



SYNOD 2021 -2023



Pope Francis and Bishop Quinn invite you to participate in...

A two-year preparation process for the 26th Ordinary Synod of Bishops, which will take place in Rome in the fall of 2023, has begun. The topic of the Synod will be “**synodality**”, a term which Pope Francis uses to describe our Church’s “**journeying together**” – **prayerfully listening to the needs and experiences of God’s people in order to faithfully discern the best way forward.**

Pope Francis has asked the entire Church to take an active part in the synod, inviting people from all walks of life and from all around the world to **gather together for prayer, sharing experiences, listening, and seeking the guidance and wisdom of the Holy Spirit.**

During this diocesan phase of the Synod, these gatherings will include parishioners, consecrated men and women, people of other Christian communities, and those “on the margins” of society and church life. **There will be listening sessions held in each parish/cluster in the new year which will include prayer, reflection, and discussion on the life of our Church today, and how the Holy Spirit is calling us to continue our mission of proclaiming Jesus Christ to the world.**

“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?”

The “vital pillars” of the synod process are:

- **Communion:** “God gathers us together as diverse peoples of one faith. We all have a role to play in discerning and living out God’s call for his people.”
- **Participation:** “A call for the involvement of all who belong to the People of God – laity, consecrated and ordained – to engage in the exercise of deep and respectful listening to one another.”
- **Mission:** “The Church exists to evangelize.... Our mission is to witness to the love of God in the midst of the whole human family.”
[From the “Handbook for the Synod”]

The goal of the Synod is for the Church “**to listen to the living voice of the entire People of God.**”

Please join us by participating in your local synod listening session!