

Crowd-Sourced Best Practices in Mutual Relations - CMSM Assembly Large Group Discussion

- Make the “mutual” and the “relation” happen - make sure there is a relationship, especially within your first year in leadership.
- Important that the relationship not be a one-time meeting, but regular contact, so that it is not only where there is a problem.
- Engage in video calls when invited.
- Do not hide things from the bishop. Problems will eventually come out and it is far better for a bishop to hear something from you than elsewhere.
- Persevere in your actions! Relationships do not always work well to start, but can be improved.
- Place candidates into a local fraternity, which improves the integration of your community into the diocese.
- Invite the bishop for prayer and a meal - a more informal setting can break tensions and/or create a different environment conducive to building relationships.
- Communities must not just be in the Diocese but be of the Diocese - attend diocesan events.
- For those that have schools or other ministries that involve public events, invite the bishop to your events.
- Ensure the bishop has the cell phone number of leadership and/or someone local.
- Be communicative with your bishop, even if they are not communicating well with you.
- In this synodal moment, listening well is important - religious can often “hear” a bishop in a way others may not be able to.
- Single malt Scotch!
- Relationships with bishops are not generic, they are specific - the bishops have different ecclesiologies and different perspectives on religious, so it’s important to be “shrewd as serpents and meek as doves” (Mt 10:16).