

INFORMATION ABOUT THE PRE-SYNOD CONSULTATION PROCESS

Across England and Wales, 16,500 responses to the consultation were received by dioceses via email, post or through online response forms. Analysis of 12,266 online responses indicates that 80% of respondents were laity, 69% were married and 38% were parents. 20% of respondents were in positions of responsibility within the Church as priests, chaplains, catechists, teachers, deacons, seminarians, or pastoral assistants. At least 6% were active in voluntary roles as extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, readers, musicians, governors of schools, members of diocesan commissions, parish councils or as members of parish organisations. Nearly 1 % of respondents identified themselves as either a lapsed Catholic or a non-Catholic.

Of the respondents, 69% indicated that they are married, 17% single, 6% divorced and a little less than 6% widowed. Just over 1% indicated that they lived in a civil partnership and just under 1% indicated that they were cohabiting, with the same proportion divorced and remarried. 0.5% indicated experience of the annulment process.

Distribution across the age ranges was fairly even though weighted towards the older generation: 24% were aged up to 45 years, 30% were aged 65 and older. An additional 1,163 responses were received from 57 other countries which were forwarded to the local dioceses and episcopal conferences of those countries.