



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 do we hope will result from the Synod Consultation?

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 today’s society, listening to one another with care and compassion has fallen by the wayside. The synod consultation provides an opportunity for us to exercise this “muscle” that has become weak. **The hope is that we will become more capable of listening with care and compassion, again and again over time, especially to those with whom we disagree and those who are not often heard.**

In our prayer, our speaking and listening with God, we do not ordinarily expect to receive immediate, concrete answers to the issues and challenges we face. It is the same with synodality. The goal is not to come up with a neat report or a list of top priorities (although we can and should pay attention to thoughts and ideas that arise from the conversation). Likewise, we are not looking to change the doctrines of our faith through synodality, just as we do not try to “change God’s mind” through our prayer. Rather, as is prayer, the consultation process is a call to conversion. **We hope to discover, through the practice of compassionate speaking and listening, what we should change in ourselves to deepen our relationships and to live out our faith more fully.**

Look for more information on participating in the Synod Consultation in the diocesan *Messenger*, in parish communications, on social media, and on the diocesan website, www.covdio.org/synod.

