birthdays, anniversaries, deployments and returns home, sponsor welcome home experiences for college students home for Christmas, Spring break, or summer.

V-14: (1) Connect religious education programs to family mass schedule. (Q,2)
(0#1, 0#2, 0#3, 0#4, 1#5=1 out of 30)