



Archdiocesan Synod 2022
Parish Consultation Process With Small Groups Fall 2021
Parish Small Group Process and Documents

I. SPRING/SUMMER PLANNING – BASELINE APPROACH

- Step 1. Form Core Team
- Step 2. Plan Baseline Approach: Parish Hosted Open Invite Small Groups & Existing Small Groups
- Step 3. Reserve Parish Calendar and Space
- Step 4. Prepare Communications Plan and Calendar
- Step 5. Recruit Facilitators and Scribes (Spring through September)

II. FALL IMPLEMENTATION – BASELINE APPROACH

- Step 6. Attend 1 of the Trainings Offered in Late August and Early September
- Step 7. Communicate and Invite Parishioners
- Step 8. Implement Parish Small Groups
- Step 9. Report Feedback to Archdiocese

III. START NEW SMALL GROUPS

- Option 1. Parish Hosted Open Invite Small Groups for Parents of School Age Children
- Option 2. Parish/Facilitator Hosted Common Interest Small Groups
- Option 3. Parish/Facilitator Hosted Open Signup Small Groups
- Option 4. Parishioner Initiated Small Groups

TRAININGS

1. Spring/Summer Training: Planning for fall Parish Synod small groups

- Baseline Approach for all parishes: Attend one training. Trainings are offered every Thursday now through May 27 in the afternoon (1-2:30 p.m.) and evening (7-8:30 p.m.).
 - “Start New Small Groups”: If your parish wishes to start new small groups, attend one additional training. Trainings are offered the first Tuesday of each month through May (March 2, April 6, and May 4) in the morning (10-11:30 a.m.).
- Invitees: Small Group Process Managers, ambassadors, and interested parish staff.

2. Fall Training: Implementation of Synod small groups

- Attend one training. Trainings will be offered late August and early September. Training includes (i) Synod small group material use and reporting parish feedback, (ii) Fall implementation of small groups, and (iii) facilitator and scribe training.
- Invitees: Small Group Process Managers, facilitators and scribes, ambassadors and interested parish staff.

1. Archdiocesan Assistance:

- The Archdiocese is here to assist you with your fall Synod small groups. If you have any questions or suggestions, please email ambassadors@archspm.org.
- If you wish to continue your small group ministry after the fall, the Archdiocese can assist you. See the Archdiocese Small Group Ministry web page at archspm.org/smallgroups or contact Jean Stolpestad, Director of the Office of Marriage, Family and Life; office phone: (651) 291-4438; Email: stolpestadj@archspm.org.

2. Purpose of Website and General Overview: The purpose of this website is to assist your parish with planning and implementing the Parish Consultation Process with Small Groups this fall.

- **Reserve Parish Adult Faith Formation Calendar Fall 2021**
 - Synod small groups will take place six weeks between September 19 and November 14, 2021.
 - Sacramental prep should continue uninterrupted.
 - Avoid other adult faith formation activities during this timeframe to encourage Synod small group participation.
- **Baseline Approach for Fall Synod Small Groups:** At a minimum, parishes are expected to offer the following Synod small groups:
 - Parish Hosted Open Invite small groups, and
 - Invite and encourage existing small groups to use Synod materials fall 2021.
- **Optional Approaches - Start New Small Groups:** For those parishes wishing to start new small groups, training will be offered covering four approaches to starting new small groups:
 - Parish Hosted Open Invite Small Groups for Parents of School Age Children,
 - Parish/Facilitator Hosted Common Interest Small Groups,
 - Parish/Facilitator Hosted Open Signup Small Groups, and
 - Parishioner Initiated Small Groups.
- **Small Group Materials & Reporting:**
 - For purposes of the Synod small group process, parishes are to use the Synod small group materials provided by the Archdiocese without adjustment and provide feedback to the Archdiocese as requested.
 - Small group materials will be provided and explained at the late August and September trainings. Materials will include a two-hour video that includes significant and multiple built-in times for discussion. The process is designed for participants to stay at their same tables for the entire two hours. Parishes should consider space and video screens accordingly.
- **Parish Flexibility:** Beyond the requirements noted above, the approach, structure and example documents on this website are tools provided to assist the parish with this work. As you plan your parish Synod small groups, feel free to customize these tools.

3. Value of Parish Consultation Process with Small Groups

- **Value to Synod:** Parish feedback on the focus areas will inform the Deanery Consultation process. The Deanery Consultation will occur January and February 2022 and will help determine Synod topics at the Archdiocesan Synod Assembly. The Archdiocesan Synod Assembly will be held Pentecost weekend June 2022. After considering the resulting Synod recommendations, Archbishop Hebda will write a Pastoral Letter (November 2022, Feast of Christ the King), leading to a Pastoral Plan to move our Archdiocese into the future.

- **Value to Parish:** Small groups also provide value in the life of the faithful and the parish, including:
 - Effective faith formation and growth, as outlined in *Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic* by Matthew Kelly:
 - Prayer: Individual and prayers of the Church - Mass and sacraments,
 - Continuous learning : Spiritual growth, support and accountability in Christian living,
 - Evangelization: Emboldens members to share their faith, and
 - Generosity: Encourages service to parish and community.
 - Building strong fellowship and community, connecting people to others, their parish and Christ.
 - Facilitators who are trained and can be a source of evangelized, future parish leaders.
 - Adults who are evangelized and catechized who then pass on the faith to their children and grandchildren, strengthening families.

4. Parish Time and Financial Resources

- **Pastor Time**
 - Although the Pastor may choose to be more involved, he can limit his involvement to (i) receiving periodic updates from the Core Team, (ii) approval of facilitators and scribes, and (iii) messaging from the pulpit.
- **Parish Staff and Time**
 - Time of the Small Group Process Managers (or other parish staff) overseeing the ministry.
 - Time of the Communications staff (updating the website, parish electronic communications, etc.).
 - Time of the Administrative staff (booking rooms, putting up posters, copying small group materials).
- **Parish Financial Resources**
 - Printing bulletin inserts or other advertising materials.
 - Printing the small group materials for parish small groups.