

Synod 21-23

communion | participation | mission

The Fundamental Questions

- What does it mean for a Church to “journey together” in announcing the gospel?
- How does “journeying together” happen today in your local Catholic community?
- What steps does the Spirit invite us to take to grow in our journeying together?

The Core Topics

Companions on the journey: In our local Church, who are those who “walk together”? Who are those who seem further apart? How are we called to grow as companions? What groups or individuals are left on the margins?

Celebration: How do prayer and liturgical celebrations, especially Mass, inspire and guide our common life and mission? How do we promote the active participation of all the faithful in the liturgy?

Sharing responsibility for our common mission: How is every baptized person called to participate in the mission of the Church? What hinders them? How does the Church help its members to serve Jesus and society in a missionary way? What areas of mission are we neglecting? How do we engage in discernment about missionary choices?

Listening: How is God speaking to us through voices in our midst, including those we sometimes ignore? What space is there to listen to voices on the peripheries, especially cultural groups, women, disabled persons or those experiencing poverty, marginalization or social exclusion?

Speaking out: What enables or hinders you in speaking up courageously, candidly, charitably and responsibly in our local Church and in society? How do social media and news media (secular and Catholic) impact the mission of the Church? Who speaks on behalf of the Christian community, and how are they chosen?



Synod 21-23

communion | participation | mission

The Core Topics – Continued

Dialogue in Church and society: To what extent do people of diverse backgrounds or viewpoints come together in our community for dialogue? How do we promote such conversations in our Catholic community? What issues in the Church and society do we need to pay more attention to? How does the Church dialogue with and learn from other sectors of society: political, cultural and those who live in poverty?

Ecumenism: What relationships does our community have with members of other Christian traditions? What do we share and how do we journey together? What are the fruits and difficulties of walking together? What are the difficulties? How can we take the next step in walking forward together?

Authority and participation: How does our Church community identify goals to be pursued, ways to reach them and to carry out the subsequent evaluation? How is governance exercised? How are teamwork, co-responsibility and the ministries of laity promoted and put into practice? How effective are local synodal bodies (e.g. Pastoral councils, presbyteral councils)? How can we foster a more synodal approach to Church life?

Discerning and deciding: How does our Catholic community make decisions, and do those methods and processes rely on the guidance of the Holy Spirit? How can our ways of discerning and deciding be improved? How do we promote participation in decision-making within hierarchical structures, so that we listen to the whole People of God? What tools and procedures do we use to promote transparency and accountability? How can we grow in communal spiritual discernment?

Forming ourselves in synodality: How does our church community form people to be more capable of “walking together,” listening to one another, participating in mission, and engaging in dialogue? What formation is offered to foster discernment and the exercise of authority in a synodal way?

