



For a Synodal Church:

communion, participation, mission

On October 9, Pope Francis launched the **16th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops** – which is going to be anything but the ordinary gathering of The Synod, an advisory group for the Pope made up of bishops from all over the world!

Rather than a single meeting of bishops in Rome, this Synod **will involve as many people from around the world as possible, over a two-year, 3-phased process**. In the **first phase**, each diocese will hold discussions on the questions and themes of the Synod; in the **second phase**, each episcopal conference – the CCCB, for instance – will combine diocesan-level responses into a single document and present it at a continental grouping of conferences. Each episcopal conference’s response will then be combined into a continent-wide response, which will be presented in Rome during the **third phase**.

“The purpose of this synod is not to produce more documents. Rather to inspire people to dream about the church we are called to be, to make hopes flourish, to stimulate trust, to bind up wounds and restore strength to our hands for our common mission.”

Our Diocesan Synod Planning Committee has already begun planning opportunities for the people of our Diocese to participate, which will begin early next year. To watch Bishop Gary’s livestream where he launched the first phase, please click [here](#).

For more information on the Synod, please visit www.synod.va/en.html.