

## Fundamental Question:

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”?



## METHOD

*\*\*\*The following method is not meant to be exclusive, but to provide a structure that you can adapt to meet your parish's needs\*\*\**

1. Send questions one month ahead of the meeting to provide time for prayer.
2. Begin parish synod gathering with Holy Hour, shared Scripture, and brief homily highlighting the above noted questions.
3. Welcome participants in a suitable area.
4. Remind participants of appropriate attitude for conversation, ground rules.
5. Have participants break up into small, diverse groups (6-7 persons) with a table facilitator and note-taker. The role of table facilitator and note-taker may be the same person and could be served by pastoral council members. The following three rounds should take about one hour, with breaks in between each round.
  - a. Round 1: Each person shares the fruit of their prayer regarding the presented questions, without responses.
  - b. Round 2: After some silence, participants respond with where they notice the Spirit moving.
  - c. Round 3: Participants reflect on conversation and note what stood out the most to them. This round ends with prayer.
6. After taking some time to compose a response, a representative from each table group is invited to share the fruit of their conversation.
7. The gathering concludes appropriately with a prayer or song.

# QUESTIONS FOR PRAYER, REFLECTION, AND DISCUSSION

**\*\*\*Please choose at least one question under each of the sections (i.e., Communion, Participation, Mission) for discussion (edit/adapt questions, as desired). And, be sure to discuss both of the questions under, "Wrapping up". (Stress the importance of honesty.)\*\*\***

## 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."*

1. What does the Eucharist mean to me? How can I help others come to a deeper understanding of the Eucharist?  
*(As Catholics, we believe that Jesus is truly present Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity in the Sacrament of the Eucharist.)*
2. How is it possible for me to have fruitful dialogue and collaboration with those of differing perspectives?
3. Do I feel like I belong in this parish community? Why or why not?

## 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."*

1. How do we as a Church listen well, and where do we fall short in hearing the voices of all who live in this area?
2. Do our decision-making methods allow us to listen to the People of God and the Holy Spirit? Are these methods employed with transparency?
3. What hinders me as a baptized Christian from being an active, missionary disciple?

## 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"]*

1. What areas of Christ's mission are we neglecting?
2. How do prayer and liturgical celebrations actually inspire and guide our common life and mission in our community?  
*(Examples of liturgical celebrations include Mass, Funerals, Weddings, Baptisms, services, etc.)*
3. What steps can be taken to grow closer to our fellow non-Catholic Christians?  
*(A missionary disciple is someone who has relationship with Jesus Christ and is actively leading others to Jesus Christ.)*

## WRAPPING IT UP...

1. How can we foster an approach to participation and leadership that is modelled on communion, participation and mission?
2. What signs have you seen in our community that we are fostering a life of "walking together," listening to one another, participating in mission, and engaging in dialogue — all the while paying attention to the movements of the Holy Spirit?  
*(Some examples of movements of the Holy Spirit include answered prayers, people choosing to change their lives and follow Christ, newfound curiosity of Jesus, etc.)*

**"It is precisely  
this path of  
synodality  
which God  
expects of the  
Church of the  
third  
millennium."**

POPE FRANCIS



# REPORT FROM PARISH TO DIOCESE

*The following questions are to be used to share your report with the Diocese in January.  
Please use the below questions to summarize the data you collected.*

*A link will be provided in the future where you can submit your answers to the questions below electronically.*

1. Summary of large group discussion
2. Special note of any sharing outside of the large group
3. Total number of participants
4. Were there any especially noteworthy groups present or absent?
5. What was most significant about the whole experience?
6. What tensions or disagreements arose?
7. Which points of view resonated with the gathering, or were mentioned in passing but noteworthy?
8. How has the Holy Spirit inspired the community in the path of communion, participation and mission?
9. What dreams for the Church were expressed in the gathering?



**Listening**  
**Discernment**  
**Journey**  
**Mission**  
**Future**  
**Sharing**  
**Creativity**  
**Communion**  
**Authenticity**

**#ListeningChurch**



Diocese of Winona-Rochester Synod 2021-2023  
**Communion – Participation – Mission**