



## PARTNERS IN THE GOSPEL

# How to Write a Synthesis and Sample

## “What are our gifts?”

### Intro/How to Write the Synthesis:

One synthesis report will be created to capture the input from the parish family listening session. This synthesis is intended to be brief - in general, no more than 250 words. Feel free to go longer if the feedback is complex for a given parish family.

Write one paragraph about each question discussed in the listening session. When there is wide divergence indicate which parish said what (but do *not* identifying the individual speaker). For example,

*“We should spend more time and effort on building out youth ministry” (St. Cyprian).*

*“I worry our homebound parishioners may be ignored if we only focus on youth and young adults” (St. Hilda).*

Make sure to use direct quotations where possible. Including a paragraph just sharing key quotes or other notes may be useful.

### Sample Synthesis

This synthesis reflects listening related to the initial sessions about the parish family configurations. As such, the content of this may be different, but the format and structure would be the same:

*When discussing issues in their area and how to respond, parishioners in our family expressed several concerns around the lack of language-based services that reflect the diverse communities they serve. This was especially true as it relates to day-to-day office support, with one parish noting the “danger that people will go to another (non-Catholic) church if they can’t find someone to answer their questions here.” There were also concerns about the general health and well-being of our priests, and the need to be careful about new ministries and expanding services not leading to more stress on a pastor.*

*Parishioners reported hopes around the potential for increased participation in outreach ministries that will come from having more members and more resources: “We can use other people’s talents if we can get them together. This is one way of getting different parishes together,” “Everyone has different capabilities and may be able to do some things we were unable to do before . . . Infusing more cultures and ideas together.” The biggest through-line of hope within all three parishes revolved around the ability to build more community than is possible in an isolated parish.*

*Additional notes and suggestions:*

- St. Zelig parishioners note that they have seen their young adult ministry become less popular over the years and recommended potentially ending or changing the ministry.*
- St. Cyprian parishioners specifically recommended starting a family-level foodbank at their site to serve as one part of the ministry to the poor in the area.*
- St. Hilda parishioners noted that they used to offer a phone tree ministry for the homebound but had to stop due to a lack of volunteers. Explicit hopes were expressed that the family could start up something similar moving forward.*