



SYNOD ON SYNODALITY

Listening and Discernment in Local Churches

First Phase [October 2021 – August 2022]
in Dioceses and Bishops' Conferences

Leading up to the Assembly of Bishops in Synod
in October 2023

OUR SYNOD ON SYNODALITY PROCESS GUIDE FOR:

St. Theresa's Parish
7508 – 29 Avenue NW
Edmonton, Alberta

(**Synod** - is a Greek word (*synodos*) meaning a meeting or assembly: *syn* meaning together and *hodos* meaning way or journey)

(**Synodality** - is the path and process of the Church as communion. It is the communion of all the baptized who are listening to each other, dialoguing with each other, and praying together to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit as we all seek holiness and proclaim the Gospel. Synodality involves clergy, religious and laity listening and speaking, praying, and discerning together, and placing the hopes and concerns of the People of God at the foot of the bishops, who, united with the Pope, decide matters of faith and morals in order to preserve the faith and strengthen the Church throughout the world.)

The heart of the synodal experience is listening to God through listening to one another, inspired by the Word of God. We listen to each other in order to better hear the voice of the Holy Spirit speaking in our world today. This can take place over the course of one gathering, but we strongly encourage that several gatherings take place to allow for a more interactive atmosphere of sharing as people get to know each other, trust one another, and feel that they can speak more freely thus making it a truly synodal experience of journeying together. In addition to the more formal aspects of speaking and listening to one another, it is important that gatherings have informal moments as well. Pilgrimages, group activities, artistic expressions, and even over coffee or lunch breaks can help to foster a sense of community through the experience of sharing life with one another.

This Synod offers us the opportunity to be with each other, to invite our family and friends back to the faith, to listen to each other's joys and sorrows and share our hopes and dreams for our parishes."

Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory

A synodal Church, in announcing the Gospel, "journeys together."

- **How is this "journeying together" happening today in your local Church?**
- **What steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our "journeying together"?**

In responding to these questions, we are invited to:

- **Recall our experiences:** What experiences of our local Church does this question call to mind?
- **Re-read these experiences in greater depth:** What joys did they bring? What difficulties and obstacles have they encountered? What wounds did they reveal? What insights have they elicited?
- **Gather the fruits to share:** Where in these experiences does the voice of the Holy Spirit resound? What is the Spirit asking of us? What are the points to be confirmed, the prospects for change, the steps to be taken? Where do we register a consensus? What paths are opening up for our local Church?

The Synodal process in St. Theresa's Parish will start in January 2022 and be completed by the end of July 2022. Over this period: bulletin items, brochures, presentations during the Mass by the presider, other presentations during Mass, displays in foyer of the church, in-person gatherings/zoom meetings, on the parish website, handouts and other means of communication will be used to spread the word of the Synod process in our parish and gather input from all who wish to **live in communion, achieve participation, and open to mission.**

Check out <https://caedm.ca/synod>