

Parish Forum Question Sheet
Bishop Search for the Diocese of Northern California
February and March, 2018

Thank you for arranging for a forum that will afford parishioners an opportunity to share their opinions and hopes as the process for selecting our next bishop progresses. We trust that you are able to conduct a forum in a manner that best fits the particular time constraints you are facing. Reports from your forum should be emailed to marydavy.norcalsearch@gmail.com.

The search committee values your feedback! Reports received before **March 24** can help us as we draft the diocesan profile. Those received after the deadline will still be helpful to us in later phases of the process.

Reports should not be a transcript of everything that was shared at the forum, but rather a summary of the responses.

Below you will find a suggested introductory script that explains the general nature of the comments we are soliciting, along with the questions being used at the Listening Events. Please consider using as many of these questions as you can. Again, thank you for sponsoring a forum.

Opening remarks

Welcome - We are gathered today in an effort to assist the Search Committee in the work of discerning our next bishop by sending our comments to them for their consideration as they create a diocesan profile.

This is a time when each of us can share our desires, prayers, and hopes concerning the future of our diocese and our next bishop. Today you are encouraged to pray, dream, and speak openly about the future of the church, helping the Search Committee to discern a slate of fine candidates who will stand for election.

In the church, as in all of life, it is best to begin our efforts in prayer. After one minute of silence, we will pray together.

Let us pray

*O God, you are the source of all our goodness, all our knowledge, all our creativity and charity. Walk with us, O gracious God, as we organize our search for a new bishop. Help us to communicate, facilitate, negotiate: all according to your will. Through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.***

*Gracious God, giver of every good and perfect gift, by your Spirit fashion our lives according to the example of your Son, and guide us as we seek to choose for a new bishop for our diocese. Teach us in all things to seek first your honor and glory, so that we may receive a faithful pastor who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.***

Recommended Questions:

- 1. From your perspective, describe our diocesan culture in two words.**

- 2. How do you feel/think that the diocese encourages, supports or aids in the ministries (other than worship) of your congregation? Please briefly tell us what they are to help the profile committee define our congregations.**

- 3. We have a large and diverse diocese; what are the qualities necessary for a bishop in such a place?**

- 4. What abilities and passions would you like to see in a bishop?**

- 5. What has happened in your relationship with this diocese that you consider successful, a miracle, a joy, or a move forward for the diocese?** Feel free to answer this for either your local setting or for the diocese. We are looking for short descriptions or statements about things that are working well.

- 6. What has been your best experience in the diocese?**

- 7. What has not been done well enough? What opportunities have been missed?** Please be specific about the life of the diocese. We are looking for short descriptions or statements about things that are not working as well as they might.