

SYNOD TOPIC C: THE FUTURE OF OUR CHURCH
Youth, Families, Vocations, Marriage, Pastoral Planning

RESOLUTION C-1: Reaffirmation of Resolutions of the First Synod Concerning Youth and Families

WHEREAS a number of resolutions concerning Youth and Families 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:

1. That the Diocese of Juneau set as a priority in each parish and community the process of outreach to our youth and young adults by a) maintaining the Diocesan level position of Youth Coordinator, and b) initiating programs and offering leadership and resources that support and foster spiritual growth and knowledge of faith to teens and young adults in the work fields and college campuses—including tools to defend and explain our faith.
2. Recognizing the diverse needs and locations of families and/or individuals, that religious formation materials be available, promoted and disseminated to foster discussion, faith sharing and education in the home setting.
3. That the parishes of this Diocese establish a program to welcome and minister to visiting Catholic Youth during the school year, particularly to offer Mass in instances where it will otherwise be missed due to travel.

RESOLUTION C-2: Our Youth and Young adults - maintaining a connection to our Church throughout Southeast Alaska

WHEREAS resolutions adopted by the First Synod of the Diocese will be reaffirmed (See Resolution C-1), it is recognized that additional needs exist to address the disproportionately low number of young adult parishioners (ages 18 – 35) actively participating in our parishes; and

WHEREAS this decline represents a loss of personal faith as well as a loss to the catholic community as a whole; now therefore be it

RESOLVED by the Second Synod of the Diocese of Juneau that the ongoing strengthening of our school age youth ministries and a renewal and recommitment to our young adult ministries be of paramount importance to the Diocese such that every parish and mission in the Diocese is called to develop relevant and inviting programs to ensure that their young church is receiving adequate catechesis to encourage this group to continue to grow in their faith. Some additional needs not previously proposed in the First Synod include the following:

1. That an annual evaluation be conducted of the current structure of the youth ministries in each parish and mission.
2. That a commitment be made of diocesan funds and resources for all parishes and missions to move these ministries forward.
3. That a call be made in every parish and mission for multigenerational prayer and practical support of our youth ministers and youth groups.
4. That every parish of the Diocese sponsor at least one representative each year to the diocesan youth retreat and Alaska Catholic Youth Conference.

5. That the parish of St. Gregory in Sitka be supported by the Diocese to bring youth programs, including sacramental preparation, to the students of Mt. Edgecumbe who come from all the villages in Alaska.
6. That youth ministers be provided formal training in youth-oriented charismatic leadership styles as well as workshops for motivational programs to facilitate recruitment and retention of our youth.
7. That the task of teaching and sharing our faith is never complete.
8. That the Diocese, priests, parishes, missions, and ministers of our youth encourage and support the participation of our youth in events outside of Alaska, such as World Youth Day, Steubenville Northwest, and the National Catholic Youth Conference.
9. That the Diocese of Juneau recognize the need to support young adults (ages 18-35) in their faith by fostering community among young adults in our Diocese. This support could take the form of young adult retreats, mission opportunities both within and without the Diocese, or other activities.
10. That the Diocese of Juneau encourage and support the establishment of Newman Centers or other forms of campus ministry in communities throughout Southeast Alaska in which colleges and universities are located.

RESOLUTION C-3: Encouraging the development of the Catholic Family of Southeast Alaska

WHEREAS the Diocese of Juneau is comprised of many communities separated by physical barriers of water, mountains and ice; and

WHEREAS we recognize the value of personal contact and interaction in strengthening our faith; now therefore be it

RESOLVED by the Second Synod of the Diocese of Juneau that the Diocese support the development and sponsoring of events designed to promote interaction and unity among the people of all ages of the parishes and missions, and outside the Church, to be held throughout Southeast Alaska on an annual basis.

RESOLUTION C-4: Reaffirmation of Resolutions of the First Synod Concerning Vocations and Marriage

WHEREAS a number of resolutions concerning Vocations and Marriage 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 incorporated changes:

1. That the Diocese of Juneau will support members of the community meeting the challenges of strengthening marriages, as well as single persons in celebrating their faith;
2. That the Diocese of Juneau, in the spirit of the early church, develop programs both on diocesan and local levels, that invite people of the community to consider vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, religious life, and lay ministries;
3. That a strong awareness of the vocation that each member of the Church has received from God be consistently fostered. All vocations and ministries should be addressed, especially in

preaching and in the education of young people. The Church at the diocesan and local levels should offer information and teaching on vocations, assistance in discerning and preparing for them, and constant support to those who live them out.

RESOLUTION C-5: Vocations for Single Parents and the Divorced

WHEREAS the diocese of Juneau is represented by many adult members that are both single and divorced; and

WHEREAS the need for support by all members of the faithful is critical to the spiritual life of the individual and families who are single or divorced; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Second Synod of the Diocese of Juneau to provide and make available information on church teachings regarding divorce and remarriage within the Catholic faith, as well as develop single parent and divorce support groups, as needed.

RESOLUTION C-6: Defense of the True Meaning of Marriage

WHEREAS the institution of marriage as the lifelong union of one man and one woman, for their mutual support and open to the procreation of children, is defined by the natural law; and

WHEREAS in recent years a number of political, legal, and social trends have led to the support of alternative concepts of marriage that contravene its natural law definition; and

WHEREAS the propagation of these false alternative concepts has led to great confusion on the part of many people, including Catholics, concerning the true meaning of marriage; now therefore be it

RESOLVED by the Second Synod of the Diocese of Juneau, that the Diocese of Juneau and its parishes and missions continue to proclaim and teach the true natural law definition of marriage as the lifelong union of one man and one woman for their mutual support and open to the procreation of children. In this proclamation and teaching, the current political, legal, and social trends denying the lifelong nature of marriage, its necessary openness to the procreation of children, and its existence between no more than two persons, one man and one woman, should be addressed consistently and clearly, and always in a manner that is both charitable and respectful of those holding or practicing alternative views.

RESOLUTION C-7: Marriage Preparation and Family Planning

WHEREAS the Sacrament of Marriage includes a preparation of couples with teachings of the Catholic Church related to marriage, family planning and the catholic family; and

WHEREAS some parish programs, curricula and opportunities are stronger than others; now therefore be it

RESOLVED by the Second Synod of the Diocese of Juneau to provide, as well as assist, individual parishes with specific means for enriching the union between those called to, as well as those considering, the vocation of marriage by developing the following:

1. A standard curriculum of requirements for all parishes to implement for marriage preparation, family planning and the catholic family, to include:
 - a. Theology of the Body;

- b. The Sacrament of Marriage as a mirror of God’s relationship with the Church, the heavenly wedding feast, and the Mass;
 - c. The Church’s teaching on Natural Family Planning;
 - d. List of pertinent resources on topics of marriage, family planning and catholic family life; and
2. Provide other opportunities for personal interaction on topics relevant to the vocation of marriage and families through the use of Diocese-sponsored marriage retreats, periodic Engaged Encounter and Retrouvaille retreats, social events, seminars, speakers and other venues, as well as counseling programs in communication skills, including conflict resolution; and.
 3. To provide age appropriate fertility awareness and Natural Family Planning resources to catechists, youth ministers, and single, engaged, and married persons.
 4. To provide annual teaching in each parish and mission on *Humanae Vitae*.

RESOLUTION C-8: Fostering Vocations to the Priesthood and Consecrated Life

WHEREAS the fostering of vocations to priesthood and consecrated ways of life among both young people and mature adults is essential for the future of the Catholic Church of our Diocese; and

WHEREAS that the life and prayers of priests, monks and nuns are key to world peace through continuing Perpetual Adoration; and

WHEREAS it is reported that those parishes with active Perpetual Adoration acquire more vocations to the priesthood; now therefore be it

RESOLVED by the Second Synod of the Diocese of Juneau:

1. That the Bishop, priests, and religious of the Diocese of Juneau plan and implement a program to attract men to serve as priests and deacons in the Diocese and to assist men and women in discerning possible vocations to the consecrated life. It would be best if this program were carried out by a priest serving as priestly and religious vocation director for the Diocese, assisted by a staff person.
2. That Eucharistic Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament in the monstrance be encouraged in the parishes and missions of the Diocese as a means of fostering vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life.
3. That there be an annual diocesan retreat for young adult men and women to discern priestly and religious vocations.

RESOLUTION C-9: Reaffirmation of Resolutions of the First Synod Concerning Pastoral Planning

WHEREAS a number of resolutions concerning Pastoral Planning 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, with incorporated changes, continue to be useful and relevant as guiding principles for 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:

1. That a Diocesan Pastoral Plan, and pastoral plans for each parish and mission, be developed and adopted by the Diocesan Bishop and the pastors and administrators of local communities, in consultation with all members of the faithful. These plans should place special emphasis on evangelization, in accordance with Bishop Burn's Pastoral Letter, *Rediscover the Journey and Joy of Encountering Christ*. Evangelization efforts should focus upon the many inactive Catholics in our communities, including those who are in canonically irregular marriage situations and those who have been unable to accept certain teachings of the Church; upon those who are unchurched, lacking any regular religious faith and practice; and upon the thousands of Catholics who temporarily come to the diocese each summer as crew members and passengers on cruise ships and in connection with other aspects of tourism and seasonal workers. In all evangelization efforts, great respect should be shown for other Christian Churches and Ecclesial Communities and for other religions, but there should be no ambiguity about our belief that God offers the means of salvation with unique fullness through the Catholic Church; and
2. That the Diocesan Plan contain specific goals, objectives and recommendations on priorities for actions and evaluation for faith formation, for use throughout the diocese

RESOLUTION C-10: Diocesan and Parish Pastoral Councils

WHEREAS the Bishop, who is the visible source and foundation of unity and its sole representative as Shepherd of the Diocese of Juneau; and

WHEREAS implementation of the synodal resolutions will be through the declarations and decrees by the Bishop of the Diocese of Juneau to the parish priests; and

WHEREAS the need for wise collaborators with the Bishop and parish priests as chosen instruments to assist in their call to serve the People of God by implementation of the resolutions is of interest to the whole Catholic Community within the Diocese of Juneau; now therefore be it

RESOLVED by the Second Synod of the Diocese of Juneau to establish permanent Diocesan and Parish Pastoral Councils to serve as advisory to the Bishop and parish priests on matters of the diocese, parishes and missions, including the implementation and prioritization of synodal resolutions. In accordance with canon law, the Diocesan Council should be comprised of people from the parishes and missions throughout the Diocese of Juneau and should meet as needed to discuss matters concerning the entire Diocese. The Parish Pastoral Councils should be comprised of people from parishes and missions representing the demographics and ethnic groups of the parish, and shall also meet at least four times a year to discuss local matters in the context of the larger diocesan pastoral priorities as well as the unique issues of each parish, and to develop a parish pastoral plan for the approval of the pastor.

RESOLUTION C-11: Appointment of Representatives to Follow up on Synod Resolutions

WHEREAS the outcome of both the first and second Synods will produce a number of resolutions for the purpose of assisting the Bishop in the exercise of the office proper to him, namely, that of governing the Catholic community; and

WHEREAS the implementation of the resolutions is of interest to the whole Catholic Community within the Diocese of Juneau; now therefore be it

RESOLVED by the Second Synod of the Diocese of Juneau:

1. That the Bishop of Juneau appoint representatives from each parish and mission, as well as any at-large representatives, of which at least 20-25% will have been members of this 2013 Synod, to review the resolutions adopted at this 2013 Synod once every 2 to 5 years to follow up on how the resolutions are being addressed.
2. That this effort take place in full disclosure to the Diocese through a telecommunications process.
3. That the outcome shall assist the Bishop and pastors to develop priorities in the form of action plans which will help not only the clergy, but parishioners in working toward the goals of the Diocese.
4. That the Bishop consider calling a new Synod in not less than ten years.