

**Archdiocesan Women's Committee (AWC) 2019-20
Discussion Guide**

Since his arrival in 2014, Cardinal Cupich has benefited from discussions on a variety of issues with the AWC. These exchanges have been informed by the members' consultation with women in the Chicago archdiocese as we bring the voices of women forward. This year, beginning in March, we will be discussing the topic of what causes Catholic women to stay in or leave their Church. We ask your help as we prepare for our discussions with the Cardinal, by participating in this consultation.

**Unanswered Question:
What causes Catholic women to stay in or leave their Church?**

1. If you attend Catholic Church services regularly or belong to a parish, what is the most important thing about Church that keeps you coming and engaged? (Open response)

•If you no longer attend the Catholic Church, please skip to question #5.

2. Is the Church meeting your spiritual needs? **Yes** ___ **No** ___

How are those needs being met?

At Mass Y ___ N ___

In homilies Y ___ N ___

Through music Y ___ N ___

Through bible study, discussion groups, speakers Y ___ N ___

Through involvement in parish leadership or ministry Y ___ N ___

Are there other ways the Church can meet your needs Y ___ N ___

How? _____

3. Regarding community in the Catholic Church:

Is a sense of community important to you when seeking a church? Y ___ N ___

Do you find a sense of belonging in the Catholic Church? Y ___ N ___

Do you feel valued? Y ___ N ___

Is your Domestic Church (your family, your friends) enriched by the larger church

Y ___ N ___

Is sufficient attention given to:

The elderly Y ___ N ___

The single person Y ___ N ___

People with differing abilities Y ___ N ___

Women Y ___ N ___

Non-traditional families Y ___ N ___

The youth Y ___ N ___

4. Regarding the Church in society –

Do the Church's teaching on social justice have an impact on your view of the Church? Y ___ N ___

Do the Church's teachings on respect for life have an impact on your view of the Church? Y ___ N ___

Over please

5. The numbers in some parishes are dwindling, what do you think is the main cause and are there ways this trend could be reversed?

6. If you no longer attend Catholic Church services, what turned you away? (Open response)

What would bring you back? (Open response)

Where do you now go for spiritual guidance and if you attend the services of another denomination, which denomination?

Names are never necessary---just your honest opinions in our effort to be better informed as we discuss this topic.

PLEASE ALSO INDICATE:

AGE:

16-29, 30-50, 51-69, 70+

Born Catholic Convert

Ethnicity:

Caucasian, Hispanic, African American,
 Asian, Native American, Other

As always, we welcome additional information.

Please email this form to me as an attachment at sheilahebein@icloud.com no later than March 10, 2020.