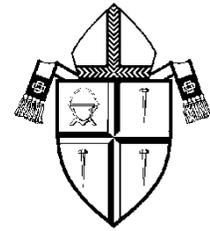


**CWG III: The Challenge to Welcome,
Nurture, and Form Children**

Summary of Proposals/Details

September 17, 2016



This CWG had four questions to focus on and the 30 in attendance were divided into four tables, each table being assigned one question.

The questions addressed are:

1. How can the Church in the Diocese of San Diego more effectively communicate to our people the balanced sense of parenting expressed in *The Joy of Love*, while also helping parents to turn that balance into reality?
2. What are the principal cultural distortions which limit healthy parenting in Imperial and San Diego Counties?
3. Specifically, how can we as a Church more effectively empower our parents as first teachers in the ways of faith, hope and love?
4. How can the Church better support families in the absence of extended family?

There were three discussion periods, each followed by general feedback from all delegates on the work of each of the four table's presentations. Feedback explored affirmation for what was presented, comments for fine-tuning and recommendations. In some cases other proposals were suggested to be explored by the table. During the last session delegates had time to reflect on the proposals and to prioritize them based on where their passion was and delegates had three preferences, 1-3 with one being the greatest. The below proposals are listed by priority of the working group. All proposals received priority and will remain for consideration by the Synod General Assembly. Actually, the top four priorities each were related to one of the four questions.

Part of question two was addressing principal **cultural distortions/societal challenges** affecting family life today. Below are some of the challenges which were addressed:

- Contemporary realities of family life today
 - ✓ New norm of both parents working
 - ✓ Mixed marriages
 - ✓ Different value systems
 - ✓ Single parent homes
- Family life distractions
 - ✓ Overuse of social media as new norm
 - ✓ Role of parents
 - ✓ "Do" vs "Say"
- New Addictions
 - ✓ Chemical dependencies
 - ✓ Social media
 - ✓ Internet

Seven Proposals for Consideration:

III-A: (15) Strategize on incentive parental involvement in parishes (Q.2) (6#1, 6#3, 3#3=15 out of 30)

- Create diocesan plan that will assist parishes in developing strategies for family based catechesis.
- Consider the following needs:
 - ✓ Diversity of familial situations
 - ✓ Geographic and demographic data
 - ✓ Engage fathers
 - ✓ Emphasize varying stages of parenting
 - ✓ Build on common interests
 - ✓ Use social media as a portal for engagement and evangelization

III-B: (14) Provide tools, resources and experiences supporting parents to evangelize and educate their children in faith, hope and love. (Q.3) (7#1, 3#2, 4#3=14 out of 30)

- Survey desires and needs of parents.
- Increase collaboration between diocese and parish in identifying appropriate resources for parish use.
- Provide regular opportunities/experiences for developing skills for parents to become primary conveyors of the faith to their children.

III-C: (13) Create small groups of approximately four families at the parish level in order to cultivate relationships of faith and balance among Catholic families. (Q.1) (3#1, 4#2, 6#3=13 out of 30)

III-D: (13) Embrace those who are alone, isolated and on the margins. (Q.4) (5#1, 7#2, 1#3=13 out of 30)

- Examples of constituencies
 - ✓ Military realities which impact mobility, brevity of time in parish and one parent bringing child/children when one spouse is on deployment
 - ✓ Immigrants and refugees
 - ✓ Complexities with different stages in life such as divorced, widowed and single parent.
 - ✓ Social justice concerns in witnessing to those on the margins of society in a parish

III-E: (9) Direct more funding to CYO/Office of Youth Ministry in order to create social programming for Catholic youth at the deanery level. (Q.1) (3#1, 1#2, 5#3=9 out of 30)

III-F: (5) Develop a social media presence with and for youth in order to promote parish and diocesan youth ministries. (Q.1) (0#1, 2#2, 3#3=5 out of 30)

- Create a new brand and a diocesan template for use in the parishes

III-G: (2) Reach out by informing, introducing, inviting, identifying, connecting, creating communities, gathering small groups and experiential faith formation. (Q.4) (0#1, 0#2, 2#3=2 out of 30)

- Inform/Introduce various initiatives of the parishes/diocese through:
 - ✓ Facebook
 - ✓ Internet

- ✓ Bulletin
- ✓ Institutes and Ministry fairs
- Identify/Invite new families in parishes
 - ✓ Priest intros/meet and greet
 - ✓ Families welcoming families at mass
 - ✓ Find out talents and capabilities of new parishioners through a more user friendly new parishioner form
 - ✓ Welcome and celebrate varying ethnic cultures in the parish and diocese
- Connect different constituencies to break down isolation
 - ✓ Parish directory of parishioners and services
 - ✓ Spiritual materials for varying constituencies
- Create and gather small communities to strengthen the bond of the community-at-large.
- Use Faith Formation Institute more to provide ongoing education on Sacred Scripture, RCIA, sacraments, and prayer.