



Pope Francis has invited the worldwide Church to participate in preparing for the next meeting of the Synod of Bishops in October 2023.

The topic? SYNODALITY

## What is Synodality?

Synodality is a way of “journeying together” – of living out our faith – that calls for speaking and listening to one another and the Holy Spirit in order to find a path forward in addressing the issues facing the Church in our day as we work to carry out our mission of making known the Good News of salvation in Jesus Christ.

## What is the aim of Synod 2021-2023?

Synodality is a fundamental part of the Church’s very nature. There are already many ways by which we experience synodality in the Church: ecumenical councils, Synods of Bishops, diocesan Synods, and diocesan and parish councils. Yet, these institutions are not the only means of speaking and listening to one another and the Holy Spirit. The objective of the current process is not to produce more documents, policies or procedures. Rather, it is to provide an opportunity for the entire People of God to discern together how to move forward on the path towards being a more synodal Church in the long-term, to foster a lived experience of participation, discernment and shared responsibility in furthering the Church’s mission in the world.

## What is the theme of Synod 2021-2023?

“For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission”

*Communion:* God gathers us together as diverse peoples of one faith. Christ reconciles us to the Father and unites us with each other in the Holy Spirit.

*Participation:* All the faithful are called to serve one another through the gifts they have each received from the Holy Spirit. We all have a role to play in discerning and living out God’s call for his people.

*Mission:* Our mission is to witness to the Gospel. Synodality is a path by which the Church can more fruitfully fulfill her mission of evangelization in the world.

