



The Synod process is calling together all the people of God – clergy, religious and laity – to listen, dialogue, discern and pray.

The goal of the Synod is not to create a new pastoral plan, but rather to be present with each other, learn from each other, and grow closer to the Lord and His Church.

To encourage your participation in the synodal process, the synod fathers have proposed questions which they **categorize into 10 themes.**

To prepare ourselves for dialogue, the questions are listed below. Please take time to pray as you review each topic and question.

COMPANIONS ON THE JOURNEY

In the church and in society we are side by side on the same road.

- In our local Church, who are those who “walk together”?
- Who are those who seem further apart?
- How are we called to grow as companions?
- What groups or individuals are left on the margins?

LISTENING

Listening is the first step, but it requires an open mind and heart, without prejudice.

- How is God speaking to us through voices we sometimes ignore?
- How are the laity listened to, especially women and young people?

SPEAKING OUT

All are invited to speak with courage and parrhesia, that is, in freedom, truth, and charity.

- What enables or hinders speaking up courageously, candidly, and responsibly in our local Church and in society?
- When and how do we manage to say what is important to us?
- How does the relationship with the local media work (not only Catholic media)?
- Who speaks on behalf of the Christian community, and how are they chosen?

CELEBRATION

“Walking together” is only possible if it is based on communal listening to the Word and the celebration of the Eucharist.

- How do prayer and liturgical celebrations actually inspire and guide our common life and mission in our community?
- How do they inspire the most important decisions?
- How do we promote the active participation of all the faithful in the liturgy?
- What space is given to participating in the ministries of lector and acolyte?

SHARING RESPONSIBILITY FOR OUR COMMON MISSION

Synodality is at the service of the mission of the Church, in which all members are called to participate.

- Since we are all missionary disciples, how is every baptized person called to participate in the mission of the Church?

DIALOGUE IN CHURCH AND SOCIETY

Dialogue requires perseverance and patience, but it also enables mutual understanding.

- To what extent do diverse peoples in our community come together for dialogue?
- Where are the places and means of dialogue within our local Church?
- How do we promote collaboration with neighboring dioceses, religious communities in the area, lay associations and movements, etc.?

ECUMENISM

The dialogue between Christians of different confessions united by one baptism, has a special place in the synodal journey.

- What relationships does our Church community have with members of other Christian traditions and denominations?
- What do we share and how do we journey together?
- What fruits have we drawn from walking together?
- What are the difficulties?
- How can we take the next step walking forward with each other?

AUTHORITY AND PARTICIPATION

A synodal church is a participatory and co-responsible Church.

- How does our Church community identify the goals to be pursued, the way to reach them, and the steps to be taken?
- How is authority or governance exercised within our local Church?
- How are teamwork and co-responsibility put into practice?

DISCERNING AND DECIDING

In a synodal style we make decisions through discernment of what the Holy Spirit is saying through our whole community.

- What methods and processes do we use in decision-making?
- How can they be improved?
- How do we promote participation in decision-making within hierarchical structures?
- Do our decision-making methods help us to listen to the whole People of God?

FORMING OURSELVES IN SYNODALITY

Synodality entails receptivity to change, formation, and on-going learning.

- How does our church community form people to be more capable of “walking together,” listening to one another, participating in mission, and engaging in dialogue?
- What formation is offered to foster discernment and the exercise of authority in a synodal way?

You're Invited to Participate!

- Join our discussion group on April 6 at 6:00 p.m. in Leo Hall.
- Submit your answers in the [Virtual Auditorium](https://www.hbgdiocese.org/synod-2021-2023/) at www.hbgdiocese.org/synod-2021-2023/

For a synodal Church
communion | participation | mission