



Diocese of Richmond: Resources for the Synodal Process

Synod on Synodality: Communion, Participation, and Mission

Synodality and the Diocesan Response



Synodality - Journeying Together

What it is:

First and foremost, synodality denotes the particular style that qualifies the life and mission of the Church, expressing her nature as the People of God journeying together and gathering in assembly, summoned by the Lord Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit to proclaim the Gospel. Synodality ought to be expressed in the Church's ordinary way of living and working. - International Theological Commission

What it is not:

- Democratic process where majority rules
- A corporate strategic process
- A process only for those already involved
- An opportunity to push agendas or personal concerns



Fundamental Question

A synodal Church, in announcing the Gospel, “journeys together”. How is this “journeying together” happening today in your particular Church? What steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our “journeying together”?



Diocesan Structuring of Questions

- Identified Trends and Commonalities
- Sorted Thematic Nuclei into 3 Groups
 - Communion
 - Discussion and Dialogue
 - Participation and Mission



Diocesan Material

- Facilitator Guide
- Participant Guide
- Notetaker Forms
- Online Feedback Survey

Questions?



Practicals of Parish Consultations



Prayer

The entire process needs to be centered on prayer:

- In planning
- By the participants
- During Consultations



Preparation

- Point Person
- Advertising
- Scheduling Consultations
- Identifying Facilitators and Note Takers
- Personal Invitations



Consultations

- Leadership Roundtable
- Basic Outline - Facilitator's Guide
- Parish Discretion



Submitting Feedback

Feedback is due by March 28th

- Each parish will submit feedback once
- Online survey
- Specific questions
- Word limits

Parish Next Steps



Proposed Timeline

December - January

- Parish Planning

January - March

- Consultations

March 28th

- Submit Feedback

Moving Forward

- Parish Action Points

Questions?

