

**Diocese of Springfield in Illinois
2017 Synod
Questionnaire Summary**

The Synod Questionnaire began on January 23, 2017 and ended May 2, 2017.
The following is a sampling of answers taken from less than 1000 surveys.

1. Describe your relationship with Jesus Christ?

What does it look like?

The majority offered positive sharing. They were descriptive of their relationship with Jesus calling Him:

Brother

Friend

Savior

Redeemer

Living

Active

He's walking with me

How did it come about?

I "Learned" about Jesus being raised Catholic and attending Catholic School

Gradual conversion through healing, spiritual readings and study

Through friendships with others who share similar relationships with Christ

Through the Ups and downs of life

Losses such as family, loved one(s), job and home

Some said they did not have a personal relationship with Jesus

How can you start/deepen your relationship?

A large Majority said - through prayer and scripture

By listening to His voice

Overcoming the fear of what Jesus may ask me to do

2. When Jesus asks:

Who do you say that I am?

- Savior
- Lord,
- Hope
- Son of God
- Mentor
- The Way, the Truth and the Life

Do you Love me more than these? Things that get in the way. . .

- Family
- Work
- Food
- Vices
- Pride
- Electronic devices

What do you want me to do for you?

- Help me to appreciate YOU more
- Open my eyes
- Come closer
- Give me Guidance
- Help me accept my limits
- Prevent me from turning away

3. Is He the one or are you looking for someone else?

- He is the One
- Some included that they have searched and looked in wrong places . . . but they were looking for Jesus.

4. "Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ." What does this quote say to you?

- Read more scripture
- Study more scripture
- Pray with scripture

5. How do/can the sacraments help you in your relationship with Jesus Christ?

- Eucharist and Reconciliation were mentioned the most frequently
- Receiving the grace from these sacraments

6. Is your heart grateful?

- I thank Him constantly
- It is Not what it should be
- I need to think about gratitude more
- We feel joyful when we are grateful

7. What does stewardship mean to you?

- Time, talent and treasure
- Giving back
- Somebody wants money
- Serving the Kingdom of God
- Letting go of me and being Christ to others

8. What else do you want us to know about your relationship with Jesus Christ?

- Keep it simple.
- I need to sift through a lot to know about Christ.
- I need to come closer to Jesus.
- Our relationship is a work in progress.
- The more information about Jesus, the Church, theology and scripture - the stronger the relationship.

- I need help to understand what a relationship with Jesus is; I need a plan.
- I am a convert; I love the faith, but I cry out for leadership and bible studies.
- My faith is not growing fast enough.
- I need to attend daily Mass and retreats.
- Help parents to do what is right and set an example for their children.
- Some feel religion is personal.
- The desire to learn more about my faith through paramount authors and speakers.
- Lord, what do you want me to do today?
- I am a former evangelical Christian. Some Catholics feel that a relationship with Jesus is protestant; therefore I don't need a relationship with Jesus?
- Why are we concentrating on Jesus Christ? I also have a relationship with the Holy Spirit and with the Father.
- Return to the proper influence of fatherhood from the Pope through to the head of the family . . . traditional structure.
- We need more preaching of hell and fear.
- No clue to what takes place during the liturgy by some people.
- Why don't we have new homilies?
- People want to be "touchy-feely." Our Father is Lord of all; so the "father" corrects his children.
- Clergy should direct what is right and what is wrong.
- Mary is an influence.
- I am inspired by the example of others