

PROVIDING INPUT TO CHURCH LEADERS REGARDING "SYNODALITY" IN THE CHURCH

The following notice from the *Holy Name Parish Bulletin* for January 9th encourages everyone to provide input to our Church leadership regarding "**Synodality**" in the Church.

"Pope Francis has launched the Synod on Synodality:

[this is] a two-year global process of listening to the faithful that will help the Church reflect on how we can do God's will in the world today. The comments of the faithful will ultimately be discussed at a meeting of the bishops in the Vatican in 2023.

*To learn more about the **Synod on Synodality** and to share your thoughts, please visit:*

www.archtoronto.org/synodality"

"**A Synod on Synodality**" is an unfamiliar, even strange, concept.

According to the Archdiocese of Toronto's "**Frequently Asked Questions**" pamphlet" (see [synod-synodality-poster.pdf \(archtoronto.org\)](#)):

Re. "What is a Synod?"

"The meaning of the term "synod" comes from Greek: walking together on the road. In a synod, bishops from around the world are called by the Holy Father to come together to pray, reflect, and discuss important issues for the Church. It is a process of discernment, of listening to the Holy Spirit guiding the Church. A synod typically concludes with a formal statement that gives guidance and direction for the entire Church."

Re. "What is the Synod on Synodality?"

"Pope Francis has called for the Synod on Synodality to be a time of prayerful reflection and discernment on the way that the Church, that is, the laity, pastors, and the Holy Father 'journey together', or walk together on the road. The focus of the Synod is on Communion, Participation, and Mission."

Other questions addressed in the Archdiocese of Toronto's "**Frequently Asked Questions**" pamphlet include:

- **When is the Synod?**
- **Who participates in the Synod?**
- **I don't go to church regularly. Should I still participate in the Synod?**

The upcoming (2023) **Synod on Synodality** is a "**once in a lifetime**" opportunity to provide input, feedback, to our Church leaders that has the potential to influence, even change, the way in which our Church walks with us as pilgrims, on our collective and individual journeys of faith.

- **You are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity** by responding to the Archdiocese of Toronto survey of your views, opinions, criticisms, advice, etc..
- **You can access the Archdiocese of Toronto Synodality survey** at: [Archdiocese of Toronto - The Synod on Synodality: Share Your Thoughts \(archtoronto.org\)](#)

According to Section 26 of the **Synod on Synodality Preparatory Document** ([English Version of the Preparatory Document \(synod.va\)](#))

"The fundamental question that guides this consultation of the People of God, ... is the following:

"A synodal Church, in announcing the Gospel, "journeys together:"

- **How is this "journeying together" happening today in your particular Church?**

- **What steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our “journeying together”?**

“In order to respond, you are invited to:

1. *ask yourselves what experiences in your particular Church the fundamental question calls to mind;*
2. *reread these experiences in greater depth:*
 - a. *What joys did they provoke?*
 - b. *What difficulties and obstacles have they encountered?*
 - c. *What wounds have they brought to light?*
 - d. *What insights have they elicited?*
3. *gather the fruits to share:*
 - a. *Where, in these experiences, does the voice of the Spirit resound?*
 - b. *What is he asking of us?*
 - c. *What are the points to be confirmed, the prospects for change, the steps to be taken?*
 - d. *Where do we register a consensus?*
 - e. *What paths are opening up for our particular Church?”*

Other **VATICAN** sources related to providing input into the planning and processes involved in the 2023 **Synod on Synodality** include:

- **Vatican website re. Resources for the Synod on Synodality:** ([Synod 2021 - 2023](#))
- **Roadmap for the diocesan phase of the Synod in Synodality** ([Roadmap for the diocesan phase \(synod.va\)](#))
- **Synod on Synodality Preparatory Document** ([English Version of the Preparatory Document \(synod.va\)](#))
- **“Vademecum [i.e., ‘Handbook’] for the Synod on Synodality”:**
This is the Official Handbook for Listening and Discernment in Local Churches: First Phase [October 2021 – April 2022] in Dioceses and Bishops’ Conferences Leading up to the Assembly of Bishops in Synod in October 2023 ([Vademecum-EN-A4.pdf \(synod.va\)](#))

Again, this is **YOUR “once in a lifetime” opportunity** to provide input to our Church leaders that will influence, even change, the way in which our Church walks with us, as pilgrims on our journeys of faith. Please take advantage of this rare opportunity by responding to the **Archdiocese of Toronto survey** of your views, opinions, criticisms, advice, etc..

You can access the Archdiocese of Toronto Synodality survey at:

www.archtoronto.org/synodality

Your voice does count.

Please respond to the Archdiocese of Toronto survey.

Please pray for the success of the Synod.

God bless all of us.
