

# Delegate Questions about the Proposals

***Is it possible to get a demographic listing of those of us currently participating in this synod i.e. age, ethnicity, gender etc?***

This chart was included in the December 20, 2022 email to delegates:

## **Delegate Profiles**

As requested, here is the demographic breakdown of our 200 delegates:

<b><u>Ethnicity</u></b>		
Asian	45	23%
Caucasian	89	43%
Hispanic	59	30%
Other	7	4%
<b><u>Gender</u></b>		
Female	99	49.5%
Male	101	50.5%
<i>Delegates representing Youth &amp; Young Adult Ministry</i>	13	8%

### ***How are the youth getting involved in the synod?***

Engagement of the youth ranked so high on the comments received by the faithful that one of the eight themes is dedicated to engaging the youth and young adults. Due to Safe Environment requirements, we were unable to include youth at the General Assembly – however one of the proposals under consideration is to hold a Synod specifically for youth and young adults. In addition, we have 13 young and young adult ministers present at this general assembly and on the Pastoral Planning Commission.

### ***We need information about the financial impact or cost of these proposals. How will we fund the proposals we do want to see implemented?***

The funding of the proposals will be handled in the next phase of the process – the pastoral planning process. We are asking delegates to dream about what will have the greatest impact on the spiritual and structural renewal of the diocese without thinking of constraints.

### ***What exactly are you asking us delegates to do regarding these proposals? Will we be asked to prioritize them?***

In the letter in the proposal packet (pages 3-4), – we outlined what we are asking delegates to do regarding the proposals – pray, make and take time to review, seek first to understand the proposals, ask questions, and discern the greater good. At the assembly, you will bring your personal discernment of the proposal to discussions with fellow delegates and participate in a consensus voting process as outlined on page 5 of the proposal packet. The prioritization will come from that voting process.

***Regarding Proposal 1FD8, are there any statistics on what percentage of the Diocese is regularly going to Reconciliation?***

No, we do not have any statistics on this, only anecdotal information.

***Regarding Proposal EWE8: Why recreate the wheel on houseless efforts. There are incredible organizations and individuals already actively supporting this effort. Hopefully this means that we will help motivate individuals (through carrying out their faith) to participate in the many existing efforts.***

In the consultation session, the faithful expressed the desire for the Diocese/the Church to be more actively engaged in working with local organizations working in this area.

***Regarding Proposal EWE #8: More of a background question, what are the reasons why the homeless window has not re-opened at the Cathedral Basilica of San Jose? (walked by at the Synod Opening Mass and it's all boarded up)***

Services at the Cathedral were moved to Catholic Charities Multi Service Center across from MLK Library for ease of access. The services have been provided throughout the pandemic. They were never stopped.

***Feelings can have bias and overly influence people's vote. How do we keep the bias off the voting to ensure the Holy Spirit is heard?***

This is why there is minimal opportunity to influence or argue about the proposals. We want people to understand but ultimately, prayerfully make up their own minds about the proposals. The group facilitators will be monitoring the delegate tables to ensure no one person is trying to exert undue influence on the group.

***As delegates we were asked to carefully review and pray over all the 90+ proposals provided, and work to eliminate bias. But what about those embedded in some proposals? Some of the proposals or proposals contexts need to be amended to more closely reflect the words and actions of Our Savior during his earthly ministry.***

The proposals were written based on the nearly 7500 comments and recommendations received from the faithful. After prioritization at the general assembly, the planning commission will work on the pastoral plan with an eye to ensuring the language is pastoral.

***Are any of the proposals current initiatives that are already being resourced and driven diocesan wide? Do we have any data on which programs are working and successful that we should continue, expand on, or perhaps stop doing?***

No, the proposals are not being resourced and driven diocesan wide. Some proposals are being done at a smaller parish or school scale. Where possible, we will seek to understand and leverage any successful experiences diocese-wide.

***What if my small group surfaces something that is not covered by the proposals?***

The proposals were distilled from nearly 7500 comments and recommendations from the faithful across the diocese.

***Is it okay to discuss proposals with our parish?***

Delegates can speak with their pastors who have also received a copy of the proposals about the specifics of the proposals. Because most parishioners do not have the background at this time that the delegates have been given, the details of the proposals could cause confusion and hinder the renewal process. We will be sharing ideas for how delegates can share with their communities their experience of the assembly weekend.

***Does the Bishop Cantú commit to following the recommendation of the General Assembly?***

Bishop Cantú is committed to listening to the faithful through the synodal process. Once the prioritization at the general assembly is complete, he will review the prioritizations and direct the Pastoral Planning Commission to use the identified priorities to build the pastoral plan.

***Define Diocesan Renewal. What is the overarching vision as to where we are going?***

Bishop Cantu has consciously chosen not to formally develop and include a vision for the Diocese at this time. He first wanted to listen to and carefully discern such a vision from the input of the faithful. Such input has been and continues to be gathered from: the Universal Synod process; our nearly 100 consultation sessions and more than 4,000 general survey responses; and, lastly, from the upcoming General Assembly. Armed with such feedback, the Bishop, working with the Pastoral Planning commission, will develop the more formal Diocesan mission, vision, values and goals and objectives as integral building blocks for the Pastoral Plan. In the meantime, the eight Synod themes that emerged from all the feedback received to date, serve as preliminary guideposts for our future vision.