

Diocese of Harrisburg

The Synodal Way



A synodal Church “journeys together” as we announce the Gospel. *How is this “journeying together” happening today in your parish and in our diocese? What steps does the Spirit invite us to take to grow in “journeying together”?*

While we journey together with one another as the People of God, we also journey together with the entire human family. These two perspectives enrich one another and are helpful for our common discernment towards deeper communion and more fruitful mission.

Some Questions for Our Shared Reflection

- **Companions on the Journey** – *How are we called to grow as companions? What groups or individuals might be left on the margins?*
- **Listening** – *How is God speaking to us through voices we sometimes ignore? How well do we listen to those on the fringes?*
- **Speaking Out** – *What enables or hinders speaking up courageously, candidly, and responsibly in our local Church and in society?*
- **Celebration** – *How do liturgical celebrations inspire our common life, mission in our community, and most important decisions? How do we promote the active participation of all the faithful?*
- **Sharing Responsibility for Our Common Mission** – *What hinders the baptized from being active in the mission of the Church? What areas of mission need more attention?*
- **Dialogue in Church and Society** – *To what extent do diverse peoples in our community come together for dialogue? What are the means of dialogue within our local Church?*
- **Ecumenism** – *How do we journey together with members of other Christian traditions and denominations? What are the fruits and difficulties of journeying together?*
- **Authority and Participation** – *How does our Church community identify the goals to be pursued, the way to reach them, and the steps to be taken? How are teamwork and co-responsibility put into practice?*
- **Discerning and Deciding** – *How does our Church community use consultation or discernment in decision-making processes? How can we grow in communal spiritual discernment?*
- **Forming Ourselves in Synodality** – *How does our Church community form people for journeying together, listening to one another, and participating in mission?*

... to “journey together,” we need to
let ourselves be educated by
the Spirit to a truly synodal
mentality, entering with courage
and freedom of heart into a
conversion process ...

Pope Francis has called for a Church ‘which listens, which realizes that listening is more than simply hearing.’ ‘It is a mutual listening in which everyone has something to learn. The faithful people, the college of bishops, the Bishop of Rome: all listening to each other, and all listening to the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth (*Evangelii Gaudium*, §171).’

The Holy Spirit speaks through the Scriptures . . .

As we reflect on our task of mutual listening, we open our hearts to listen to where the Holy Spirit is leading the Church today in our parishes and in our diocese. Take some time to listen prayerfully to the Holy Spirit’s voice resounding through the Sacred Scriptures and echoing in your heart.

- **The mission of the Twelve:** Matthew 6:7-12
- **On the way to Emmaus:** Luke 24:13-35
- **Jesus’ Prayer for the Church:** John 17:1-26
- **The Coming of the Spirit:** Acts 2:1-13
- **Peter and Cornelius:** Acts 10:1-49
- **The Council of Jerusalem:** Acts 15:1-35
- **Unity and Diversity:** 1 Corinthians 12:1-11
- **We Are One Body:** 1 Corinthians 12:12-26
- **The Good News:** 1 Corinthians 15:1-11
- **Victory in Christ:** 1 John 5:1-5

We are called to share and listen to one another . . .

Our reflection leads us to insights under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. These insights are unique to each one of us and are shaped by our experience of the Church. You are invited to share the fruit of your prayer and reflection through one of the ways listed below:

- Begin a conversation with other members of the Church about your experience
- Share your experience at a parish or deanery consultation session
- Contribute your through the “Virtual Auditorium” on the Diocesan Synod websites:
www.hbgdiocese.org/synod-2021-2023/
- Send a letter to the Diocesan Synod Ambassadors at the Diocesan Center (address below)
- Use the US Conference of Catholic Bishops’ website: www.usccb.org/synod
- Go to the Vatican! www.synod.va/en.html
- Submit poetry, artwork, photographs, and other creative expressions of your experience of the Church through the “Virtual Auditorium” or to the Synod Ambassadors through the mail

Diocese of Harrisburg—Synod Ambassadors
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