



Synod
2021
2023

For a synodal Church
communion | participation | mission

A SYNOD PROCESS
FOR THE
MEMBERS OF THE FDLC

Spring Meetings 2022



FROM POPE FRANCIS

From the Preparatory Document for the Synod
July 9, 2021



...A basic question prompts and guides us: How does this “journeying together,” which takes place today on different levels (from the local level to the universal one), allow the Church to proclaim the Gospel in accordance with the mission entrusted to Her; and what steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow as a synodal Church?

Addressing this question together requires listening to the Holy Spirit, who like the wind “blows where it wills; you can hear the sound it makes, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes” (*Jn 3:8*), remaining open to the surprises that the Spirit will certainly prepare for us along the way. Thus, a dynamism is activated that allows us to begin to reap some of the fruits of a synodal conversion, which will progressively mature. These are objectives of great importance for the quality of ecclesial life and for accomplishing the mission of evangelization, in which we all participate by virtue of our Baptism and Confirmation. Here, we will indicate the main objectives, which decline synodality as the form, the style, and the structure of the Church:

- recalling how the Spirit has guided the Church’s journey through history and, today, calls us to be, together, witnesses of God’s love;
- living a participative and inclusive ecclesial process that offers everyone—especially those who for various reasons find themselves on the margins—the opportunity to express themselves and to be heard in order to contribute to the edification of the People of God;
- recognizing and appreciating the wealth and the variety of the gifts and charisms that the Spirit liberally bestows for the good of the community and the benefit of the entire human family;
- exploring participatory ways of exercising responsibility in the proclamation of the Gospel and in the effort to build a more beautiful and habitable world;
- examining how responsibility and power are lived in the Church as well as the structures by which they are managed, bringing to light and trying to convert prejudices and distorted practices that are not rooted in the Gospel;
- accrediting the Christian community as a credible subject and reliable partner in paths of social dialogue, healing, reconciliation, inclusion and participation, the reconstruction of democracy, the promotion of fraternity and social friendship;
- regenerating relationships among members of Christian communities as well as between communities and other social groups, e.g., communities of believers of other denominations and religions, civil society organizations, popular movements, etc.;
- fostering the appreciation and appropriation of the fruits of recent synodal experiences on the universal, regional, national, and local levels.

As you all know, Pope Francis has called for a synod on Synodality. While the Synod of Bishops will take place in 2023, the Holy Father has called for two years of preparatory dialogue at all levels of the Church, with people outside the Church, and especially with the marginalized.

THE “SIXTEENTH REGION”

All dioceses in the United States are to conduct listening sessions. These will be compiled within the fourteen regions of the USCCB. The “fifteenth region” is made up of the Eastern Catholic Churches, who are also participating in this synodal process. For the sake of this synodal process, the USCCB has now established a “sixteenth region.” This will be made up of national organizations, including the FDLC.

THE FDLC AND THE SYNOD PROCESS

I understand that our FDLC members may be taking part in their parishes, in their dioceses, or by other means. You may also be a member of your diocesan team. Participate at every opportunity. But it is vitally important to collectively raise our voices in this FDLC process, since, at this writing, we are the only liturgy organization to do so. It is also vitally important that we keep our own process rooted and grounded in PRAYER and that we help others to do so.

A LONG-TERM GOAL

While most of these initial sessions will be over before summer begins, please bear in mind that this will be a “generational” project. The Holy Father has indicated that the long-term goal is to re-orient the Church toward an inherent synodal attitude in decision-making processes through “communion, participation, and mission.”

Thank you for participating in this process. In our prayer and our dialogue, may we all be open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. ■

Rita A. Thiron March 2022

TIMELINE

October 9, 2021	Synod Opening in Rome
October 17-18	Synod Opening in Dioceses
November 2021	Preparing the People of God through Preaching, catechesis, and prayer
November 28, 2021	Consultations with people of God begins
June 1, 2022	All regional reports to FDLC National Office
June 10-15, 2022	Drafting and feedback with FDLC regional reporters
June 30, 2022	All reports due to USCCB
August 15, 2022	USCCB Report given to the Vatican’s Synod Office

RULES FOR DIALOGUE AND DISCUSSION

The following points should be announced by the facilitator before dialogue begins. These are effective ground rules for any dialogue. A table moderator [or zoom room moderator] may occasionally need to gently remind participants of these guidelines.

Begin with prayer. Allow time for quiet prayer before and after each question's dialogue.

Arrive as your best selves. Appreciate what is about to take place. Think about your own contributions but also what you will learn from others' contributions. Be prepared to be a vessel of the Holy Spirit.

Create a safe environment for dialogue. This consultation is a safe place to talk. Respect the privacy of others. Comments are recorded, but never associated with a name or diocese. Whether comments are made in the small group or the large group, other members of the group always respect the speaker's privacy and confidence.

Listen well. Pope Francis notes that we listen to understand, not form a rebuttal in our own mind. Listen to what is underneath. What underlying values are being expressed?

Elevate the voice of all. One person speaks at a time. We limit time so that each person has a chance to share. Once everyone has spoken at least once, other comments can be welcomed. Gently interrupt a speaker who speaks longer or more frequently than others.

Avoid the inclination to engage in debate. Avoid the inclination to solve the problem here and now. Avoid comparing to what your diocese or parish does. Simply acknowledge a complaint or idea by saying "thank you."

Stick to the question. Refocus a speaker who is preoccupied with an issue which is not pertinent to this process. Encourage them to bring it up in another part of the Spring meeting agenda.

Report on the dialogue and discussion. The recording secretary synthesizes all comments and trends -- noting when any issue is brought up once or multiple times. The final report might also note any issues that were unresolved or may need to remain unresolved.

**Adapted from practices used in Restorative Justice Circles (Catholic Mobilizing Network) and Synod Discussion Rules (Leadership Roundtable).*

- ★ **DIALOGUE** is two-way, cooperative; its purpose is to build relationships and exchange perspectives between /among participants.
- ★ **DISCUSSION** is a process of talking about something in order to reach a decision or exchange ideas.
- ★ **DEBATE** is two way and competitive; its purpose is to convince one another.
- ★ **DIATRIBE** is one way and its purpose is to browbeat, inspire, shame or emote.

We will be engaging in dialogue. We will reflect and pray before moving onto discussion.

REQUISITES FOR THE FDLC SESSIONS

❖ ADVANCE READING

Article: “Catechesis on Synodality” from *Let Us Dream* by Pope Francis [see attachment]

❖ OPTIONAL ADVANCE READING

Article: “Give the Spirit the Mic: A Strategy for Communal Discernment and Synodality” by Brian Grogan SJ.

https://www.armagharchdiocese.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Give-the-Spirit-the-Mic-A-Strategy-for-Communal-Discernment-and-Synodality_Brian-Grogan-SJ.pdf

Vatican’s Preparatory Document (July 9, 2021)

<https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2021/09/07/210907a.html>

❖ PEOPLE

General Facilitator _____

Main Scribe _____

Table Facilitator(s) _____

Table Scribe _____

❖ PRAYER SERVICE

Opening Prayer – Full presider text is enclosed, pages ____

Suggested/ Alternate Scripture passages, please see pages ____

Closing Prayer – Full Presider text is enclosed, pages ____

❖ PARTICIPANT PAGES

Opening and Closing Prayer

Rule for Dialogue

Journal Pages – three questions for discussion

Please send in advance and/or duplicate for participant’s use during meeting.

AN OVERVIEW

An Introduction to the Session [see pages 3 and 4]	3 minutes
Input: Video	12 minutes
Opening Prayer: A Celebration of the Word	10 minutes
Small Group Reflection <i>Note: Three person maximum works best.</i> <i>Advance reading-- What impressed you? What challenged you?</i>	5 minutes
QUESTION ONE [Choose from among options listed.]	
Personal Reflection <i>Note: You may wish to play recorded, instrumental music for two minutes. When it ends, call the participants back.</i>	2 minutes
Small Group	10 minutes
Large Group Sharing	7 minutes
BREAK	8 minutes
QUESTION TWO [Choose from among options listed.]	
Personal Reflection	2 minutes
Small Group	10 minutes
Large Group Sharing	7 minutes
QUESTION THREE [Choose from among options listed.]	
Personal Reflection	2 minutes
Small Group	10 minutes
Large Group sharing	7 minutes
SUMMARY Main Scribe gives an overview of main topics heard	5 minutes
CLOSING PRAYER	2 minutes

OPENING PRAYER

A CELEBRATION OF THE WORD



OPENING HYMN

COME HOLY GHOST

see alternate suggestions herein

Come Holy Ghost, Creator blest
And in our hearts take up thy rest;
Come with thy grace and heavenly aid
To fill the hearts which thou hast made,
To fill the hearts which though hast made.

O comforter, to thee we cry,
Thou heavenly gift of God most high;
Thou font of life and fire of love
And sweet anointing from above,
And sweet anointing from above.

O Holy Ghost, through thee alone,
Know we the Father and the Son;
Be this our firm unchanging creed,
That thou dost from them both proceed,
That thou dost from them both proceed.

Praise we the Lord, Father and Son,
And Holy Spirit with them one;
And may the Son on us bestow
All gifts that from the Spirit flow,
All gifts that from the Spirit flow.

Text: *Veni, Creator Spiritus* attr. To Rabanus Maurus 776 -856; tr. By Edward Caswell.
Tune: LAMBILLOTTE, LM with repeat Louis Lambillotte, SJ 1796-1855. © 1986, GIA Publications, Inc.

THE WORD OF GOD

FIRST READING

Ephesians 2:19-22

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians

Brothers and sisters:
You are no longer strangers and sojourners,
but you are fellow citizens of the holy ones
and members of the household of God,
built upon the foundation of the Apostles and prophets,
with Christ Jesus as the capstone.
Through him the whole structure is held together
and grows into a temple sacred in the Lord;
in him you are also being built up together
into a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 33: 1, 12, 18-19, 20-22

Reader: Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.
All: Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

Reader: Exult, you just in the LORD;
praise from the upright is fitting.
Bless the nation whose God is the LORD;
the people he has chosen for his own inheritance.

All: Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

Reader: See, the eyes of the Lord are upon those who fear him,
upon those who hope for his kindness,
to deliver them from death
and preserve them in spite of famine.

All: Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

Reader: Our soul waits for the LORD,
who is our help and our shield.
May your kindness, O Lord, be upon us
who have put our hope in you.

All: Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

GOSPEL VERSE

John 15:4a, 5b

Remain in me, as I remain in you, says the Lord;
Whoever remains in me will bear much fruit.

GOSPEL

John 16:12-15

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples:

“I have much more to tell you, but you cannot bear it now.

But when he comes, the Spirit of truth,
he will guide you to all truth.

He will not speak on his own, but he will speak what he hears,
and will declare to you the things that are coming.

He will glorify me,

because he will take from what is mine and declare it to you.

Everything that the Father has is mine;

for this reason I told you that he will take from what is mine and declare it to you.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

SILENT REFLECTION

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

INVITATION TO PRAYER

Leader: Confident in the love of the Father,
the promise of Jesus, and the abiding presence of the Spirit,
let us offer our petitions.

PETITIONS

Reader: That all members of the Church may heed their baptismal call
to preach the Good News and build the Kingdom, we pray.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That leaders of churches, nations, cities, and homes,
may always engage in fruitful dialogue, we pray.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For peace in our time, we pray.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That all who suffer may meet people of faith who will willingly offer them aid, comfort, and companionship.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That those who have died may inspire our work and intercede for our prayers, we pray.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: Gathering our prayer and praises into one,
let us pray in the words our Savior gave us.

All: Our Father, ...

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Leader: Heavenly Father,
from age to age you have sustained your Church.
May your Spirit continue to guide us,
to inspire our dialogue,
and grow our resolve.
Make us instruments of unity and peace.
Grant this through Our Lord, Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God forever and ever.

All: Amen.

CONCLUDING RITE

“Adsumas Sancte Spiritus” (we stand before you, Holy Spirit) are the first words of a prayer written by St. Isidore for the Council of Seville (619). That same prayer was used to open each session of the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965). It has been abbreviated and adapted as the official prayer for the 2021-2023 synod process.

Leader: Let us pray together to the Holy Spirit,
that he may open our hearts and enlighten our discussion.



THE SYNOD PRAYER: *ADSUMAS*

All: 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 of this we ask of you who are at work in every place and time
in the communion of the Father and the Son, for ever and ever. Amen.

Excerpts from the *Lectionary for Mass for Use in the Dioceses of the United States*, © 2001, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970,
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Synod Prayer © 2021 General Secretariat for the Synod of Bishops, Vatican City.

Prayer Service prepared by the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions, Washington, DC.

ALTERNATE MUSIC AND SCRIPTURE FOR OPENING PRAYER

HYMNODY

Diverse in Culture, Nation, Race	Ruth Duck/ TALLIS CANON
O Breathe on Me, O Breath of God	Hatch/ST.COLUMBA
O Holy Spirit, by Whose Breath	<i>Veni Creator Spiritus</i> /Wojcik
Praise the Spirit in Creation	Hewlett /JULION
Spirit of God within Me	Dudley-Smith / WILLOW RIVER
When God the Spirit Came	Dudley-Smith/ VINEYARD HAVEN

PSALMODY

Psalm 19	Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.
Psalm 40	Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.
Psalm 90	In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge
Psalm 95	If today you hear God's voice, harden not your hearts
Psalm 104	Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth
Psalm 118	This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Psalm 145	The Lord is near to all who call on him.

OLD TESTAMENT

Deut. 30:10-14	My command is something very near to you; you have only to carry it out
Ezekiel 34:11-16	As a shepherd tends his flock, so I will tend my sheep.
Hosea 2:16b,17b, 21-22	I will espouse you to me forever.
Proverbs 3:5	Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.
Zephaniah 3:14-18a	The LORD, your God is in your midst, a mighty savior...

NEW TESTAMENT

Acts 2:1-11	Descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost
Acts 15:1-12	Council of Jerusalem
Romans 8:22-27	The Spirit intercedes with inexpressible groanings
Romans 12:1-3	One body with many parts ...many gifts but the same Spirit
1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13	In one Spirit we were all baptized into one body
Galatians 5:16-25	The fruit of the Spirit
Ephesians 1:3-14	He has made known to us the mystery of his will
Phil 2:1-4	Being of the same mind, with the same love
James 1:22	Be doers of the word and not hearers only.

GOSPEL

	<i>See Lectionary for Mass: For a Council or Synod</i>
Matthew 18:15-20	Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in their midst
Mark 6:30-34	Come away by yourself to a deserted place and rest a while
John 14: 23-29	The Advocate, the Holy Spirit will teach you everything
John 20:19-23	As the Father sent me, so I send you. Receive the Holy Spirit.

IALOGUE QUESTION ONE: COMMUNION

Personal Reflection



Small Group



Large Group Sharing

FORMING OURSELVES IN SYNODALITY

The spirituality of journeying together is called to become an educational principle for the formation of the human person and of the Christian, of the families, and of the communities.

Preparatory Document, No. 30-X

★ CHOOSE TWO OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS FOR YOUR DIALOGUE SESSION ★

“Listening is the first step, but it requires having an open mind and heart, without prejudices.” To whom does our particular Church “need to listen”? What space is there for the voice of minorities, the poor? How are the Laity, especially young people and women, listened to? When we say: “our Church,” who is part of it?

In the sixty years since the Council, where have you seen the growth of collaboration among clergy and the faithful?

How do we form people, especially those who hold roles of responsibility within the Christian community, to make them more capable of “journeying together,” listening to one another and engaging in dialogue? In what ways do YOU encourage formation and collaboration in your diocesan parishes?

How can/does the celebration of the liturgy foster communion? How do abuses in the liturgy foster disunity?

DIALOGUE QUESTION TWO: PARTICIPATION

Personal Reflection



Small Group



Large Group Sharing

CELEBRATING

"Journeying together" is only possible if it is based on communal listening to the Word and the celebration of the Eucharist.

Preparatory Document, No. 30 – IV

★ CHOOSE TWO OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS FOR YOUR DIALOGUE SESSION ★

How do prayer and liturgical celebration inspire and direct our "journeying together"? How do they inspire the community's most important decisions?

How do we promote the active participation of all the faithful in the liturgy and the exercise of the sanctifying function? What can each of us, individually or collectively – do to make our assemblies more engaged?

What practical methods can we use to welcome people back to the celebration of the Eucharist – both those who developed other habits during the pandemic and those who have drifted away from the practice of their faith?

How are lay persons – young and old, male and female – given opportunities to exercise liturgical ministries?

Where have you seen a growth in the understanding of the People about the nature of liturgy? Where is formation required?

DIALOGUE QUESTION THREE: MISSION

Personal Reflection



Small Group



Large Group Sharing

CO-RESPONSIBLE IN THE MISSION
Synodality is at the service of the Church's mission,
in which all her members are called to participate.
Preparatory Document, No. 30-V

★ CHOOSE TWO OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS FOR YOUR DIALOGUE SESSION ★

Since we are all missionary disciples, how is each baptized person called to be an active protagonist in the mission? How do liturgical ministers support the Church's commitment to service, social justice, in the protection of human rights, and in caring for the common home?

With submission to the will of the Spirit, what issues/practices should NOT continue to persist in the local or universal Church?

How can we better carry out the Council's vision on the Church's liturgy? What themes do you constantly hear surfacing?

How can pastoral liturgists promote liturgical celebrations which inspire mission?

CLOSING PRAYER

SIGN OF THE CROSS

PRAYER

All: Almighty God,
In this time and in this place,
you have given us an opportunity
to reflect on what it means to be your holy people.
Formed in your image and guided by your grace,
make us your witnesses to the world.
Embolden your Church to be the sacrament of your unity,
the vision of your holiness,
and the perfection of your charity.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

LITANY

Leader:	Mary, Mother of the Church, Saint Joseph, Saint Peter and Saint Paul, Saint John XXIII, Saint Paul VI, Saint John Paul II, Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Saint Junipero Serra, All holy men and women, Saints of God,	All:	pray for us. pray for us. pray for us. pray for us. pray for us. pray for us. pray for us. pray for us.
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BLESSING

Leader: May the peace of Christ which surpasses all understanding
keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

All: Amen.

Leader: May the blessings of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit
come down on you and remain with you forever.

All: Amen.

OR

Lay leader: May almighty God bless us, ✠
protect us from all evil
and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Amen.

DISMISSAL

Leader: Go in the peace of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

OTHER ONLINE RESOURCES

Full text: Preparatory document for the Synod Vatican, July 9 2021

<https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2021/09/07/210907a.html>

Various synod resources from the Vatican

<https://www.synod.va/en/resources.html>

Synod *Vademecum* for dioceses

<https://www.usccb.org/resources/Vademecum-EN-A4.pdf>

Tools for Reflecting and Sharing

<https://www.usccb.org/resources/Suggested-tools-for-reflecting-sharing.pdf>

Contact at USCCB

www.USCCB.org/synod

e-mail: synod@usccb.org

