



A SYNODAL JOURNEY

SYNOD 2024

*FOR A SYNODAL CHURCH:
COMMUNION, PARTICIPATION AND MISSION*

THE DIOCESE *of* RALEIGH

NEXT STEPS

A SYNODAL JOURNEY

We are called and sent by the Risen One to proclaim the Gospel to the world today. Growing as a synodal Church is a concrete way to respond to this call and this mission.

Those who took part in the synodal meetings at the different levels during the listening and consultation phase, and especially the participants in the First Session, have had a concrete experience of a Church that is plural and able to live with differences as a richness in communion. The synodal encounter between brothers and sisters who recognize each other as disciples called and sent by the Lord, is a grace and a source of joy. Out of this experience comes the desire to share this gift, involving ever more people in this dynamism.

AS THE HOLY FATHER RECALLED:

“The Synod is about synodality and not about this or that theme.... The important thing is how the reflection is done, that is, in a synodal way.”

NEXT STEPS

As the synodal journey of the People of God continues, they intertwine three levels in succession: the level of each local Church, that of the groupings of Churches (national, regional and continental), and that of the Church as a whole. To be clear, ongoing synodal work is not a question of starting the synodal process from scratch or repeating the process of listening and consultation undertaken during the first stage; it is an open invitation to synodality.

The objective of new and ongoing reflections is to identify the paths we can follow and the tools we might adopt in our different contexts and circumstances in order to enhance the unique contribution of each baptized person and of each Church in the one mission of proclaiming the Risen Lord and his Gospel to the world today.

FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY

In addition to the participatory bodies at diocesan level and synodal teams already established, it remains important to involve people and groups that

express a variety of experiences, skills, charisms, ministries within the People of God and whose point of view is of particular help in focusing on the ‘how’: e.g. ordained ministers (in particular parish priests); other pastoral leaders (e.g. catechists and leaders of grassroots communities and small Christian communities, particularly in some regions; leaders of pastoral offices); consecrated men and women; leaders of Lay Associations, ecclesial Movements and new Communities; people who hold positions of responsibility in Church-related institutions and organizations (schools, universities, hospitals, reception centers, cultural centres, etc.); theologians and canonists, etc.

The Secretariat for the Synod of Bishops has produced a worksheet to assist with continuing on a path of conversion in the local churches.

The USCCB suggest using the Conversation in the Spirit method to guide synodal discussions.

The following may help as guiding questions and scripture to broaden and deepen reflection upon synodality:

- **How can we be a synodal Church in mission?**
- **Where have I seen or experienced successes—and distresses—within the Church's structure(s)/organization/leadership/life that encourage or hinder the mission?**
- **How can the structures and organization of the Church help all the baptized to respond to the call to proclaim the Gospel and to live as a community of love and mercy in Christ?**

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



FROM THE VATICAN

For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission



Preparatory Document



Vademecum



Apostolic Exhortation Evangelii Gaudium: "I dream of a 'missionary option'"



A Synodal Church in Mission



FROM THE DIOCESE OF RALEIGH

Synod News and outcomes from earlier listening sessions



FROM THE USCCB

North American Final



Document for the Continental Stage



US National Synthesis



US Regional Syntheses



www.usccb.org/synod