

***FOR A SYNODAL
CHURCH***

COMMUNION, PARTICIPATION, MISSION

Pope Francis:

It is precisely this path of synodality which God expects of the Church of the third millennium. What the Lord is asking of us is already in some sense present in the very word 'synod'.

Journeying together – laity, pastors, the Bishop of Rome – is an easy concept to put into words, but not so easy to put into practice.

(Synodus Episcoporum, #1)

SYNODALITY involves...

- **Listening** *without prejudice*
- **Speaking** with *courage* and *parrhesia*
- **Dialoging** with the Church, with society
and with other Christian confessions

COMMUNION, PARTICIPATION, MISSION

This journey, which follows in the wake of the Church's "renewal" proposed by the Second Vatican Council, is both a gift and a task:

by journeying together, and reflecting together on the journey that has been made, the Church will be able to learn through Her experience which processes can help her to live communion, to achieve participation, to open herself to mission.

A synod is
a process,
not a
single
event!

In his *Apostolic Constitution on the Synod of Bishops*, issued in 2018, Pope Francis stated:

The Synod of Bishops must increasingly become a privileged instrument for listening to the People of God. (#6)

The history of the Church bears ample witness to the importance of consultation for ascertaining the views of the Bishops and the faithful in matters pertaining to the Good of the Church. Hence, even in the preparation of Synodal Assemblies, it is very important that the consultation of the all the particular churches be given attention. (#7)

The synodal process not only has its point of departure but also its point of arrival in the People of God, upon whom the gifts of grace bestowed by the Holy Spirit through the gathering of Bishops in Assembly must be poured out. (#7)

KEY CONVICTIONS FOR A SYNODAL CHURCH

- Listen to one another in order to listen to the Holy Spirit.
- In a spirit of prayer, grounded in the liturgy and the Word of God.
- An experience shared with one another, not just filling out a questionnaire.
- A process, not a one-time event.
- Discerning together so that the decisions made are for the good of all.

TEN THEMES OF THE SYNOD

1. COMPANIONS ON THE JOURNEY
2. LISTENING WITH AN OPEN MIND
3. SPEAKING OUT WITH COURAGE – FREEDOM, TRUTH, CHARITY
4. CELEBRATION – COMMUNAL LISTENING TO THE WORD AND THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST
5. SHARING THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR OUR COMMON MISSION

THEMES (CONTINUED)

6. **DIALOGUE IN CHURCH AND SOCIETY**
7. **ECUMENISM – DIALOG WITH OTHER CHRISTIANS**
8. **AUTHORITY AND PARTICIPATION**
9. **DISCERNING AND DECIDING**
10. **FORMING OURSELVES IN SYNODALITY**

**OPENING
LITURGY
FOR OUR
DIOCESAN
SYNOD**



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17



5:10 p.m. LITURGY



**CATHEDRAL OF THE
IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION**

SYNODALITY

This is an ancient and yet ever-new
image of what the Church
is called to be –
not just for the two years leading up to
the World Synod of Bishops,
but far beyond...
WE ARE THE CHURCH!