

Diocese of Providence Post Confirmation Summit

13 April 2016

Summit Agenda

Schedule	Program
6:15 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.	Welcome and Introductions
6:30 p.m. – 6:40 p.m.	Opening Prayer and Remarks from Bishop Tobin
6:40 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Current State Overview
7:00 p.m. – 7:45 p.m.	Brainstorming
8:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	Prioritization of Recommendations
8:30 p.m. – 8:40 p.m.	Next Steps
8:40 p.m. – 8:45 p.m.	Closing Prayer

Approximate time frames but a “hard stop” at 8:45

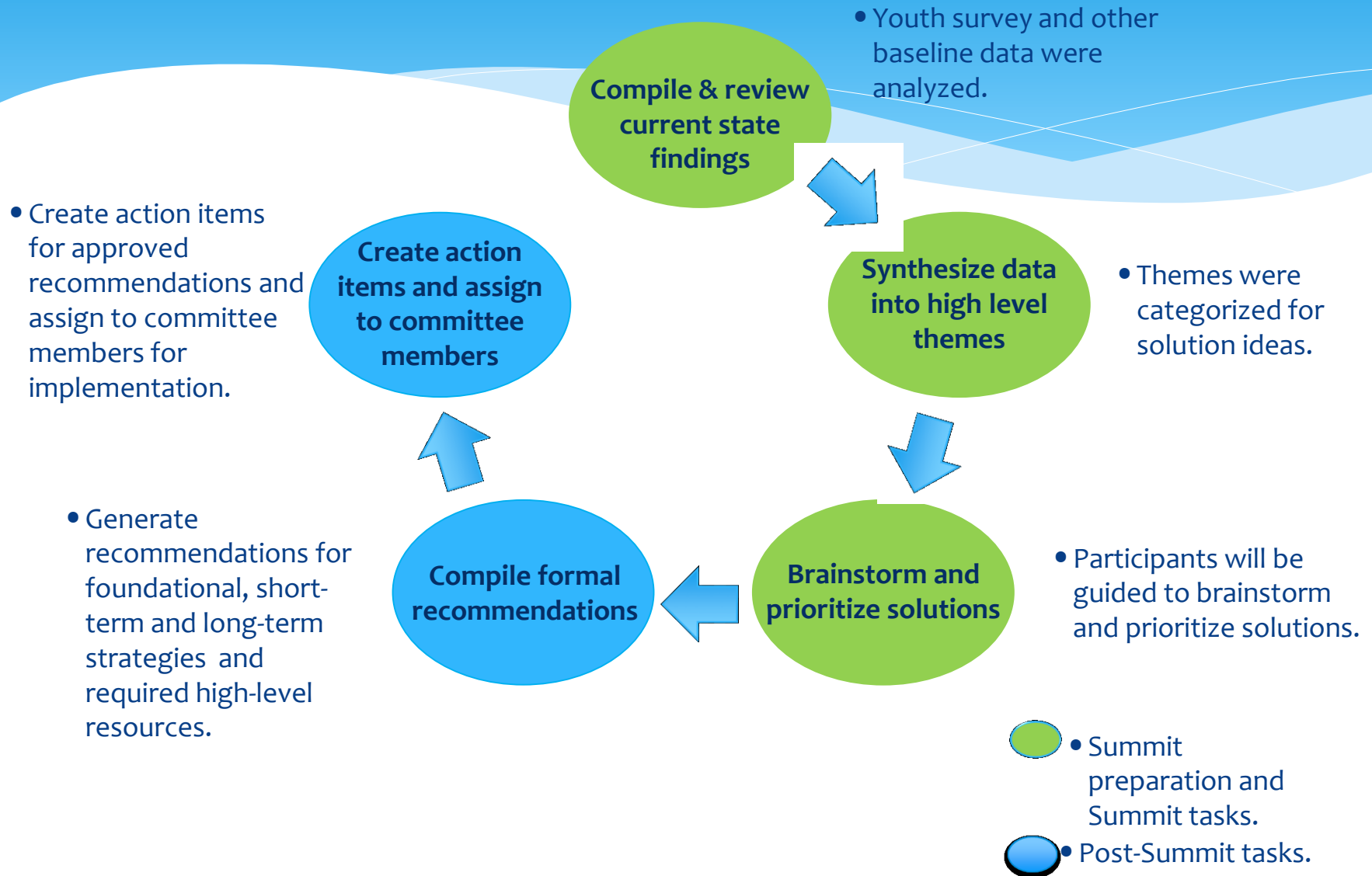
The Sense of Urgency

1. Too many young people are walking away from the faith.
2. 85% of young Catholics stop practicing their faith within 10 years of their Confirmation.
3. There is a perceived conflict of interest between Religious Education and Youth Ministry charters.
4. Current programs tend to focus more on doctrine than a relationship with Jesus Christ. Young people don't understand what they are walking away from.
5. Resource constraints in the diocese and at the parish level exasperate the issue.
6. The "old way" isn't working. We need to act now so as not to lose a generation of Catholics.

Driving Principles

1. We need to find fresh, new ways to engage our Post-Confirmation Catholics and to bring them the Joy of the Gospel and the message of Jesus Christ.
2. Using tools from various sources, we want to whet their appetites to go deeper in their faith.
3. We want to provide a forum for young Catholics to engage with one another in an open, honest dialogue. (Not a monologue!)
4. We want to keep young Catholics, Catholic!

Methodology



Data Collection Method

A survey was developed and launched on January 11, 2016 with input from Diocesan youth and the Summit Planning Committee. Notifications to encourage participation were published in bulletins, the Rhode Island Catholic, an “E-blast,” and on Facebook pages. Emails were sent to constituents. Relevant Radio aired spots six times per day for two weeks.

Youth and Young Adult Survey

For individuals ages 12 - 29.
Please answer the following questions as clearly and honestly as you can.

1. I believe in God.

Strongly agree Agree Disagree Strongly disagree

2. I feel like I have a relationship with God.

Strongly agree Agree Disagree Strongly disagree

3. I feel like I have a relationship with Jesus.

Strongly agree Agree Disagree Strongly disagree

4. How often do you spend time talking with God?

Daily
 Weekly
 Hardly ever
 Never

5. Do your parents/guardians attend Mass weekly?

Both go
 Mom only goes
 Dad only goes
 Guardian(s) goes
 My parents/guardians do not attend weekly Mass

6. How often do you go to Mass?

Daily
 Weekly
 Monthly
 A few times a year
 Christmas and/or Easter
 Never

7. What determines how often you go to Mass?

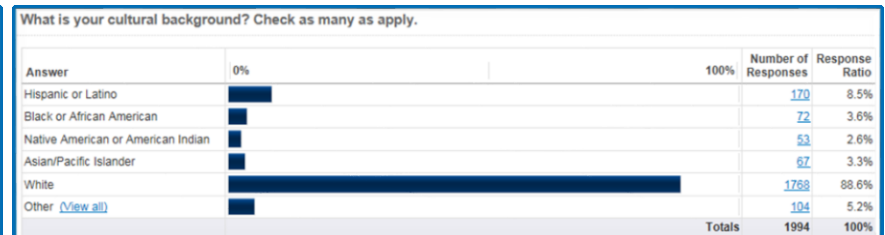
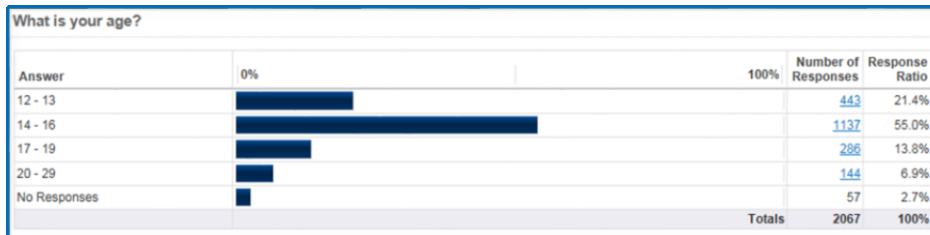
8. Were you raised Catholic or did you convert to Catholicism?

Raised Catholic
 Convert

Approximately 2,100 responses were collected and analyzed

Demographics

- 76% between the ages of 12-16
- 89% listed “White” as their cultural background
- 97.6% were raised Catholic
- 40.5% received the Sacrament of Confirmation, 50.8% did not
- 66% attended Catholic school at one point



The Good News

- 94% believe in God
- 87% feel they have a relationship with God or Jesus
- 63% are interested in getting together with other young Catholics
- 66% enjoy going to Mass

The Not So Good News

- 30% hardly ever or never spend time talking with God
- 38.5% do not fulfill their Sunday obligation, often only going to Mass during school
- 23.3% of the time, sports and activities hinder Mass attendance
- 30% do not see a connection between Mass and the way people live their lives
- 65% said that receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation is not completely their own choice

The Range of Comments

* From Strongly Positive...

[I enjoy Mass...]

"First and foremost, because of the Eucharist. Second, it's my safe haven. It's a place where I can completely be myself in front of God, my family, my parish and peers. I enjoy feeling free to worship, sing praise, pray, and celebrate without feeling nervous or pressured not to. It's my breath of fresh air every week."

* To Strongly Negative...

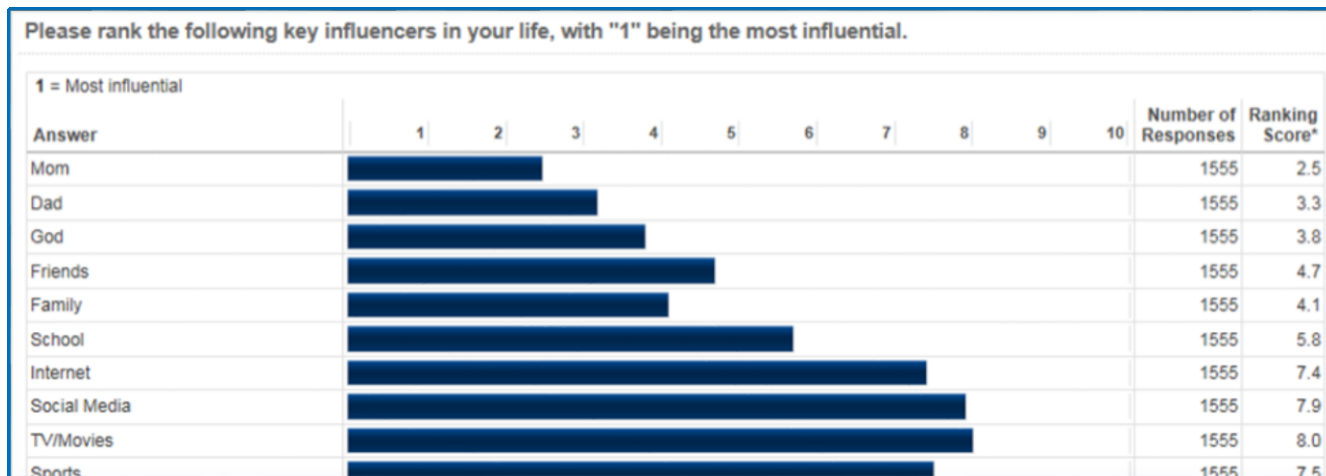
"The Church has archaic stances on gay marriage, abortion, and really most political issues. It does more harm than good with the amount of judgement it perpetuates, both knowingly and by association. It repeatedly takes, at best, a lazy stance on prejudice and bias, and refuses to advance with the rest of the world."

The important role of Parents

❖ The top 3 influencers for life and faith are:

1. Mom
2. Dad
3. God

❖ 25.8% of parents/guardians do not attend Mass weekly



Religious Education Experience

Overall: 55% Negative comments, 38% Positive comments, 7% Neutral comments

- * 78% said that religious education had an impact on their faith formation

Top 3 Positive Themes about Religious Education Classes

1. Beneficial, interesting
2. Interactive and innovative with varied media
3. Educational/Helps me to learn more about my faith

- * 26% described religious education as “boring” or a “waste of time”

Top 5 Negative Themes about Religious Education Classes

1. Boring and ineffective
2. Repetitive and redundant, learning the same basic things every year
3. Poor teacher experience: ill-trained, uncaring, condescending, and judgmental
4. Too much reading out of a book, not enough interaction and activity
5. Waste of my time

Top 5

Reasons Respondents Enjoy Going to Mass

1. Interesting, Enjoyable, Calming
2. Feel Closer to God, Spend Time with Jesus
3. To Learn Something
4. The Eucharist is the Key Reason
5. The People, Community, to Participate as Altar Server, Choir Member

Determine Whether or Not Respondents Go to Mass

1. Other Activities or Sports Obligation
2. I Am Forced to Go to Mass
3. Parents Schedule/Having a Ride
4. Confirmation or Religious Formation Sign-in Requirement
5. I Only Go on Special Occasions

Reasons Respondents Would Come Back to Mass

1. My Parents, Teachers, or Friend Would Encourage or Go with Me
2. If I Had an Emotional Need to Go
3. God, a Stronger Belief in God, or a Sign from God
4. If I Had the Time or it was a Shorter Mass
5. If it Was More Entertaining or Interesting

Brainstorming Ground Rules

- One idea per Post-It note
- Each idea must start with a verb and be actionable
- Write legibly and add corresponding section and idea number
- Get rid of old assumptions
- Say “no” to status quo
- Good ideas come when the going gets toughest
- Look for ways to make things happen
- No critiquing the ideas of others
- Everyone participates
- Don’t edit yourself, no idea is too wild
- Focus on quality over quantity

Trust in the “Wisdom of the Crowd” and build off of each other’s ideas!

Prioritization Ground Rules

- Each attendee will receive 4 dot stickers.
- Use these dot stickers to cast your “vote” for the idea(s) that you prioritize based on answers to the following questions: 1) Which idea(s) will have the greatest impact on engaging young adults and youth to become more engaged in their Catholic faith? **and** 2) Which idea(s) will be easiest to implement?
- You may use 1 dot vote per idea or use multiple dot votes on one idea that you believe will have the greatest impact and be easiest to implement.
- Attendees will process up to the idea charts row by row as directed by your facilitator.

Vote for ideas that will have the greatest impact and will be easiest to implement!

Next Steps

1. Compile formal recommendations for Bishop Tobin and his advisory committees to review.
2. Gain agreement upon the improvement initiatives to move forward.
3. Create a follow-up report to the Summit participants.
4. Form Committees/Workstreams to implement improvement initiatives.
5. Assign and track progress of action items.
6. Fully implement solutions.
7. Measure and monitor outcomes.