Synod Orientation

The Importance and Process of the Synod
Diocese of Oakland

January 27, 2022
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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
The Objectives of the Synod *(PD, 2)*

- Recalling how the Spirit has guided the Church’s journey
- Living a participative and inclusive ecclesial process
- Recognizing and appreciating the wealth and the variety of the gifts and charisms
- Exploring participatory ways of exercising responsibility
- Examining how responsibility and power are lived in the Church as well as the structures by which they are managed
- Accrediting the Christian community as a credible subject and reliable partner
- Regenerating relationships among members of Christian communities as well as between communities and other social groups
- Fostering the appreciation and appropriation of the fruits of recent synodal experiences
Discerning the signs of the times in the light of the Gospel

“The synodal journey unfolds within a historical context marked by epochal changes in society and by a crucial transition in the life of the Church, which cannot be ignored: it is within the folds of the complexity of this context, in its tensions and contradictions, that we are called to ‘scrutinize the signs of the times and interpret them in the light of the Gospel’ (GS, 4).”

(PD, 4)

1. The global tragedy of the COVID-19 pandemic

2. Inequalities and injustices: massification, fragmentation, the conditions faced by migrants, divisions across the family of humanity.

3. The cry of the poor and the cry of the earth

4. Youth is a blessed time for the young and a grace for the Church and for the world.

We are all in the same boat... We are one human family living in our common home.

(Laudato Si’, Christus Vivit, Fratelli Tutti)
Why is it Important?

- Process
- Over
- Reporting
- Listen
- Pray
- Walk Together

Testimonies
“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 *organized by*
  • Parish
  • Ministry/Organization
  • Youth Ministry Groups
  • Young Adult Groups
  • School

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

[Oakdiocese.org/synod](http://Oakdiocese.org/synod)
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. What are some things you are facing in life right now that you hope the Church can accompany you in?

2. How do you see yourself sharing in the Church work of being Christ’s life and love for the whole world?
Four Questions

3. What are the joys in carrying out journeying together? What helps or hinders us in this?

4. How and where is the Holy Spirit calling us to grow in journeying with one another?
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

  • One report per parish/organization

• Due Date: March 31, 2022

St. Francis De Sales, Patron Saint of Writers
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
Ideally, use half a page to answer each question – about 2100 characters per answer.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What are some things you are facing in life right now that you hope the Church will accompany you in?</td>
<td>REQUIRED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How do you see yourself sharing in the Church work of being Christ’s life and love for the whole world?</td>
<td>REQUIRED</td>
</tr>
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<td>What are the joys in carrying out journeying together? What helps or hinders us in this?</td>
<td>REQUIRED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How and where is the Holy Spirit calling us to grow in journeying with one another?</td>
<td>REQUIRED</td>
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General Comments
# FACILITATOR GUIDES & RESOURCES / GUÍAS DEL FACILITADOR + RECURSOS

## ENGLISH GUIDES
- Parish & School Facilitator Guide
- Ministry/Catholic Organizations Facilitator Guide
- Youth/Young Adult Facilitator Guide

## SUPPORTIVE RESOURCES
- Loving Our Neighbor Through Dialogue
- Three Ways to Listen on the Margins
- Following Pope Francis - Dialogue in Fratelli Tutti
- Preaching Homily Prompts
- Sample Petition (ENG & ESP)

## LISTENING SESSION INSTRUCTIONS

## QUICK LINKS
- Synod Training Presentation, January 25, 2022
- Return to Main Synod Page

## GUÍAS EN ESPAÑOL
- Guía del Facilitador Parroquial
- Guía del Facilitador de Escuela/Ministerio/Organización Católica
- Guía del Facilitador de Jóvenes/Adultos Jóvenes
**Synod Timeline**

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

- **April**
  Data Gathering/Analysis and Reflections of the Core Team
  Summarize and Synthesis of Analysis from Listening Sessions

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

- **March 31**
  Deadline for Parish, Youth Group and Catholic Organizations feedback to Synod Core Team

- **May 22**
  Closing Liturgy with Bishop Michael Barber, SJ at the Cathedral of Christ the Light

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DIocese of Oakland

For a synodal Church
communication & participation & mission
Next Steps Checklist
- Identify Your Team
- Register for Facilitators Training
  - February 1 – English
  - February 3 – Spanish
- 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!