



Synod 2021-2023
Communion | Participation | Mission
Immaculate Conception Church

Worksheet for Local Synod Consultations

Introduction

Pope Francis has invited everyone to journey together in this Synod entitled: “For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission.”

Purpose

This Synod is a unique chance for our Church to step back and reconnect as a parish community. It is an invitation to parish life, which starts by listening to each other’s joys, hopes, sorrows, and anxieties. The purpose of this Synod is first and foremost to encourage participation of all baptized Catholics and people of goodwill on the margins of the Church. We want to foster an environment of welcome, hospitality, and inclusion.

The Fundamental Question

“A synodal Church, in announcing the Gospel, “journeys together:” **How is this “journeying together” happening today in our Parish? What steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our “journeying together”?**

Reflection Questions

Addressing the fundamental question requires listening to the Holy Spirit, who like the wind “blows where it will; you can hear the sound it makes, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes” (John 3:8), remaining open to the surprises that the Spirit will certainly prepare us for the listening sessions.

We ask ourselves prayerfully:

- What experiences in our Parish does the fundamental question call to mind?
- What joys do these experiences provoke?
- What difficulties or wounds have they brought to light?
- How does the Spirit help us draw insights, challenge us to change, or invite us forward?

Timeline

The diocesan phase of Synod 2021-2023 coincides with Lent 2022 and is a great opportunity to make this Lent a time of prayer and renewal before Easter.

- January. Planning and opening
- **February 7-20. Recruiting** and preparing in general
- **First Week of March: Training**
- March. Listening and journeying
 - Assemblies: **Mar 26 in English; Mar 27 in Spanish**
 - Assemblies **mid-week and by Zoom in mid-March, TBD**
- April. Documenting

Invitation to be a facilitator or notetaker

We hope you will consider being a facilitator or notetaker in an assembly and/or help reach out to family, friends, or the community in general. We will train you for this work.

Prayer

ENGLISH

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.

To sign up

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Diocesan Online Survey



<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/vatican-city/news/2021-09/text-read-in-english.html>