



## Community Consultation Overview

### “What are our gifts?”

#### Overview

Gathering input early from the parish family faith community about how they view themselves is important. This will require intentional outreach, especially for underrepresented groups. To facilitate this, offer one or a combination of the following:

- A written/online survey
- A parish family-wide brainstorming discussion facilitated by the pastoral leader and the Parish Family Advisory Council
- A synodal listening session

#### Pros and cons of each approach

Based on the unique needs and realities of the community, consider the pros and cons of each approach:

Written/Online Survey	
Pros	Cons
Accessible for dispersed and isolated communities Allows asynchronous participation	Only those reviewing results hear the voice of the people No community aspect
Brainstorming Session(s)	
Pros	Cons
Community building Workable in a virtual meeting Less resource intensive than listening session	Not as prayerful as listening sessions No guarantee to hear from every participant Difficult for multilingual groups
Listening Session(s)	
Pros	Cons
Grounded in prayer and a shared sense of purpose Makes space for all voices to be heard Easy to adapt for multiple languages	Can be time and resource intensive Possible but difficult in virtual meetings Requires intentional outreach to those who don't participate in parish activities

Please note that, while surveys and brainstorming can be used for this consultative session (and to supplement later listening), listening sessions will be required for all forthcoming consultative sessions. These are the preferred mode of consultation.

## **Questions to Ask**

No matter which mode of consultation is being used, please provide the “What are our gifts?” prompts to the faith community in advance and ask everyone to prayerfully consider their responses.

1. How have your experiences in the parish (and your experience of the parish’s gifts and charisms) brought you closer to God? What has been the spiritual impact of your participation in our parish?
2. If you had to describe the main gifts or charisms of our parish to a newcomer in one sentence, what would you say? What stands out to you as something to be proud of about your parish?