

Small Group Participant Questionnaire

- **What initially led you to join your specific small group? Was it topic-related, or were you invited by someone, or other?**
 - I was the original St. Thomas synod parish ambassador and continued on in various roles
 - I was invited and had an interest
 - I am a big fan of small faith-sharing groups. Many of my best experiences with our faith are from small faith-sharing groups. I like the friends I gained, the intimacy of developing friendships through one faith.
 - I joined because I was interested in the original topic. This group was the one that fit best for me
 - The night of the week, and it was geared toward my demographic
 - Church invitation when it started
 - Someone in our current group invited us
 - We are looking to be rooted, and want to learn more about our Catholic faith
 - Part of the initial group training. Invited by the leader
 - Desire to get to know parishioners on a deeper level and share/foster faith
 - Fellowship and growing in my faith
 - Someone invited me
 - To grow in my faith. Attended the first training meeting and became interested in the small-group aspect. Interested in the evangelization discussion of the training
 - Location, day of week, and time
- **What is the primary purpose of your group, in your opinion—is it for fellowship, Bible study, accountability, or something else?**
 - Fellowship and faith formation
 - Education in my faith and sharing
 - Faith sharing, prayer, sins, fellowship
 - Fellowship and education
 - It is to connect with others while growing in my faith
 - Growing in faith
 - Fellowship, Bible study, better understanding of my faith
 - I think it's mainly for Bible study, but also provides great fellowship
 - It addresses all, which is why it is a good opportunity for us
 - Learn about the Catholic faith and how to live as Jesus would like. Fellowship is a bonus
 - Growing in faith and relationships
 - Fellowship, bible study, accountability
 - Fellowship, meeting others with my same faith, to strengthen, encourage, and to pray for our intentions
 - Fellowship, bible study, growing in my faith
- **What do you personally get from being in a group and/or what keeps you coming back to your specific group? Do you have a favorite aspect of your group meetings?**
 - People sharing their faith experiences and learning the value of devotion from each other.
 - Friendship, deep love for participants, growth in love of our faith, growth in knowledge
 - I am getting a better understanding of my faith
 - It is to connect with others while growing in my faith
 - I've learned so much and have grown so much in my faith. This has been an amazing blessing in my spiritual life
 - Growing in my faith
 - It's nice to feel connected to people in your church. The sharing and prayer time are meaningful
 - Re-learning my Catholic faith, fellowship, and having a prayer group
 - Others' thoughts, experiences, and perspectives, fellowship is good
 - Praying together, my intentions mean something to the whole group
 - Getting to know each other and sharing life's struggles/joys
 - The prayer/intentions are important.
 - Time to focus on faith and learn from others. Feel comfortable with support from others when I may fail in my faith
- **What is something you appreciate about the relationships you've built in this group?**
 - As openness to learn from each other as we're all in different places on our faith journey
 - Share the burden the others have

- Camaraderie
- I trust everyone and feel supported. I hope others feel that from me also.
- I enjoy getting to know the group. Also, hearing and seeing others' faith in action
- We didn't know any of the people in our small group prior to starting, so getting to know them has been a pleasure
- The respect, the trust, and being accountability partners. The group is very nurturing and inspiring.
- Personal relationships, knowing them and feeling comfortable around group members
- Going deeper
- Got to know a few new people
- Parishioner from Ss. Peter and Paul and attend a St. Thomas group to get to know their parishioners
- **How has being a part of this group impacted your faith or relationship with God?**
 - A small faith-sharing group has grown my intimacy with the Lord
 - I feel it's improving
 - I feel my faith has become deeper
 - I've gained a thirst for going to confession, which has always been a struggle for me. We studied the sacraments, and I really connected with those teachings
 - It has been a great addition to my prayer life. My relationship with God has grown
 - It helps keep me accountable, and I have learned a lot about my Catholic faith by diving deeper
 - It is helping me grow and appreciate the knowledge sharing, and the resources provided strengthen my relationship and knowledge of God
 - Learning from others' experiences, some of my same struggles
 - Much deeper and fruitful. Learning all about the Mass and Eucharist was very helpful!
 - This helps keep God, Jesus, and Mary in the forefront of my mind, easy to forget with all things going on.
 - Learning more about our faith, focusing on the bible, why I am Catholic, and being able to articulate it
- **Why do you think it is important to meet in smaller groups, in addition to regular worship services?**
 - Personal relationships develop, and the love of Christ comes alive in each heart. I can be closer to Jesus/God.
 - Closer sharing
 - Engage people, intimate sharing, safe and non-threatening relationships
 - It's easier to bring ideas and subjects to a small group
 - Another time of prayer to talk to others about God and prayer
 - It keeps you connected to your church, which is important to your journey
 - Yes, the discipline/the intentionality is very rewarding and creates a structure that quenches the thirst for knowing God and growing my faith
 - Feel more comfortable sharing in a small group setting
 - Building community, getting to know others, not just "see them in church."
 - To help the fight against the pull of the world
 - Meet new people
 - Spending time with people with similar morals and values is important to me in the current world, where non-faith activities keep drawing people's time