



Listening Sessions Questions for Individual Reflection

The following questions are designed to obtain important information from the People of God in the Archdiocese of Winnipeg regarding the question of Synodality. In order to do this with the best spiritual approach possible, we would suggest that you take a few quiet moments to place yourself in God's presence and seek to open your heart to our Lord. In approaching the questions in the survey you are embarking upon an action of the Church itself. You are invited to look upon each question as an opportunity to listen to what the Holy Spirit is saying through you to the whole Archdiocese, indeed the whole Church. We all have opinions about things but in an exercise such as this one, we want to know what the Holy Spirit is saying to the Church. Each of us has the mark of the Holy Spirit within us because of our Baptism and Confirmation. This is a very privileged moment dear Brothers and Sisters. After you have quietly composed yourself, the Ad Sumas Prayer is to be said. This is the same prayer that the Bishops prayed before each session of the Second Vatican Council. Then reflect and respond to the questions.



We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name. With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts; Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it. We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder. Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions. Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right. All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. Amen

Synod Questions – Long Form

(Read the following questions and the prompts (a, b, c...) that follow. Respond to those prompts that speak most strongly to your life or situation. You may add additional pages as required)

1. COMPANIONS ON THE JOURNEY

In the Church, we journey with one another as the People of God. We also journey on the same road with the entire human family. Who has Christ sent to support and encourage you in your life, your faith, your parish and the greater Church?

- a) Who among my family members, Church community or others, played a pivotal role in helping me grow in faith and virtue?
- b) Who, if anyone, do I *currently* consider a support and companion in my faith journey?
- c) How would I describe my relationship to the Church? Has it been a helpful companion both before and through the experience of Covid, and during the most important moments of my life (marriage, parenthood, illness, death of a loved one, etc.)?
- d) Are there one or two instances (positive or negative) that have deeply marked my faith journey?

2. LISTENING AND SPEAKING OUT

Listening requires us to be open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit who challenges us to listen to views different than our own. Disciples should feel welcome to express themselves freely and with boldness and charity in their parish communities.

- a) Does my parish invite all members to share their views and provide opportunities to do so?
- b) What, if anything, makes it difficult for me to speak openly?
- c) Is my relationship with Christ strengthened by my participation in the parish?
- d) Do I feel the Church speaks effectively on important issues that I care about?
- e) What are some ways we might better engage all of our members, including those who remain on the sidelines?

3. CELEBRATION

To “walk together” it is necessary to gather to listen to the Word of God, and celebrate the Eucharist.

- a) How well do I understand what is taking place during the celebration of Mass?
- b) How much of a role does private prayer play in my decision-making?
- c) To what extent does my experience at Mass impact the way I live my life and guide the choices I make throughout the week?
- d) How does the Mass challenge and guide the way we live our life as a parish community?
- e) How well does my parish invite all present to participate in the Mass and the life of the parish?
- f) What could I, and other members of my parish, do to better involve others in the liturgy, community prayer, and other dimensions of parish life?

4. THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

Every baptized person is called to participate in the mission of the Church, which is to spread the Gospel and be a leaven that transforms the communities in which we live.

- a) Do I confidently participate in the mission of the Church?
- b) What, if anything, hinders me, from sharing my faith with others?
- c) What would help me to more fully participate in the Church’s mission in my home community?
- d) How effective is my parish and diocesan community participating in the mission of the Church?

5. DIALOGUE IN CHURCH AND SOCIETY

When done well, dialogue enables mutual understanding and fosters the building of new relationships. As a Church, we are called to dialogue with one another, but also with the entire world. How might developing a relationship with other religious and cultural groups and businesses help us to bring life and healing to those in need of our attention?

- a) What are the places and opportunities to engage in dialogue within our local Church?
- b) How do we promote collaboration with Catholic lay associations and movements, service groups, religious communities, and neighboring dioceses?
- c) How well do we address differences in vision or other difficulties? How might we do this better?
- d) What particular issues in society do we need to pay more attention to?
- e) What experiences of dialogue and collaboration do we have with believers of other religions (Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, etc.) and with those who have no religious affiliation?
- f) How do we dialogue with other sectors of society, including politics, economics, the arts, science, indigenous peoples and other cultures, and those who live in poverty? Do we recognize and engage the wisdom they have to offer? Do we willingly share our own wisdom?

6. ECUMENISM

The dialogue between Christians of different confessions, united by one baptism, has a special place in the synodal journey.

- a) What relationship does our Church community have with members of other Christian traditions and denominations (various Eastern and Oriental Orthodox Churches, Polish National Church, Anglican, Lutheran, and other Protestant or independent communities, etc.)?
- b) How have we journeyed together? What fruits has this journey produced? What difficulties have we faced?
- c) What steps could we take that would allow us to walk forward with one another?

7. AUTHORITY, PARTICIPATION & DECISION-MAKING

A Synodal Church is a community where all Christians are invited to participate, and where everyone shares responsibility for the health and growth of the community.

- a) Do I feel invited to contribute to developing the goals, priorities and activities of my parish?
- b) Are individuals in my parish encouraged and supported to take on ministry and other leadership roles?
- c) Do we approach goal-setting and decisions as a team, beginning with prayer and spiritual discernment?
- d) What would help ministry leaders feel more included in contributing to the vision and growth of our faith community?
- e) Do I feel connected to, and supported by our Archdiocesan Church?
- f) Have members of our parish participated on Archdiocesan committees, or have we contributed to Archdiocesan goals?

8. FORMING OURSELVES IN SYNODALITY

To be able to journey together, in the way Pope Francis envisions, we need formation as individuals, as families, and as Christian communities. We also need to become more skilled at “reading” the culture we live in to understand we are formed by it – in positive and negative ways.

- a) What is needed in order for us to feel better equipped to journey with others and to feel supported in our efforts?
- b) What kind of education could be offered to help all Christians - clergy and lay - to make decisions and exercise authority in a more synodal way?
- c) Pope Francis dreams that the Church will walk together in a more synodal way, how are we doing as a Church?
- d) Do you have a suggestion as to what could be done in your own parish and diocese to help further this dream?

9. YOUR EXPERIENCE OF THIS TIME OF LISTENING AND SHARING

Please take some time to reflect, and to answer this question in writing.

a) Please share one thing you learned today/tonight?

b) What is one important message that you would like to share, that could help us to grow as a Church that walks together?

The information you provide in the following section will help us to determine who we are reaching in this Universal Synod.

1. In which part of the Archdiocese do you reside

Parkland Westman Interlake Winnipeg North

Winnipeg Central (downtown, or west Winnipeg north of the Assiniboine) Winnipeg South

2. Name of home community: _____

3. Name of home parish: _____

4. I am (check one):

Male

Female

5. I am (check one):

- Single (never married)
- Single (separated/divorced/annulled)
- Married
- Common-law
- Widowed

6. I am (check one):

- Under 18 years old
- 18-30 years old
- 31-50 years old
- 51-65 years old
- Over 65 years old

7. I am (check all that apply):

- A baptized Catholic
- Baptized other Christian tradition or denomination
- Ordained priest, permanent or transitional deacon
- Member of a religious order
- Spiritual but not associated with any faith tradition
- Member of a non-Christian religious tradition
- Former Catholic
- Agnostic or Atheist

8. Which best describes your attendance at Mass (check one):

- I attend at least weekly
- I attend at least monthly
- I attend at Christmas, Easter, or on other special occasions
- I have not attended in more than a year, but intend to in the future

I no longer attend and do not intend to attend in the future

9. Which best describes your participation in the parish? (check one)

I am active in one or more ministries

I volunteer on occasion

I am no longer active due to age or infirmity

I am presently not active due to work, children or other but would like to volunteer in the future

I am not actively involved in my parish

Please bring this with you to a Listening Session in your community or return it to your local parish. Thank you for your participation!