



Five Lessons from Restorative Practices for the Synod on Synodality



CATHOLIC
MOBILIZING
NETWORK

Synod
2021
2023



Krisanne Vaillancourt Murphy

Executive Director
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Sandra Coles-Bell

Executive Director
National Black Catholic Sisters Conference

We Stand Before You, Holy Spirit

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 this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time,
in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever.

Amen.

<https://www.prayforthesynod.va/en/>





Fr. David McCallum, S.J.

Executive Director
Discerning Leadership



Sr. Nathalie Becquart, XMCJ

**Undersecretary for the General Secretariat
of the Synod of Bishops**



Synod
2021
2023

For a synodal Church
communion | participation | mission



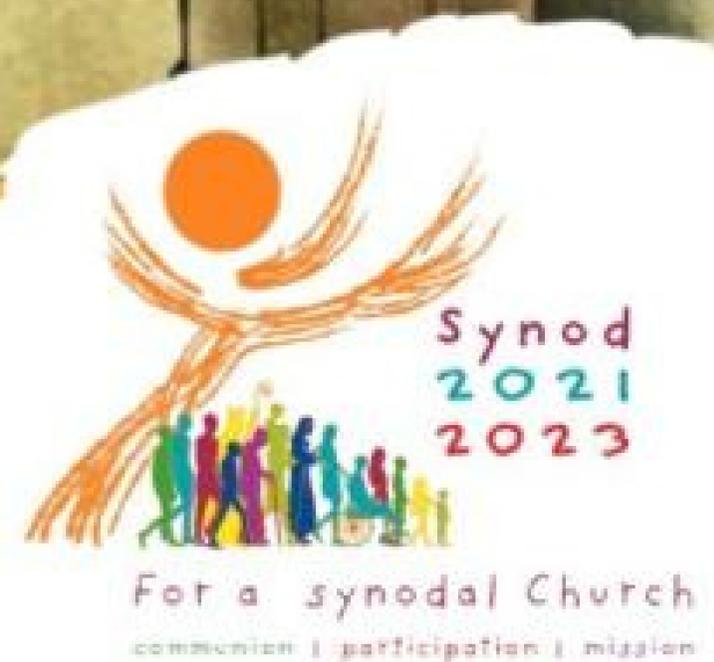
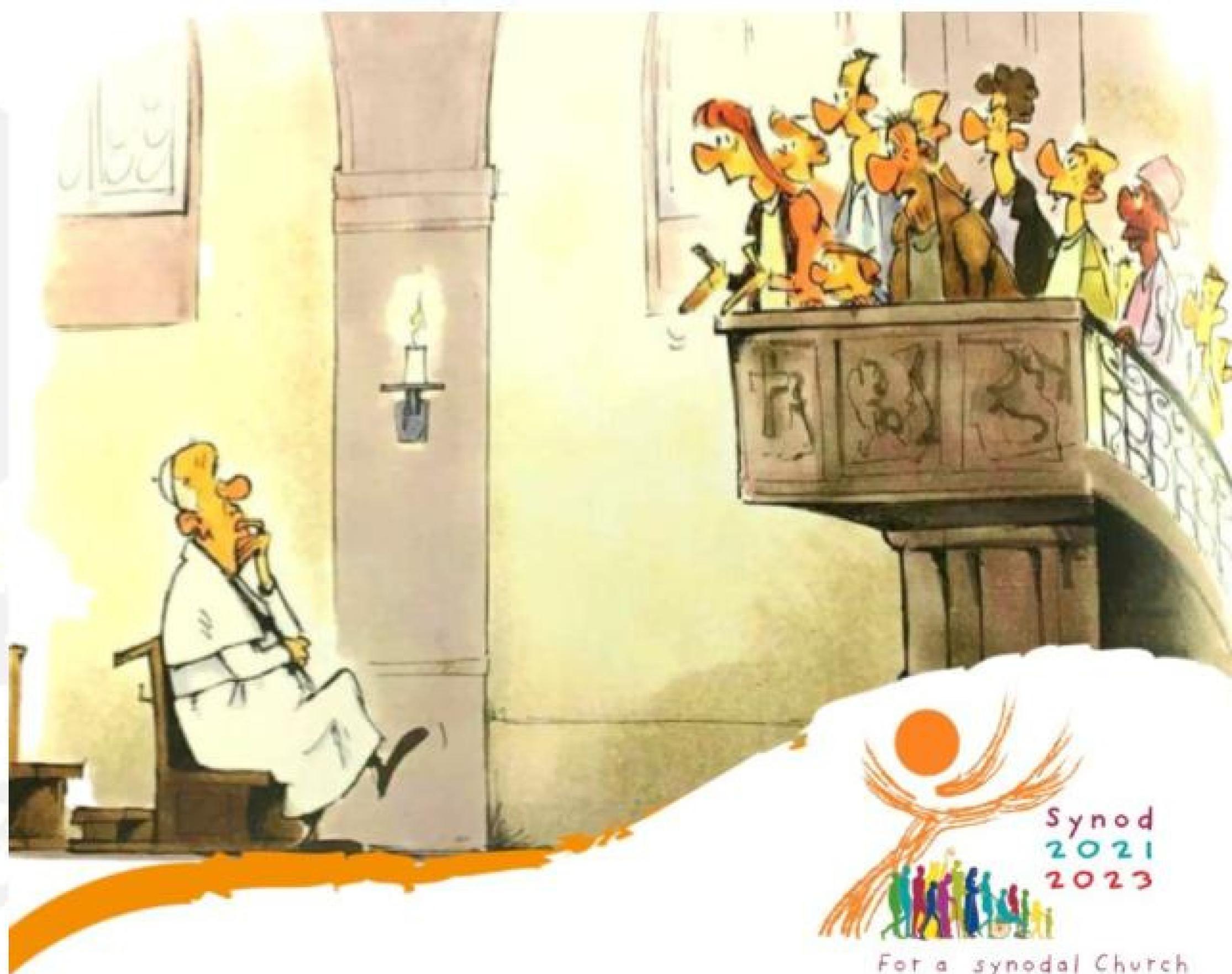
**With Pope Francis “synodality now means not some of the bishops
some of the time but all of the Church all of the time”**



Ormond Rush,
“Inverting the
Pyramid: The
Sensus Fidelium
in a Synodal
Church,” *TS*
(March 2017)

A Synodal Church is a listening Church

[#synod](#) [#synodality](#) [#listeningchurch](#)





“Synodality is the way of being the Church today according to the will of God, in a dynamic of discerning and listening together to the voice of the Holy Spirit.”

Pope Francis



"Synodality expresses the nature of the Church, its form, its style, its mission."

Pope Francis Diocese of Rome Sept. 18



"We are Church all together"

"All are protagonists, no one can be considered a mere extra".

▣ CHURCH-SUBJECT

Rediscovering the primacy of the ecclesial "we" to serve the common good

- QA 20 **"Life is a community journey** in which tasks and responsibilities are distributed and shared according to the common good.
- Synodality awakens and strengthens the **ecclesial "we"**.
- Synodality aims at and produces **communion** at the service of the **"common home"**.

Synodality is passing from the « I » to the « us »

□ A synodal vision to highlight first the baptism call the Ecclesiology of the People of God

From the hierarchical “Pyramid-Church” to the synodal “Maté-Church”





“The
Church of
God is
convoked in
Synod.”

PD §1

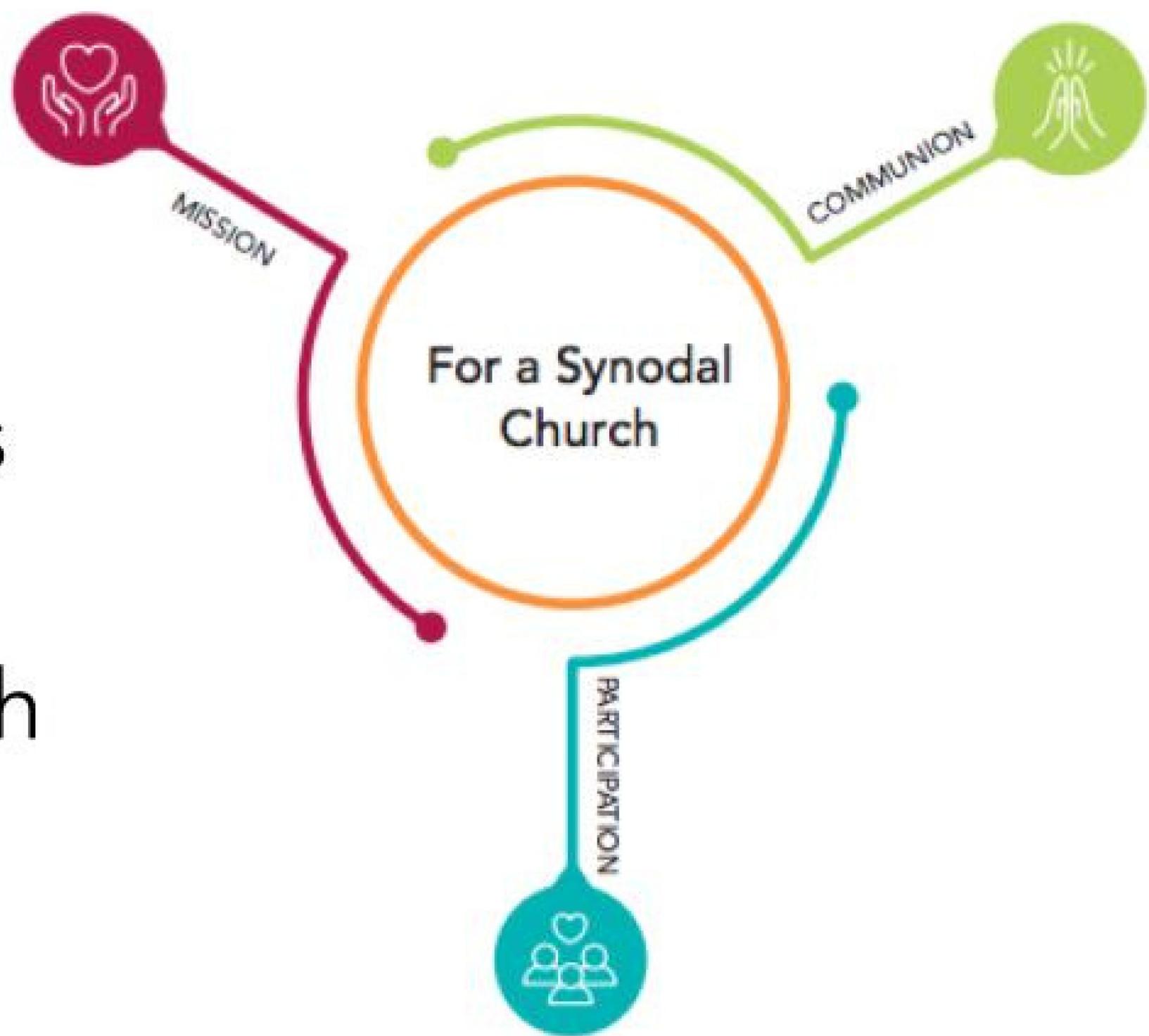
The aim of the Synod 2021-2023

To (re)learn synodality
Reread and Practice

- The Synodal conversion of the Church
- *Putting into practice the Synodal nature of the entire Church*
- *Towards a “synodalization” of the whole Church at all levels*

Walking together as a people of missionary pilgrims
to learn and practice synodality

Communion,
Participation
and Mission –
3 inseparable keys
at the heart
of a Synodal Church



Synodality is a process that "ecclesializes" us.

- This stimulates the generation and implementation of **processes that build us as the People of God** rather than the search for immediate results with quick consequences. “

Letter of Pope Francis to the Church in Germany on the synod's journey

The Objectives of the Synod (*PD*, 2)

- 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;

The Objectives of the Synod (*PD*, 2)

- 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.

Basic Question of the Synodal Process

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? (PD, 2)

The fundamental question for the consultation of the People of God

A synodal Church, in announcing the Gospel, “journeys together:” How is this “journeying together” happening today in your local Church? What steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our “journeying together”? (PD, 26)



Ten Themes to Explore

I. COMPANIONS ON THE JOURNEY

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

II. LISTENING

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

III. SPEAKING OUT

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

IV. CELEBRATION

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

V. 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. How does the community support its members committed to service in society (... in caring for the Common home...)

VI. DIALOGUE IN CHURCH AND SOCIETY

Dialogue is a path of perseverance that also includes silences and sufferings, but which is capable of gathering the experience of persons and peoples.

What are the places and modes of dialogue within our particular Church?

VII. ECUMENISM

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

VIII. AUTHORITY AND PARTICIPATION

A synodal Church is a participatory and co-responsible Church. What are the practices of teamwork and coresponsability?

IX. DISCERNING AND DECIDING

In a synodal style, decisions are made through discernment, based on a consensus that flows from the common obedience to the Spirit.

X. 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.

FOSTERING WIDE PARTICIPATION IN THE SYNODAL PROCESS

The goal is to ensure the participation of the greatest number possible, in order to listen to the *living voice of the entire People of God*.

- This is not possible unless we make special efforts to actively reach out to people where they're at, especially those who are often excluded or who are not involved in the life of the Church.
- There must be a clear focus on the participation of the poor, marginalized, vulnerable, and excluded, in order to listen to their voices and experiences.
- The Synodal Process must be simple, accessible, and welcoming for all.





“The purpose of the Synod, and therefore of this consultation, is not to produce documents, but “to plant dreams, draw forth prophecies and visions, allow hope to be nourished, inspire trust, bind up wounds, weave together relationships, awaken a dawn of hope, learn from one another, and create a bright resourcefulness that will enlighten minds, warm hearts, give strength to our hands.”” (PD, 32)



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LESSON #1

*Creating a Safe
Enough Container*





LESSON #2

*Equalizing Power
and Voice*





LESSON #3

*Arriving As Our
Best Selves*





LESSON #4

*Relationships
Before Issues*





LESSON #5

*Listening Well &
Sharing Deeply*

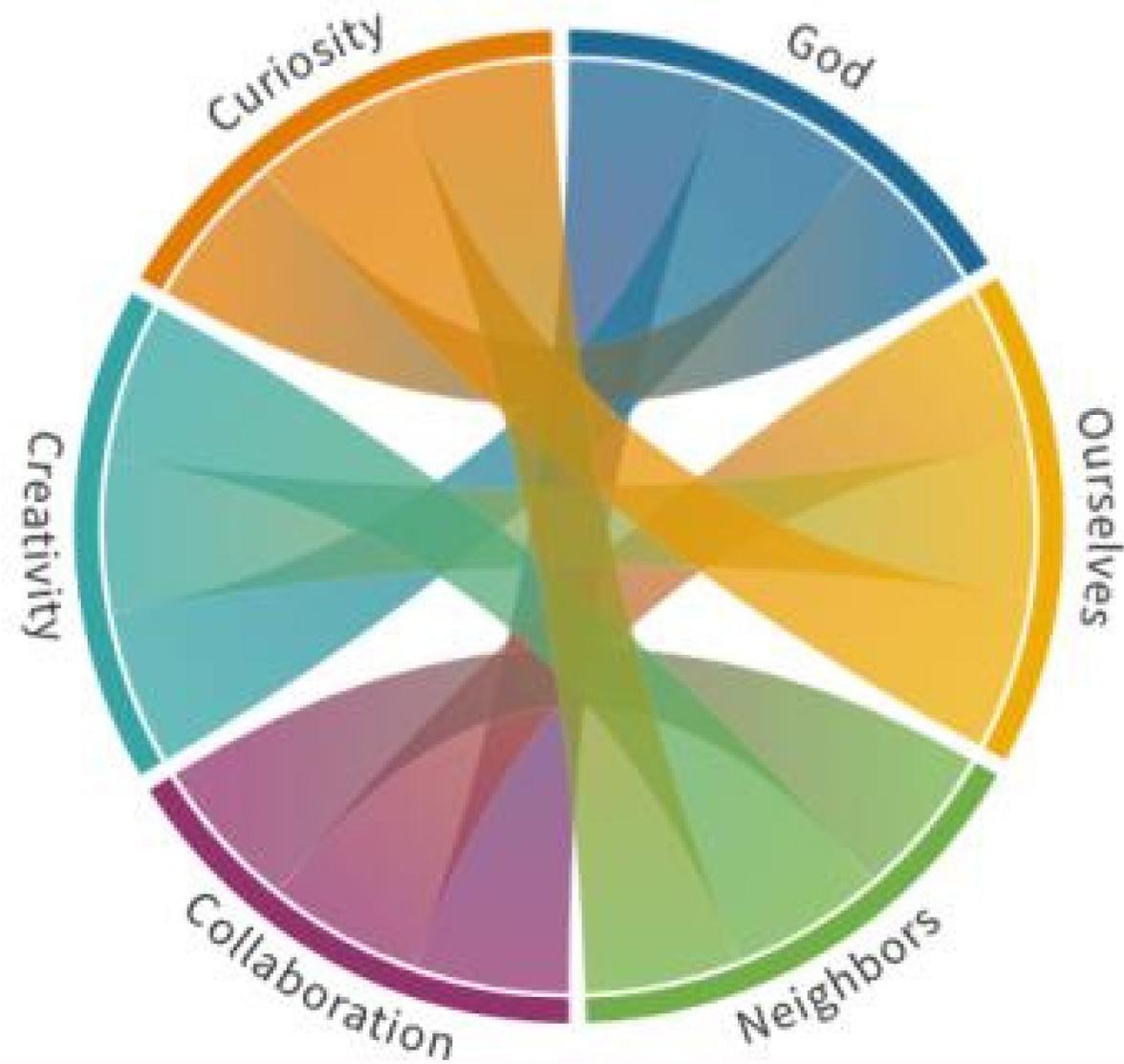




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Synod 2021-2023: A Generational Project



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Fatima Torres

Special Projects
Catholic Mobilizing Network

Holy Spirit, Make Yourself At Home In Our Hearts

Holy Spirit, make Yourself at home in our hearts
Holy Spirit, we are gathered in the name of Jesus.
As his gift to us, guide us; make Yourself at home in our hearts,
our homes and churches.
You who fill the world, Holy Spirit, fill our minds and hearts.
Show us the way you desire to renew the Church
and give us courage to walk it.
Let us find our way to harmony and unity,
truth and self-knowledge
May we run the way together to a renewed and relevant church
in the world and to eternal life.

Amen.

Sisters of St. Benedict in Winnipeg, Manitoba - Canada

