

**SYNOD TOPIC A: PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST**  
**Catechesis and Evangelization; Catholic Education and Organizations**

**RESOLUTION A-1: Reaffirmation of Resolutions of the First Synod Concerning  
Christian Formation**

**WHEREAS** a number of resolutions concerning Christian formation were adopted by the First Synod of the Diocese of Juneau, which met in September 2000, and were subsequently approved by Bishop Michael Warfel; and

**WHEREAS** these resolutions continue to be useful and relevant to the life of the Diocese of Juneau and the implementation of the New Evangelization; now therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Second Synod of the Diocese of Juneau that the following resolutions adopted by the First Synod of the Diocese and approved by Bishop Michael Warfel be reaffirmed with the incorporation of certain changes:

1. That the Diocese of Juneau ensure that every community have well-trained and formed catechists to provide consistent, high quality religious education. Opportunities for training will be made available and certification will be encouraged.
2. That the Diocese of Juneau promote knowledge and faithful understanding of Scripture and Catholic Tradition within the Diocese.
3. That the Diocese of Juneau, its Parishes, its Missions, and its offices, review and recommend appropriate resources, resource persons, curricula, methodologies, materials, programs, and training opportunities for catechesis and sacramental preparation in the Diocese.
4. That the Diocese of Juneau study and apply to catechesis, catechist formation, and sacramental preparation the principles of inculturation, meaning the expression of Church

teaching in ways that are readily understandable by people of diverse cultures, as outlined in authoritative documents of the Church at the universal and national levels.

5. That the Diocese of Juneau provide cross cultural training for pastors, pastoral ministers, catechists, and the faithful to experience and learn from the indigenous people of Southeast Alaska (Tlingit, Haida, Tsimshian) and other ethnic groups of the Diocese in order to better appreciate, respect, and serve their unique cultures.

6. That Catholic education be fostered throughout the Diocese through ongoing support of all Catholic schools.

7. That in all education efforts, Catholic students should be encouraged and helped to develop a strong sense of their identity as Catholic Christians, with special emphasis on the sacramental life of the Church. The religious education and sacramental preparation of children should be viewed as an opportunity to evangelize their parents, especially if they are inactive Catholics or unchurched.

**RESOLUTION A-2: Safe Environment and the Protection of Children, Young People, and Vulnerable Adults**

**WHEREAS** the First Synod of the Diocese of Juneau, which met in September 2000, adopted a resolution requiring a screening process for all catechists and other volunteers working with children, youth, young adults, and vulnerable adults; and also requiring that every community adhere to the Diocesan Sexual Misconduct Policy for its catechists, employees, and volunteers; which resolution was subsequently approved by Bishop Michael Warfel; and

**WHEREAS** the sad experience of the Catholic Church in the years since the First Synod has required the adoption of more comprehensive and stringent policies in order to ensure a safe

environment and the protection of children, young people, and vulnerable adults in all Church activities; now therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Second Synod of the Diocese of Juneau:

1. That all activities of the Diocese and its parishes, missions, and other associated entities be carried out in strict accordance with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People and its implementing Norms, as amended from time to time.
2. That the current regulations and procedures of the Diocese for safe environment and the protection of children, young people, and vulnerable adults be reviewed and, if necessary, revised to ensure that their purposes, and those of the Charter and the Norms, are implemented to the fullest extent possible.
3. That the reporting and audit requirements to ensure compliance with the Charter, the Norms, and the regulations and procedures of the Diocese for safe environment and the protection of children, young people, and vulnerable adults be carefully adhered to by all ministers of the Diocese, and strengthened to the extent necessary to more fully achieve their purposes.
4. That in the recruitment and formation of all priests, religious, deacons, catechists, and other ministers for service in the Diocese, careful screening processes and background investigations be conducted to ensure the exclusion from ministry of any person who is likely to detract from a safe environment or the protection of children, young people, and vulnerable adults in Church activities.

**RESOLUTION A-3: Adoption of Uniform Religious Education Curricula for Children and Young People Throughout the Diocese**

**WHEREAS** it is necessary to ensure the high quality and adherence to Church teaching of religious education throughout the Diocese at the elementary, middle, and high school levels; and

**WHEREAS** a considerable number of the children and young people of the Diocese either change their residence on travel temporarily to communities in the Diocese other than those in which they currently live; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED** by the Second Synod of the Diocese of Juneau:

1. That religious education standards at the elementary, middle, and high school levels be adopted by the Diocese and that these standards be the basis of all religious education in all parishes and missions of the Diocese.
2. That these curricula be chosen and implemented with a view to the promotion among children and young people of the New Evangelization and the development by each of them of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

**RESOLUTION A-4: Opportunities for Adult Religious Education**

**WHEREAS** each Catholic Christian requires the opportunities and resources to continue to enrich his or her faith throughout life and to implement the New Evangelization and to develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ; and

**WHEREAS** such opportunities and resources have been relatively lacking in the Diocese of Juneau; and

**WHEREAS** this lack of adult catechetical opportunities and resources has been especially notable in the area of formation and support of married couples in living out their vocation in accordance with the teachings of the Catholic Church; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED** by the Second Synod of the Diocese of Juneau:

1. That the Diocese as a whole, and each parish and mission in the Diocese, shall explore and provide opportunities and resources for adult catechesis with a view to wider and richer participation by all Catholics of the Diocese in the New Evangelization and the development by each of them of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
2. That distance learning methods and electronic communication among communities be actively used in providing adult catechetical opportunities.
3. That parents in each parish and mission of the Diocese be informed of their role as the primary educators of their children in the Catholic Faith, and of their obligation to acquire the knowledge and means of spiritual growth necessary to carry out that role.
4. That, where practicable, parishes and missions establish religious study groups of adults to promote their knowledge of the Faith and their spiritual growth in accordance with the New Evangelization; and that they provide the resources necessary to sustain these groups.
5. That, in the planning and implementation of adult catechesis, particular attention be paid to the formation and support of married couples in living out their vocation. For engaged and married couples during their child-bearing years, programs of training explaining the magisterial teaching of the Church on marriage and Natural Family Planning shall be provided and promoted.

6. In connection with adult catechesis efforts, materials should be provided to assist Catholics to respond readily to challenges to their faith and to misconceptions about the Catholic Church and Faith that are commonly propounded in the course of religious discussions.

7. That the Diocese of Juneau develop methods to encourage Catholics at colleges and universities, especially Catholic colleges and universities.

**RESOLUTION A-5: Outreach to Inactive and Alienated Catholics and to Catholics in Canonically Irregular Marriage Situations**

**WHEREAS** a very large number of baptized Catholics living in Southeast Alaska are no longer active in the practice of their faith, some having been alienated from the Catholic Church by previous events in their lives, including abuse by ministers of the Church, or by their disagreement with particular teachings or practices of the Church; and

**WHEREAS** a very large number of baptized Catholics living in Southeast Alaska, both active and inactive in the practice of their faith, as well as persons hoping to become members of the Catholic Church, are prevented from sharing fully in the life of the Catholic Church because they are parties to marriage situations that are irregular under the teachings and laws of the Church; and

**WHEREAS** the vision of the New Evangelization calls for concerted outreach by the Catholic Church to these Catholics and prospective Catholics; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED** by the Second Synod of the Diocese of Juneau:

1. That the Diocese and each parish and mission shall plan and implement activities of outreach and welcome to inactive and alienated Catholics and to persons in canonically irregular marriage situations.

2. That, to initiate this effort, the Tribunal of the Diocese support and follow up on activities directed toward Catholics and prospective Catholics in canonically irregular marriage situations, in order to encourage and assist them to turn to the Tribunal for resolution of the irregularities.
3. That these activities of outreach and welcome, while supporting and explaining the true significance of the teachings and practices of the Catholic Faith, be carried out in a spirit of friendliness, hospitality, humility, and respect.
4. That these activities of outreach and welcome rely as much as possible on individual, personal contact with ministers and volunteers of the Catholic Church in locations and environments chosen to be attractive and comfortable for those toward whom the activities are directed.
5. That special concern be expressed and support and assistance provided to Catholics whose alienation from the Catholic Church has a basis in their abuse by ministers of the Church at any time in their lives. This shall be offered in consultation and cooperation with the Safe Environment and Victim Assistance Coordinator of the Diocese.

**RESOLUTION A-6: Ministry to Members of the Armed Forces and Their Families**

**WHEREAS** many Catholic members of the Armed Forces, especially the United States Coast Guard and the Alaska Army National Guard, are stationed in Southeast Alaska; and

**WHEREAS** many of these Catholic members of the Armed Forces are young single people, while others are married and accompanied by members of their families; and

**WHEREAS** the conditions of life and service in the Armed Forces raise special challenges for these Catholics in living out their faith; and

**WHEREAS** there are currently no Catholic military chaplains assigned to Southeast Alaska to assist these Catholics with these special challenges, except one priest of the Diocese who is an Air Force reservist; and

**WHEREAS** these Catholic members of the Armed Forces and their families rely upon the parishes and missions of the Diocese of Juneau for pastoral care; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED** by the Second Synod of the Diocese of Juneau:

1. That the clergy of the Diocese of Juneau make concerted efforts to identify the Catholic members of the Armed Forces and their families who reside in their respective communities.
2. That the clergy of the Diocese establish contact and, if possible, working relationships with the military chaplains assigned to Southeast Alaska, to facilitate pastoral care to Catholic members of the Armed Forces and their families.
3. That pastoral care programs directed toward young single people and inactive Catholics take account of the presence of any single Catholic members of the Armed Forces who might be stationed in a particular community, but who might not yet be actively living out their faith.
4. That religious education and sacramental preparation programs take account of the fact that children of members of the Armed Forces move frequently, and that this might require accommodations in the requirements applicable to their participation in those programs.
5. That training and formation opportunities, including those offered by the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, be made available to priests, religious, deacons, catechists, and others who minister regularly to members of the Armed Forces and their families.
6. That in each parish and mission, families be encouraged to inform the priests and other ministers of members of the Armed Forces who have moved into the community, and members



of the parish or mission who are serving in the Armed Forces, especially those in particularly challenging situations, so that prayers and support may be offered for them and their loved ones.

**RESOLUTION A-7: Adoption of a New Diocesan Mission Statement and Prayer**

**WHEREAS** the current Mission Statement and Prayer of the Diocese of Juneau was adopted more than ten years ago during the implementation of the resolutions of the First Synod of the Diocese of Juneau; and

**WHEREAS** the lived experience of the Church and the development of the insights of the New Evangelization in the intervening years suggest the advisability of changes in the current Mission Statement and Prayer; and

**WHEREAS** the results of this Second Synod of the Diocese, as ultimately approved by the Diocesan Bishop, may suggest further such changes; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED** by the Second Synod of the Diocese of Juneau:

1. That the Bishop of Juneau be requested, in consultation with the clergy and other ministers of the Diocese, to review the current Mission Statement and Prayer of the Diocese of Juneau with a view to possible revisions.
2. That, in any revision of the current Mission Statement and Prayer, or the adoption of a replacement, the important role of the New Evangelization at this point in the Church's history be recognized, and reference be made, if appropriate, to the results of this Second Synod as ultimately approved by the Bishop.
3. That the salvation of souls and the eternal salvific aspect of the Church's mission be specifically mentioned as primary in any revision or replacement of the current Mission Statement and Prayer.

4. That, if the Bishop of Juneau considers it advisable, the current combined Mission Statement and Prayer be divided into a separate Mission Statement and a separate Prayer in any revision or replacement of the current document.

**RESOLUTION A-8: The New Evangelization as a Foundational Reference Point for the Life of the Church**

**WHEREAS** the need for a New Evangelization as a foundational aspect of the life of the Catholic Church at all levels at this time in history has been emphasized repeatedly by Blessed John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI, and Pope Francis; and

**WHEREAS** the incorporation of the insights of the New Evangelization into the life of the Catholic Church in Southeast Alaska will require that it be given special prominence in liturgical, catechetical, and pastoral efforts; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED** by the Second Synod of the Diocese of Juneau:

1. That the New Evangelization, that is, the Church's mission

- to awaken or reawaken personal faith in Jesus Christ;
- to actively seek out those who do not yet know Jesus;
- to proclaim the Good News of Salvation; and
- to form and equip disciples for mission,

be a foundational reference point for

- diocesan, parish, and mission programs of catechesis, religious education, and Catholic school education;
- the sacramental life of the Diocese, parishes, and missions, including all aspects of Christian Initiation; and

- the liturgical preparation of priests, deacons, liturgical ministers, pastoral musicians, and assemblies for the celebration of the Eucharist.

2. That the insights of the New Evangelization be incorporated in all pastoral plans prepared by the Diocese, parishes, and missions.
3. That organizations and movements fostering the New Evangelization, such as the Knights of Columbus and ACTS, be promoted and encouraged in the parishes and missions of the Diocese.