



For a synodal Church
communion | participation | mission



ARCHDIOCESE
of
KINGSTON

SYNODAL CONVERSATIONS TOOLKIT



GET INSPIRED
GET CREATIVE

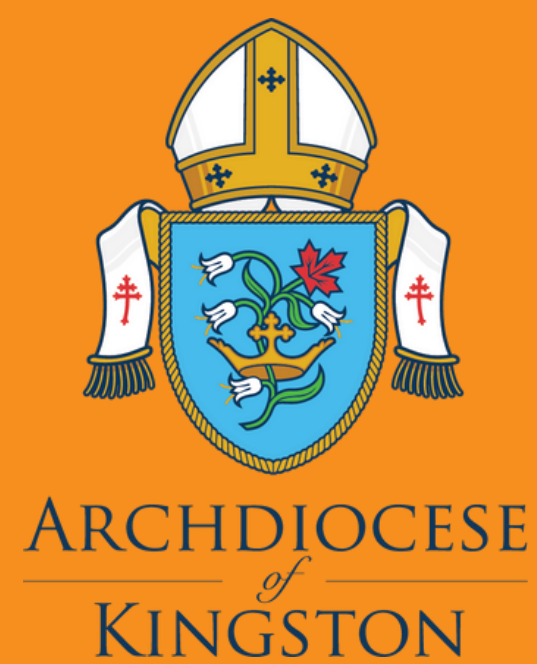
#ListeningChurch

Our Holy Father Pope Francis has invited the Catholic Church to embark on a journey together. Through listening and discernment rooted in the Holy Spirit, the entire people of God will be called to contribute to a process by which the Church deepens her understanding of the mission and looks toward the future.

A Synod, which is the process by which the Church will begin this important work is not just a convening of Bishops reflecting on a particular topic and advising the Pope. A Synod is a journey of discernment, in which the people of God are called to pray and reflect upon the Holy Spirit's will for the Church. Through our listening and our sharing, we will seek to understand what the Holy Spirit's will is for the topic being discussed — and thus, for the Church.

For the 2023 Ordinary Synod of Bishops, that topic is synodality. Simply put, synodality is discerning how the Spirit is moving through and with the Body of Christ, so that we may continue to fulfill our mission to evangelize in the world.

SYNODALITY



GET INSPIRED
GET CREATIVE

LISTENING
DISCERNMENT
JOURNEY
MISSION
FUTURE
SHARING
CREATIVITY
COMMUNION
AUTHENTICITY



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Prayer for the Synod

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.





Connect Engage Inspire

ARCHBISHOP MULHALL AND THE ARCHDIOCESAN SYNOD TEAM INVITE YOU TO CONNECT WITH OTHERS AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO SHARE THEIR STORY! WHAT IS THEIR EXPERIENCE OF THE CHURCH? DO THEY FEEL CONNECTED TO THE CHURCH? THEY MAY SHARE THEIR STORY AND VOICE IN A FEW WAYS:

- ONLINE SURVEY ON OUR [WEBSITE](#) BEGINNING JANUARY 3, 2022.
 - PARTICIPATE IN / FACILITATE A DISCUSSION USING OUR CONVERSATION STARTER QUESTIONS. IF YOU OR SOMEONE ELSE IN THE GROUP CAN JOT DOWN SOME NOTES TO BE ABLE TO SHARE WITH OUR SYNOD COMMITTEE VIA THE GROUP FEEDBACK ON OUR [WEBSITE](#) OR BY EMAILING NOTES TO THE SYNOD COORDINATOR: SYNOD@ROMANCATHOLIC.KINGSTON.ON.CA
 - IF YOU HAVE ANOTHER IDEA OF HOW YOU MAY DIALOGUE AND HEAR THE VOICES OF OTHERS IN YOUR SETTING, PLEASE USE THESE QUESTIONS AS A FRAMEWORK AND SHARE YOUR NOTES WITH US: SYNOD@ROMANCATHOLIC.KINGSTON.ON.CA
- 



Synod
2021
2023



Conversation Starters

communion | participation | mission

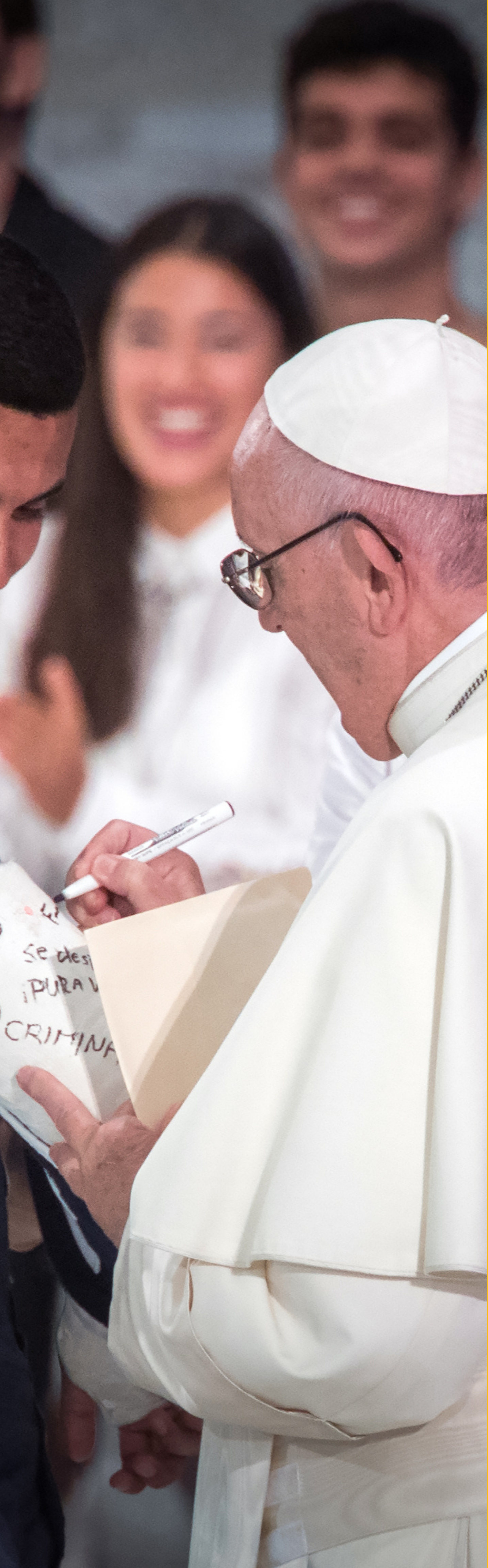
Please use the question which best fit your group / conversation. There are General Conversation Starter Questions and Synodal Themed Conversation Starter Questions.

GENERAL CONVERSATION STARTER QUESTIONS

- What is your experience of church?
- How does the church help you?
- What can the church do differently?

SYNODAL THEMED CONVERSATION STARTER QUESTIONS

1. Who has Christ sent to encourage and support you in your life, in your faith, in your parish and in Church?
2. How do we hear the voice of Christ in the Church? How do we hear Him on the edges of our communities?
3. What enables or hinders us in hearing the voices of others in our parish communities and in our Church?
4. How do Mass and communal prayer inspire and strengthen you? For your decisions? Prepare us for our mission in the world?
5. What is the mission of the Church? How is this realised in your parish and in the archdiocese? How do you fit into this mission?
6. What particular issues in the Church and society need conversion in the light of the Gospel?
7. What might build up a closer communion with our brothers and sisters of other Christian traditions?
8. How does the Church support, encourage and serve our participation in its life and mission?
9. How do we, as individuals, as parishes and as an archdiocese, discern and make decisions in the light of the Gospel?
10. How does listening to Christ prompt us to hear one another, encourage us to participate in mission and help us to reflect Him to those we encounter?



GOOD PRACTICES TO MAXIMIZE THIS EXPERIENCE

Here are some suggestions to make this process go successfully

- *Listening is key
- *Meet people where they are at
- *All are welcome to share their voice
- *Receive negative feedback without judgement
- *This listening process is more important than "answering questions"

Listening (Preparatory Document, no. 26, 30; Vademecum nos. 1.5, 5.3)

- The synodal process necessitates that we, as the People of God, first listen with an open heart and open mind to where the Spirit is calling us and discern to whom we are needing to listen and what steps need to be taken to more fully live out our mission.
- Lived synodality is only possible through the approach of a listening Church, open to gathering and reflecting on the lived experiences of all its members, including making space for those often excluded and discarded: women, youth, victims of sexual abuse, and the poor and vulnerable.

FACILITATING A LISTENING SESSION

- WELCOME & INTRODUCTION
- SYNOD PRAYER
- FACILITATOR SHOULD MAKE SOME BRIEF COMMENTS (PERHAPS BY USING ONE OF THE VIDEOS ON THE ARCHDIOCESAN SYNOD WEBSITE) SHARING WITH GROUP WHAT THE SYNOD ON SYNODALITY IS, AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?
- SHARE GOAL OF THIS SYNOD: A SPECIAL TIME OF PRAYER, LISTENING, DIALOGUE, AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OUR CHURCH:
 - THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO RESPOND TO THE REQUEST FROM POPE FRANCIS TO DREAM ABOUT THE CHURCH WE ARE CALLED TO BE.
 - BY GATHERING AND LISTENING, WE HOPE TO WEAVE NEW AND DEEPER RELATIONSHIPS, TO LEARN FROM ONE ANOTHER, TO BUILD BRIDGES, TO ENLIGHTEN MINDS, TO WARM HEARTS, AND TO RESTORE STRENGTH FOR OUR COMMON MISSION.
 - BY THE END OF OUR TIME TOGETHER WE AIM TO CAPTURE, THROUGH THESE CONVERSATION QUESTIONS, YOUR ANSWERS TO THE BASIC QUESTION: HOW IS THE CHURCH JOURNEYING TOGETHER? WHAT STEPS DOES THE SPIRIT INVITE US TO TAKE IN ORDER TO GROW IN OUR 'JOURNEYING TOGETHER'?
- THANK PARTICIPANTS FOR SHARING THEIR VOICE.
- CLOSING PRAYER -SPONTANEOUS OR PREPARED
- GROUP FACILITATOR COMPLETES THE ONLINE GROUP CONVERSATION FEEDBACK ON OUR SYNOD WEBSITE OR SUBMITS NOTES TO SYNOD COORDINATOR AT SYNOD@ROMANCATHOLIC.KINGSTON.ON.CA



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