

The Church – Teacher

The Church, to whom Christ the Lord entrusted the deposit of faith so that, assisted by the Holy Spirit, it might reverently safeguard revealed truth, more closely examine it and faithfully expound it (Canon 747).

The catechesis of adults...is the principal form of catechesis because it is addressed to persons who have the greatest responsibilities and the capacity to live the Christian message in its fully developed form...Thus for catechesis to be effective, it must be permanent (Catechesis in our Time, #44, Pope John Paul II).

To the Church belongs the right always and everywhere to announce moral principles, including those pertaining to the social order, and to make judgments on any human affairs to the extent that they are required by the fundamental rights of the human person or the salvation of souls (Canon 747.2).

Synod Question: How should our faith formation look in our parishes so that it encompasses both adults and young people?

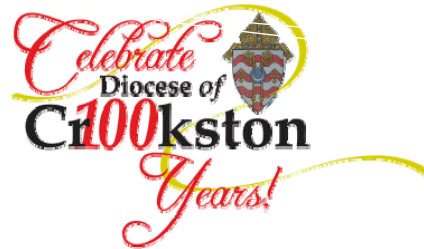
Synod Question: Examining leading moral questions that we as the Church of the Diocese of Crookston face, what steps should we take to fulfill our responsibility to live the values of our faith, to teach them and to proclaim them in the public arena?

Our Synod Prayer:

*Come, Father almighty!
Open our minds to see your way,
Believe in your word, and know you.
Come, Lord Jesus Savior!
Open our lips to speak your truth,
Proclaim the word, and praise you.
Come, oh Holy Spirit!
Open our hearts to feel your life,
To act on the word, and love you.
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
Prepare us for your blessing;
Guide our Synod, and bless
The Church of Crookston,
That we may do your will,
For you are one God, living and true,
Now and forever. Amen.*

Second Synod of the Diocese of Crookston

Synod Questions for Parish Discussion



The Church – The People of God

The Church is the People that God gathers in the whole world. She exists in local communities and is made real as a liturgical—above all a Eucharistic—assembly. She draws her life from the Word and the Body of Christ and so herself becomes Christ's Body (CCC, #752).

A parish is a definite community of the Christ's faithful, established on a stable basis within a particular church; the pastoral care of the parish is entrusted to a pastor as its own shepherd under the authority of the diocesan bishop (Canon 515).

Christ wants all people to be saved and come to the knowledge of truth (Opening Prayer, Mass for the Spread of the Gospel).

On a continent marked by competition and aggressiveness, unbridled consumerism and corruption, lay people are called to embody deeply evangelical values...(The Church in America, Pope John Paul II).

Synod Question: What is a parish, what is its purpose, what makes it viable and vibrant?

Synod Question: Given the difficulties the institution of marriage encounters in our society today, what is the best way that the Church of the Diocese of Crookston might work to strengthen Marriage?

Synod Question: Given the difficulties and challenges the family faces in our society today, what is the best way that the Church of the Diocese of Crookston might work to support and strengthen family life as it is experienced here?

Synod Question: Given the cultural diversity of the people of the Diocese of Crookston, how might we best be inclusive of all people and their traditions in our Church life together?

Synod Question: How might all people of this local church respond to the Lord's challenge to be good stewards; that is, people who receive God's gifts with gratitude, who responsibly cherish and tend them and share them with others in justice and love?

The Church – A Light to the Nations

The mission of the Church is to proclaim and establish among all peoples the Kingdom of Christ. Henceforth, the Church, endowed with the gifts of her founder and faithfully observing his precepts of charity, humility, and self-denial, receives the mission of proclaiming and establishing among all peoples the Kingdom of Christ and of God, and she is on earth the seed and the beginning of that kingdom (LG 5).

The church has the innate right and duty to preach the gospel to all nations (Canon 747).

The Church is an evangelizer, but she begins by evangelizing herself. The Church herself is in constant need of being evangelized, converted and renewed in order that she may evangelize the world with credibility...the Church's evangelizing activity cannot ignore those who have drifted away from religious practice (Evangelii Nuntiandi, 15, 56, Pope Paul VI),

Synod Question: How can all parishes and institutions of the Diocese of Crookston fully engage in the mission of evangelization?

Synod Question: How can we implement the Church's social teaching for social justice?

The Church – Sanctifier

The Church fulfills its office of sanctifying in a special way in the sacred liturgy, which is indeed the exercise of the priestly office of Jesus Christ (Canon 834). The Eucharist is the "source and summit" of the Christian life (LG11).

Sunday is the day on which the paschal mystery is celebrated in light of the apostolic tradition and is to be observed as the foremost holy day of obligation in the universal Church (Canon 1246).

A well-formed conscience makes judgments in conformity with the true good willed by the wisdom of the Creator (CCC, 1798).

Synod Question: How might we enhance our sacramental practice and liturgical celebrations, especially the Sunday Eucharist?

Synod Question: How might we best foster a proper understanding of right and wrong and a well-formed conscience in our people, as well as recognition of the need for the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the spiritual journey?

Synod Question: How might we best work to increase attendance at Sunday Eucharist?