
ARCHDIOCESE OF SEATTLE
SYNOD COORDINATOR
TRAINING



For a synodal Church
communion | participation | mission



PRAYER FOR THE SYNOD

COME HOLY SPIRIT

We stand before You, Holy Spirit,
as we gather together in Your name.

With You alone to guide us,
make Yourself at home in our hearts;
Teach us the way we must go
and how we are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful;
do not let us promote disorder.
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path
nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity
so that we may journey together to eternal life
and not stray from the way of truth
and what is right.

All this we ask of You,
who are at work in every place and time,
in the communion of the Father and the Son,
forever and ever.

Amen.

THIS SESSION IS BEING RECORDED.

SYNOD COORDINATOR TRAINING AGENDA

- Synodality Reflection & Prayer
- Coordinator Duties & Timeline
- Planning Template Introduction
- An Authentically Spiritual Experience
- Facilitate Dialogue & Listening
- Synthesize & Report



Knowing Jesus Christ,
embracing His mission

ARCHDIOCESE PASTORAL PLANNING FOCUS

- Encounter Jesus Christ and one another.
- Accompany each other, as one human family, on the journey of discipleship.
- Live the unconditional love and joy of the Gospel.



Synod
2021
2023

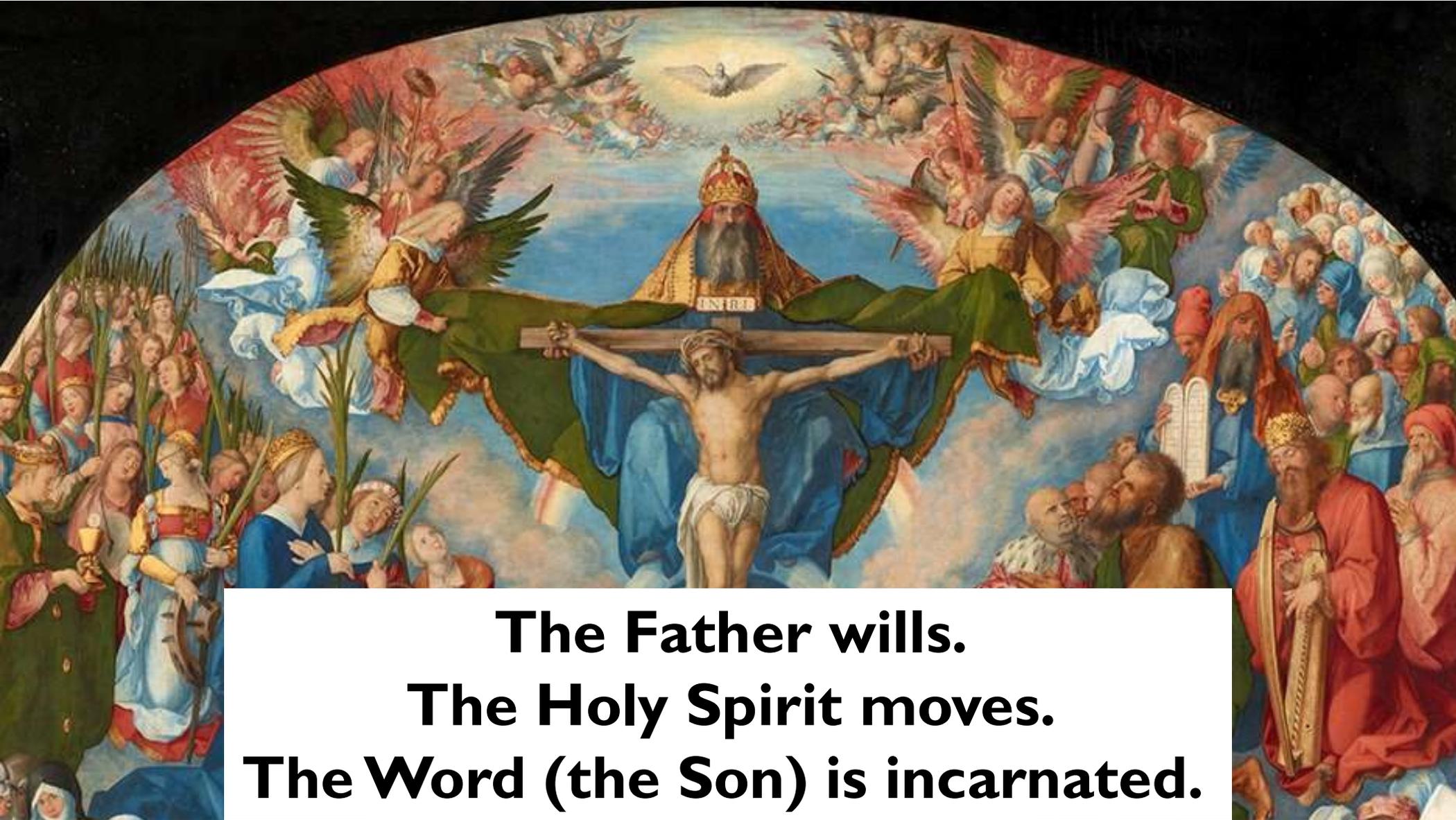
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WHAT DOES SUCCESS LOOK LIKE?

“To inspire people to dream about the Church we are called to be, to make people’s hopes flourish, to stimulate trust, to bind up wounds, to weave new and deeper relationships, to learn from one another, to build bridges, to enlighten minds, warm hearts, and restore strength to our hands for our common mission”

FROM SYNOD VADEMECUM



**The Father wills.
The Holy Spirit moves.
The Word (the Son) is incarnated.**

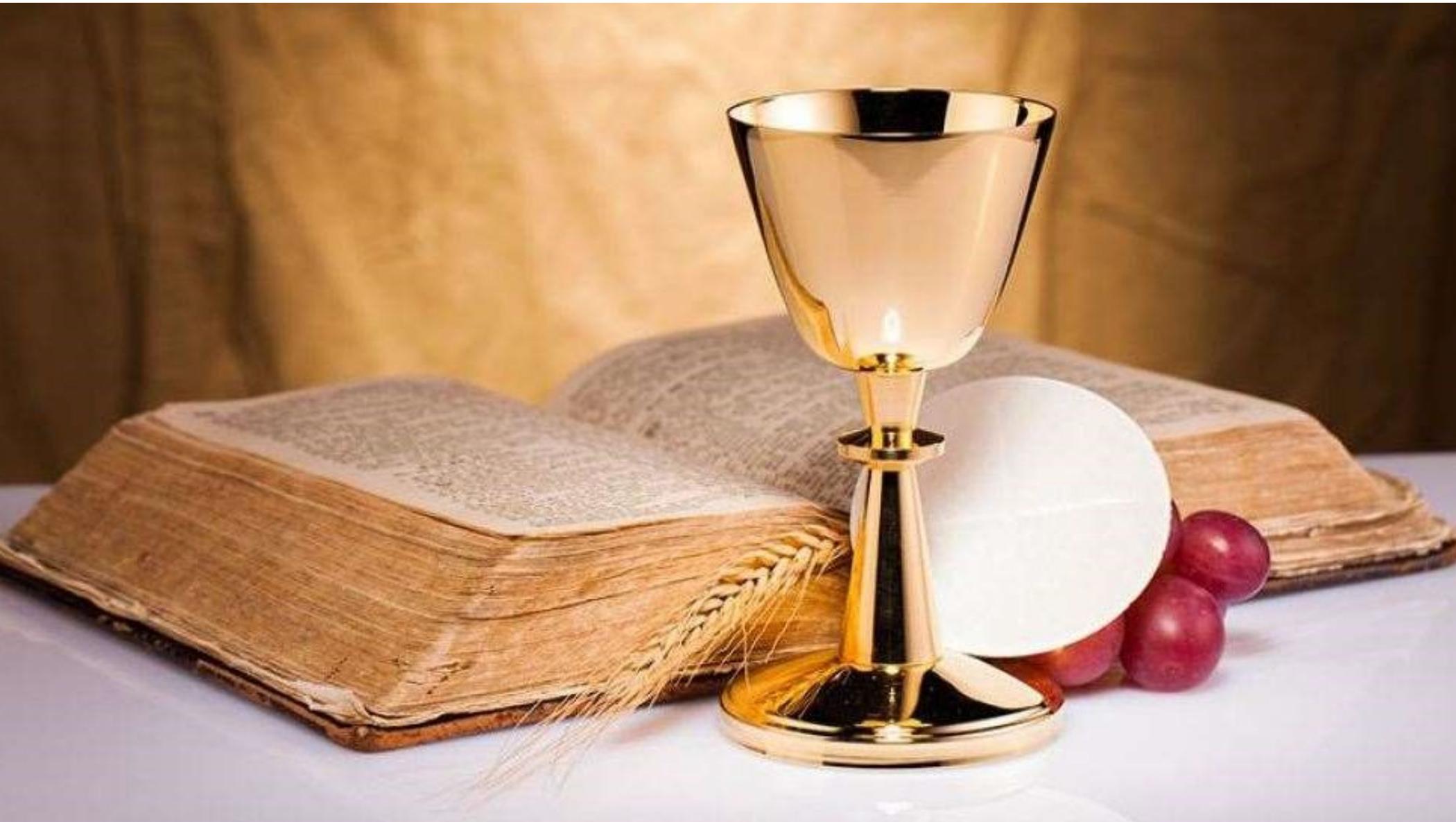












FUNDAMENTAL QUESTIONS

A Synodal Church, in announcing the Gospel, “journeys together”

How is this “journeying together” happening today in your local Church?

What steps does the Holy Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our “journeying together”?

(Synod Preparatory Document #26)



PRAYER FOR THE SYNOD

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SYNOD COORDINATORS

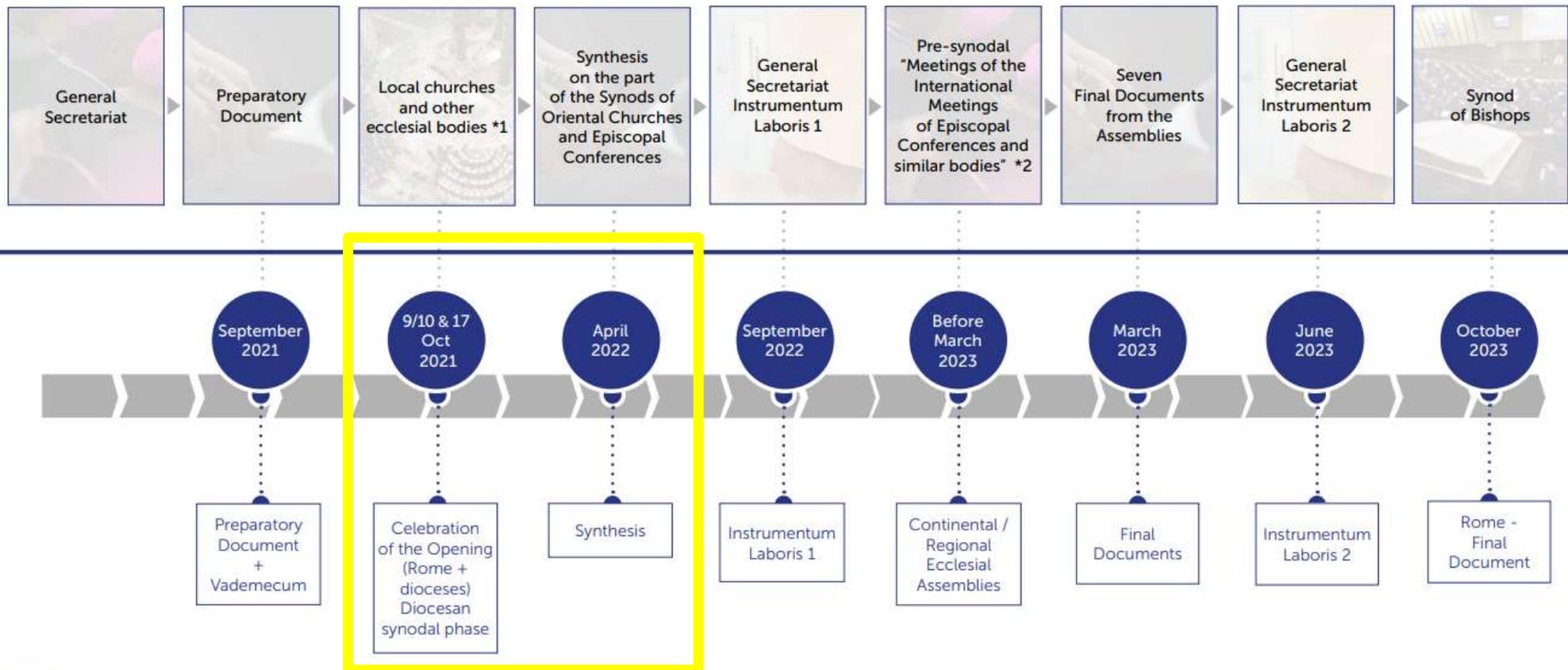
Plan

Facilitate

Report

FOR A SYNODAL CHURCH: COMMUNION, PARTICIPATION AND MISSION

XVI ORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SYNOD OF BISHOPS



*1 Dicasteries, Consecrated Life (UISG-USG, UNIONS & FEDERATIONS), Associations of the Faithful, Institutions of Higher Education

*2 Africa (SECAM), Oceania (FCBCO), Asia (FABC), Middle East (CPCO), Europa (CEE), Latin America (CELAM), North America (USCCB+CCCCB)

LOCAL SYNOD TIMELINE

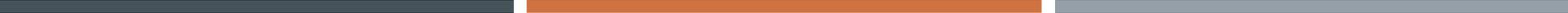
Dec-May Local listening, dialogue, and reporting.

May 6th DEADLINE: Listening Reports to Chancery

June Pre-Synodal Meeting

June 30th DEADLINE: Chancery summary to USCCB





PLANNING TEMPLATE INTRODUCTION

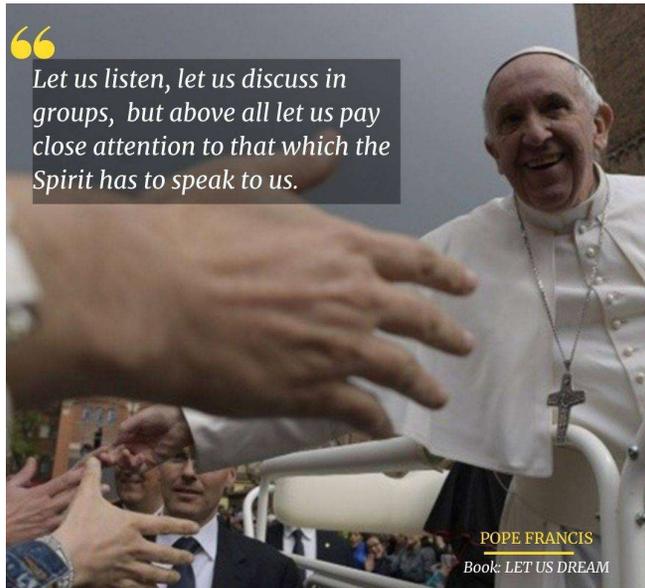


WE'RE HERE TO HELP!

- Send us your plans!
- Let us know your dates!
- Reach out if you get stuck!
- Dream BIG. Start small. Do it well!

“

Let us listen, let us discuss in groups, but above all let us pay close attention to that which the Spirit has to speak to us.



POPE FRANCIS
Book: LET US DREAM



Synod.va

AN AUTHENTICALLY SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE

WHAT IS A SYNOD?

“The **Synod** is a process of spiritual discernment, that unfolds in adoration, in prayer, and in dialogue with the word of God.”

Pope Francis
Homily at the Opening of the Synod
9 October 2021

THE HOLY SPIRIT

“If the **Spirit** is not present,
there will be no **Synod**”

Pope Francis
Address of the Opening of the Synod
9 October 2021

GUIDED BY THE WORD

The word of God “summons us to discernment and it brings light to that process. It guides the Synod, preventing it from becoming a Church convention, a study group or a political gathering, a parliament, but rather **a grace-filled event**, a process of healing guided by the Spirit.”

Pope Francis
Homily at the Opening of the Synod
9 October 2021



PRAYER IN ADVANCE

Pray in advance.

- Include gatherings in the Prayer of the Faithful at Mass
- Invite the whole parish to pray for the Synodal Process
- Invite individual participants to pray in advance of their session, for at least a few days

PRAYER AT THE BEGINNING

- Begin with music if possible (a hymn—e.g. *Veni Sancte Spiritus*; a psalm)
- Time for silence
- A prayerful reading of a Scripture passage (could highlight Church, the Holy Spirit, journey, etc)
- Time for silent reflection on the Scripture, followed by faith-sharing (smaller groups), journaling (larger groups)
- Read a reflection from Pope Francis on the nature of the Synod
- Pray the *Adsumus Sancte Spiritus* or another prayer

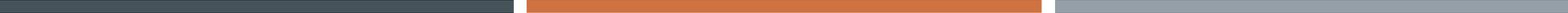
PRAYER DURING

- Prayer is not just a book-end for the meeting, but the foundation and the setting for the entire meeting
- Allow the silence with which the gathering begins to extend into the gathering, allowing pauses to reflect on what has been heard

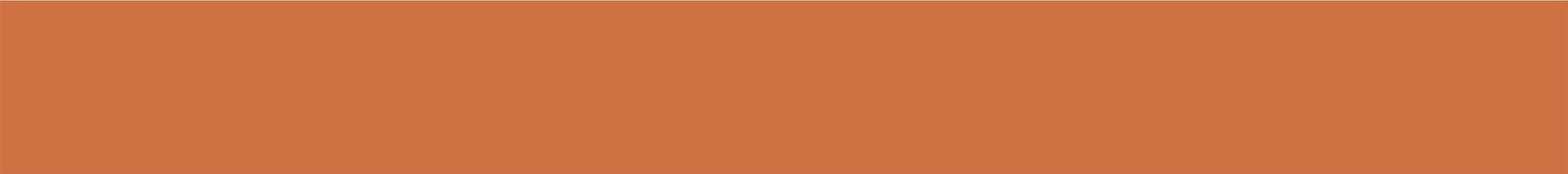


PRAYER AT THE END

- Leader invites all to take a few moments of silent reflection on the gathering and what we have heard from each other
- Time for silence
- A prayerful reading of a Scripture passage (could be the same reading you started with; or it could highlight mission, e.g. James 1:27)
- Pray the traditional Prayer to the Holy Spirit together
- Concluding song if possible
- Invitation to exchange a sign of peace



FACILITATE DIALOGUE & LISTENING



FACILITATE DIALOGUE & LISTENING

- Prepare in advance
 - Don't go it alone: note-taking, observer, and facilitator.
 - Review and Share: Relevant Questions (Fundamental, Preparatory, and Online Form)
- Ensure all can participate
 - Consider time limits, if many are attending
 - Redirect the conversation or politely interrupt
- Use available resources to plan an agenda
 - Coordinator's template
 - Facilitator's guide



TO LISTEN

Being listened to is so close to being loved that most people can't tell the difference.

FACILITATE DIALOGUE & LISTENING GOALS

- Create safe container for people to be real.
- Listen to understand, not to respond.
- Stimulate trust, bind up wounds, weave new and deeper relationships, and build bridges.
- Honor each person's opportunity to be heard.
- Incorporate moments of silence for reflection.



**For a Synodal Church:
Communion, Participation,
and Mission**

**Process for Facilitating
Synodal Consultations**



**LEADERSHIP
ROUNDTABLE**
Service, Excellence, Church Management.

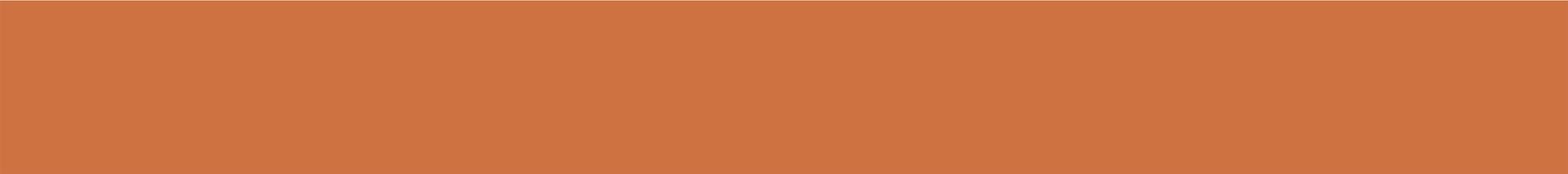


Synod
2021
2023

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SYNTHESIZE & REPORT



SYNTHESIZE AND REPORT

1. Prepare to collect
2. Summarize observations
3. Submit observations online

PREPARE TO COLLECT

- Prayerfully work with your listening session team.
- Plan to connect right after the listening session.
- Review the different questions (fundamental, preparatory, and online form.)

PREPARE TO COLLECT FUNDAMENTAL QUESTIONS REVIEW

A Synodal Church, in announcing the Gospel, “journeys together”

How is this “journeying together” happening today in your local Church?

What steps does the Holy Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our “journeying together”?

(Synod Preparatory Document #26)

PREPARE TO COLLECT PREPARATORY QUESTIONS REVIEW

To recall experiences: *What experiences of our local Church does this question call to mind? (Stories)*

To re-read these experiences in greater depth: *What joys did they bring? What difficulties and obstacles have they encountered? What wounds did they reveal? What insights have they elicited?*

To gather the fruits to share: *Where in these experiences does the voice of the Holy Spirit resound? What is the Spirit asking of us? What are the points to be confirmed, the prospects for change, the steps to be taken? Where do we register a consensus? What paths are opening up for our local Church?*

To prayerfully consider answers to questions: *In advance, responding succinctly to respect the goal of max participation.*

PREPARE TO COLLECT ONLINE FORM QUESTIONS REVIEW

1. What were common or important themes that emerged from the listening sessions?
2. Which particular stories or real-life experiences were shared related to the way our church currently journeys together?
3. What dreams, desires, and aspirations for our Church were expressed by participants?
4. What challenges or opportunities do these reflections pose as we journey together?
5. What did participants share related to the question of “what steps does the Holy Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our journeying together”?

SUMMARIZE OBSERVATIONS

- Post-listening meeting with team.
- Prayerfully recollect the session in light of online form.
- Determine responses to online form questions.
- Be accurate. Be succinct.

SUBMIT OBSERVATIONS ONLINE

- Link to online form coming soon.
- Video tutorials to submit online form coming soon.

LOCAL SYNOD TIMELINE

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Dec-May | Local listening, dialogue, and reporting. |
| May 6th | DEADLINE: Listening Reports to Chancery |
| June | Pre-Synodal Meeting |
| June 30th | DEADLINE: Chancery summary to USCCB |

V. Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful,

R. And kindle in them the fire of your love.

V. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.

R. And You shall renew the face of the earth. Let us pray.

O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit,

did instruct the hearts of the faithful,

grant that by the same Holy Spirit

we may be truly wise

and ever enjoy His consolations,

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



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QUESTIONS?