



Parish Conversation with Young People

Facilitating Group Discussion

Below are a few pointers for prompting conversations with young people in the parish:

- Highlight potential leaders who can communicate with young people to help facilitate the meeting (youth worker, catechist, teacher etc.)
- Meet to plan the session (e.g. appropriate date, time & venue, catering, format)
- Decide on a focus age group (suggested 14+)
- Canvas the opinion and involve young people you already know in the parish: they will be your best link with others
- Send invites out/put a notice in the newsletter (download the template at www.scys.org.uk/synod)
- It is important that you use the time to get to know the young people by listening & accompanying them – don't turn it into a catechetical session
- The process must work for your parish: you may have groups already meeting that you can use for this gathering or link to an event
- Be aware of Diocesan Safeguarding policy and procedures
- You may want to incorporate the session into a meal/take away

Suggested timings/structure:

- Refreshments
 - Allow time for this to ensure everyone feels at ease before a formal welcome
- Welcome and introductions
 - Ensure everyone is introduced
- Explain briefly about the Synod taking place in Rome in 2018
- Use the 'turn-over question cards' (available to download at www.scys.org.uk/synod) as a way of starting conversations
 - If you have a large group you could split them into smaller groups for discussion, each with a leader
 - Let the conversations run for about 30 min
- Give everyone a copy of the letter written to young people by Pope Francis as part of the Synod Preparation (available to download at: www.scys.org.uk/synod)
 - Read the letter out and perhaps welcome any comments
 - You may wish to make notes on what the group is sharing from this point
 - What do you and your friends want from the Church?
 - How can the Church better involve you?
- Ask for feedback
 - Did you find it useful to meet?
 - What did you learn?
 - Do you want to meet again?
- At the end of the time affirm the group and thank them for attending and sharing
- End with a prayer