



Community Listening Host Guide

“What are our gifts?”

Opening Prayer - 10 minutes

Begin with time for prayer and reflection, inviting the Holy Spirit to be part of this process.

Process Overview - 10 minutes

- Hosts will provide an overview of the listening process, explaining the rounds, how the listening works and how feedback will be recorded.
- Hosts will invite people to break into small groups, ensuring each group has a facilitator and a notetaker to capture the feedback and input.
- The facilitator in each group will guide the synodal listening model for this process.

There are three main rounds of listening.

- In the first round, each person will take an equal turn to share their thoughts. This round is approximately 20 minutes, so determine how much time each participant has by dividing 20 by the number of participants.
- There is no discussion or response in this round. All participants simply listen to what each person shares.
- Once everyone shares a period of silence follows for everyone to pay attention to how the Holy Spirit is moving within them and the group.
- Each person is invited to briefly share what stood out for them from the first round. This pattern is repeated with a second and third round of listening.

Questions We’re Asking - 10 minutes

The event host then provides an overview of the questions, why those questions are being asked, how the PFAC has been working and how the input from this session will guide future planning.

Small Group Listening and Discussion - ~60 minutes

Please be sure to make space for everyone to share their thoughts, while also keeping an eye on the time. To ensure time for all participants to speak, we recommend no more than eight participants per group. Start with very brief introductions, pose the first question, and then invite people to a few moments of silence before sharing begins.

Round One - 30 minutes

Each person shares once, with equal time for each participant - 20 minutes total

How have your experiences in our 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?

Round One Summing Up - 3-5 minutes total

Each person shares once - this could be one word or one sentence.

What did I hear? What is one theme that stood out from the listening?

Short Break - 5 minutes total

The facilitator should read the next prompt and ask people to reflect on and pray over it during the break. Inform them of the time that the next round of listening will begin.

Round Two - 35 minutes

Each person shares once, with equal time for each participant. - 20 minutes total

If you had to describe the main gifts and charisms of our parish to a newcomer in one sentence, what would you say? What is your favorite part about being a parishioner? What stands out to you as something to be proud of?

Round Two Summing Up - 3-5 minutes total

Each person shares once. This could be one word or one sentence.

What did I hear? What is one main theme that is staying with me from listening to what people shared?

Free Conversation in Small Groups - 10 minutes total

Facilitator opens by inviting any feedback that people would like to share.

Close - 10 minutes

Concluding Prayer - 10 minutes

Bring everyone back together in a large group. Conclude with prayer. Ensure notetakers turn in their physical or digital notes to a PFAC member before leaving.