

**Models of the Church Questionnaire**  
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**Archdiocese of New York**

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Note: This questionnaire is meant only to be used to promote discussion about a variety of ways of looking at the church. **There are no right answers.**

Instructions: Please respond to each statement by scoring your agreement or disagreement with each item as follows:

+2—Strongly agree; +1—Moderately agree;  
-1—Moderately disagree; -2—Strongly disagree

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Instead of trying to agree on one single way of describing the church, it is better to allow a number of descriptions that stress various aspects of the church.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. The statement, “Where the bishop is, there is the church,” expresses an important commitment for all who are trying to renew the church.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Perhaps the best term to describe the church today is “People of God.”
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. The best way for the church to serve the world is to demonstrate the presence of God in its own life work.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. An unfortunate tendency in the church today is the suggestion by some people that true membership in the church requires adults to go through a deep conversion in response to the Word of God.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. One important benefit of modern life is that the church has discovered the need to promote social liberation.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. One of the problems of the church today is that priests and sisters are proposing too many different ways of understanding the church.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. The only way we can have a strong church is if we can have clear laws and clear assignments of responsibility to various positions in the church (bishop, pastor, priest, sister, lay person, etc.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Membership in the church is best understood as sharing in the life of the Holy Spirit.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. The church makes a mistake when it thinks of itself as a special occasion of grace to the world.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Anyone who gives more time to material needs of people than to reflection on the Gospels and preaching the Word of God does not fulfill the primary demands of ministry.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. The main characteristics or “signs” of the church are not so much that it is “one, holy, catholic and apostolic,” as that its members promote freedom, justice, peace and charity.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. In order to have an effective church, it is necessary to agree on a single approach to the way the church is organized, and on the responsibilities of priests, sisters, deacons and other ministers.

+2—Strongly agree; +1—Moderately agree;  
-1—Moderately disagree; -2—Strongly disagree

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- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. A weakness of the church today is the hesitation of priests to insist on the teachings and instruction of the Pope and bishops.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. While many people share the life of the Holy Spirit, membership in the church depends on certain public obligations: professing one faith, receiving the sacraments, and obedience to the Pope and bishops.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 16. It is unfortunate for the mission of the church if priests hide their identity or make little of the special place of ordained priests in an effort to emphasize that they are people just like other people.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 17. Although it is important and good to live a life of kindness and responsibility for each other, the heart of membership in the church requires a clear response of faith to the Word of God.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 18. The church has to listen to what the world is saying if it to understand what it must do.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 19. It is very good for the church that we have come to allow a number of ways of describing the church and a number of different ministries or ways of promoting church life.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 20. The primary responsibilities of church work are to teach, sanctify and give direction for the moral lives of the Catholic people.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 21. Perhaps the people who are most truly Catholic are those who are members of Catholic pentecostal groups
- \_\_\_\_\_ 22. All the organizational elements in the church get in the way of Catholics really offering an example to others of living according to the gospel of Jesus.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 23. If you really want to see the church in action you have to look at the local parish or congregations where the gospel is preached.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 24. The church is guilty of mistaken enthusiasm if it becomes very much involved in political and social action.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 25. While it may have been necessary for a while to allow many different views of theology and of the church, we should get back to a definition of the church we can all agree on so that we can have more unity in the church.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 26. We would make a mistake if we were to hide the fact that the clergy are set aside to act on behalf of the bishop in directing the life of the local church.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 27. One improvement in the way we understand the church today is that we are less rigid about who is a member of the church, since membership really is a spiritual matter, not something we can pin down to specific practices.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 28. The sacraments, through which the church joins the presence of God to the lives of the people, are the most important part of the church.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 29. Many people who encourage the church to become more fully a partner in the work of the world do not appreciate enough the force of sin in the world.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 30. If priests or sisters get involved in organizing community action and programs, they must direct this activity toward the celebration of the Eucharist if they are going to be true to their vocations.

+2—Strongly agree; +1—Moderately agree;  
-1—Moderately disagree; -2—Strongly disagree

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- \_\_\_\_\_ 31. In today's church, it is more important to follow the spirit of church laws and adapt them to local conditions rather than obey the laws exactly.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 32. It is important for the priest or sister themselves to learn to pray with their own words and to encourage this among people.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 33. Priests make their best contribution to the life of the church when they themselves have acquired deep union with God and share this union with the people.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 34. True preaching means presenting the gospel of Christ in such a way that the people's faith is challenged.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 35. One good way of describing the church in society is that the church must be open to the way the world thinks and acts and try to see how the church teaching relates to this thought and action of the world.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 36. One of the most precious possessions of the church is its tradition of the truths revealed by God.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 37. It is just as important for us to see that we are united with all believers in Christ as it is to realize our unity as Catholics.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 38. One mistake of our time is the tendency among some priests and sisters not to show respect for the things and practices of the church that have long been a part of the church.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 39. It is unfortunate that preachers and teachers in the church these days often give the impression that Christ's teaching is largely a matter of being a better person in the world and not so much a matter of belief in mysteries of faith.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 40. The church should help persons and groups of persons to become active concerning government and public institutions.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 41. Authority in the church, like authority in society, depends on the consent of the governed.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 42. Authority in the church should depend less on one's office or on laws and more on whether someone seems particularly inspired by the Holy Spirit.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 43. It is important that we keep the title of "priest" for those who have been ordained and not confuse this by too much emphasis on the "priesthood of all believers."
- \_\_\_\_\_ 44. We can discover God's directions for us by being alert to what is going on around us, the events that demand a response from us.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 45. It is more important to try to promote God's will in society than it is to try to improve the membership of the church.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 46. While we must increase our sharing values and concerns in the church, there is no place in a group that calls itself a community of faith for laws and legal procedures.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 47. It is more important for the priests, sisters and other church workers to be accountable to the local parish people than to be accountable to the bishop.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 48. The church's mission is, when all is said and done, to be a way of promoting and showing the unity of all people with God and with one another.

+2—Strongly agree; +1—Moderately agree;  
-1—Moderately disagree; -2—Strongly disagree

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- \_\_\_\_\_ 49. The mission of the church may well reach out to those who do not believe – as a missionary effort – but this mission is essentially directed toward a community of believers.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 50. Anyone who is trying to awaken people to their own freedom and responsibility for one another is as much promoting the life of the church as the person who celebrates or helps celebrate the Mass and sacraments.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 51. The strength of the church as a force for people's lives depends on strong organizational structures and strong leadership from the top.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 52. One of the weaknesses of the church in the past was its insistence on certain teachings and practices for this distracted us from the truly spiritual basis of unity in the church.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 53. Membership in the church, when all is said and done, depends on participating in the sacraments.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 54. It is quite all right to use a reading from some current publication in place of one of the readings from the Bible at Mass.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 55. A church which makes agreement with official church teaching secondary to the work of liberating people will soon lose its specific identity as church.

Models of the Church – Scoring Sheet and Instructions

<b>MODELS</b>	<b>INSTITUTION</b>	<b>COMMUNION</b>	<b>SACRAMENT</b>	<b>HERALD</b>	<b>SERVANT</b>
1	2	3	4	5	6
7*	8	9	10*	11	12
13*	14	15*	16	17	18
19	20	21	22*	23	24*
25*	26	27	28	29	30*
Total	31*	32	33	34	35
	36	37	38	39	40
	41*	42	43	44*	45
	46*	47	48	49	50
	51	52	53	54*	55*
	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total

Each box on the scoring sheet includes those questions that ask people how they feel about the idea of models and each of the models in particular: Communion, Herald, Institution, Sacrament, and Servant. (The score of the “models” box ranges from –10 to +10; the scores for each of the five models range from –20 to +20.)

1. Record your response to each statement listed in the different boxes. Include the sign (+ or -), or at least the minus (-) where this occurs.
2. For numbers with asterisks (\*), reverse the sign of the score you have recorded.
3. Total each column, observing the plus and minus signs.
4. You will now have a single score in each of the six boxes. Your score in the first box (Models) indicates the level of your acceptance or rejection of the entire models approach, i.e., the extent to which you are comfortable with pluralism in views of the church. Your score in each of the five remaining boxes indicates what approaches to church life are important to you.