

ARCHDIOCESE OF DENVER DISCERNMENT PROCESS

SYNOD 2021-2023



PARISH REPRESENTATIVE PROFILE

Who are they? Each parish will be invited to select two Parish Representatives who will participate in the Archdiocesan Discernment Event on March 25-27. Ideally, these would be lay people.

These Representatives should be selected by early January at the latest, since all who want to serve as Representatives will be expected to attend a formation retreat and training on January 21-22.

The Parish Representatives would also be expected to participate in at least some of their community's Parish Discernment Gatherings, so they can bring the fruits of that experience to the Discernment Event.

Profile of a Parish Representative

Many pastors have asked who should they be looking for to serve as Parish Representatives. Simply put, the best answer would be to take it to prayer and ask who you believe God is putting on your heart to invite. To provide more detailed clarity, however, we can use the acronym FACT, commonly used by the Fellowship of Catholic University Students and other apostolates in their evangelization efforts.

Ask yourself, are the people you believe God is calling you to invite:

FAITHFUL - Do the Parish Representatives believe what the Church teaches? Do they have a regular discipline of growing in prayer, including regularly attempting to listen to God's voice in their life? No one is perfect, but a Parish Representative who will find this experience fruitful will already be attempting to faithfully live out a life of discipleship in the Church.

AVAILABLE - Can they attend the full March 25-27 event? Can they attend the January 21-22 formation retreat and training? Can they attend at least some of their community's Parish Discernment Gatherings? Invited Parish Reps should be clear on the commitment of time, given the importance of the mission into which they are being invited.



CONTAGIOUS - Are these people the kind of people others want to listen to? This does not mean that they necessarily have to have a gregarious, “big” personality, but they should have a degree of credibility in the community, even if not especially well known by all.

TEACHABLE - Is there a humility in their life that wants to listen to God and listen to others? Are they open to engaging honestly and robustly in the entire process?

