Synod Orientation

The Importance and Process of the Synod
Diocese of Oakland

January 25, 2022
Table of Contents

• Welcome and Introductions
• Opening Prayer
• What is the Synod?
• Why is it important?
• Proposed Process
• Website Resources
  • Facilitators Guides
  • Reporting Form
• Q & A
• Next Steps
• Closing Prayer

Oakdiocese.org/synod
Opening Synod Prayer

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

• Walking Together

• The path along with the People of God walk together
Why is it Important?

Process
Over
Reporting

Listen
Pray
Walk Together

Testimonies

Oakdiocese.org/synod
“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)
Diocesan Proposed Process

- Listening Sessions
  - Parish
  - Ministry/Organization
  - Youth Ministry Groups
  - Young Adult
  - School

- Final Report
  - Bishop Barber
  - Public Reporting
  - USCCB
  - Vatican

Diocesan Proposed Process
SESSIONS
FEB. 1 - MAR. 15, 2022

FINAL REPORT
MAR. 31, 2022
Facilitator’s Guides

- Guides for Each Session Type
- Guides Available on Website
- English and Spanish

Oakdiocese.org/synod
Four Questions

1. How is *journeying together* happening in our local church or group as we carry out the Church’s mission?

2. What are the joys in carrying out this *journeying together*? What helps or hinders us in this process?
Four Questions

3. In what new ways is the Holy Spirit leading us to grow in our journey?

4. How is the Holy Spirit inviting us to proclaim the message of Jesus Christ in today’s world?
Four Requests for Consultation & Synthesis Reports *(From USCCB)*

- Demographics
- Consultation Context
- Methodology
- Answers to Questions

Diocesan Core Team needs to prepare a 10-page synthesis of the process.
Reporting Form

• Demographic Questions

• Four Questions

• https://oakdiocese.org/synod-listening-session-reporting-form

• Due Date: March 31, 2022
SUBMIT YOUR PARISH LISTENING SESSION REPORT HERE

Parish Name REQUIRED
(Select One)

Date of your Listening Session REQUIRED
MM/DD/YYYY

Contact Info of Person Submitting Report

First Name REQUIRED

Last Name REQUIRED

Email REQUIRED
user@mydomain.com

Phone Number REQUIRED
For each of the questions below that you discussed in your listening session, please list up to three main themes that your parish identified.

What are some things you are facing in life right now that you hope the Church will accompany you in? REQUIRED

What are the joys of being a part of the Church? What are the challenges of being a part of the Church? REQUIRED

In what new ways is the Holy Spirit leading us to grow in our journey? REQUIRED

How do you see yourself sharing in the Church’s work of sharing Christ’s life and love for the whole world? REQUIRED

Ideally, use half a page to answer each question – about 2100 characters per answer.
**Synod Timeline**

- **Mid December - Mid January**
  Preparation for Synod Listening Sessions

- **January 2022**
  Listening Sessions held with Parishes, Youth Groups and Catholic Organizations

- **February 2022**
  Data Gathering/Analysis and Reflections of the Core Team

- **March 2022**
  Deadline for Parish, Youth Group and Catholic Organizations feedback to Synod Core Team

- **April 2022**
  Summarize and Synthesis of Analysis from Listening Sessions

- **May 2022**
  Closing Liturgy with Bishop Michael Barber, SJ at the Cathedral of Christ the Light
Next Steps Checklist

- Identify Your Team
- Schedule Listening Sessions
- Advertise in Parish Bulletin, at Mass, and on Social Media
- Hold Listening Session(s)
- Pray With and Thank Participants
- Complete & Submit Reporting Form by March 31, 2022
Closing Prayer
Hail Mary
Thank you!