

Synod: Key Term #2

What is synodality?

The Church has been holding synods since ancient times. While the concept of synodality is old, the word “synodality” is very new. It means the entire People of God assembling together, journeying together, and actively participating in the evangelizing mission of the Church. Pope Francis is calling us to recognize synodality as the way the entire Church operates. Everyone is involved, everyone contributes. In particular, it means listening to each other and not remaining oblivious in our own bubbles. Synodality is not only for internal affairs, but also manifests the Church’s universal and missionary nature to the world. Hopefully this Synod on Synodality will help us to better understand and live out this emerging concept.

What is the Synod on Synodality?

Pope Francis has asked the entire world to participate in a synod on the topic “For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission.” The central question he asks of everyone is:

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

You may be invited to participate in listening sessions at your local parish, or you may wish to give your input online. Participation in a synod should always involve prayer, listening, discussion, and above all, discerning the way that the Holy Spirit is guiding us. Hopefully these questions and answers can help you as you prepare your input.