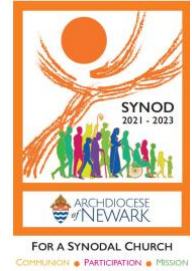


Synod on Synodality Update

Office of the Chancellor



Being a Listening Church

The Synod on Synodality plans are moving along quickly in the Archdiocese of Newark. Here are a few highlights:

Synod Information Sessions

Synod information sessions will be held around the Archdiocese in November. We are planning at least two per county and two online. The flyer with registration links will be sent to you soon and will also be on the RCAN.org/Synod2023 webpage.

Archdiocese of Newark Synod Timeline

Attached to this email, you will find the Synod Timeline. You will notice that they will take place in parishes and other ministries during December, January, and February. If possible, we would like as many parishes and ministries to be finished before the end of February.

We have designed further Listening Session questions to correspond with the questions that Pope Francis would like us to discuss. There are two “Global Questions” that he asks:

1. How is this “journeying together” happening today in your parish community, campus ministry, university, school, youth group, religious congregation or other?
2. How are we “walking together” as a Church and what steps does the Holy Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our journeying together?

We are crafting accompanying questions to focus on our parishes and the Archdiocese (which can be adapted for particular ministry areas.)

We are in the process of developing a Listening Session template which can be used by parishes and adapted for campus ministries, religious congregations, parent meetings, and more. It will be coming soon.

Who should attend a Listening Session?

All are invited to participate in a Listening Session. In the parish setting, pastors, parish staff, parishioners, council members, youth, young adults, parents of children in the school or religious education, and those who are missing who may have left the parish during the pandemic, or for other reasons should feel welcome to come. The idea is to reach out to as many people as possible.

When can the Listening Sessions take place?

The Listening Sessions can begin in December 2021 until the end of February 2022.

How can Listening Sessions take place?

Parishes may have one or more sessions. Sessions can take place in an evening or a longer meeting on a Saturday or Sunday. Longer meetings afford more time to create a retreat-type atmosphere to pray together and reflect on the needs of our church now and in the future. Some parishes may

choose to gather together for the sessions in the deanery in order to listen to a broad spectrum of experiences and ideas.

Who will organize and facilitate the Listening Session in the parish?

Each Listening Session should have a trained facilitator to accompany the session. Parishes that have trained parish pastoral councils can organize and facilitate the sessions. We are planning online and in-person sessions to assist parish pastoral councils who would like some direction. If a parish wishes, we can provide facilitators to assist the process.

Synod Webpage – Newark - <https://www.rcan.org/synod2023>

The Synod webpage houses information on the synod, the official Vatican Synod Prayer, messages from Cardinal Tobin, links to pertinent articles and Vatican documents. We are continually adding more resources as they are ready, so stay tuned.

The official Vatican Synod Prayer is available to download in English and Spanish. Clicking on either image will give you a sheet of two prayers per page that you can print and cut, preferably on card stock.

Synod Website – The Vatican -<https://www.synod.va/en.html>

The Vatican website has links to their many social media outlets as well as other pertinent information about the Synod on Synodality.

We will be sending **UPDATES** as we continue to develop resources to assist you in planning.

The pastoral offices of the Archdiocese are reaching out to the groups with whom they work and are preparing resources and outreach to assist in their ministry areas.



Reminder: The **INFO Sessions** flyer will be sent to you shortly. There will be eight sessions – two per county and two extras via ZOOM. You will be able to register online.

We are asking parishes to send a few people who will be the contact persons to learn about the Synod and be able to organize the Listening Sessions in their parishes.

Please feel free to contact us for whatever questions or assistance you need.

Sr. Donna L. Ciangio, OP
sr.donna.ciangio@rcan.org

Deacon Asterio Velasco
deaconasterio.velasco@rcan.org

Fr. Bismarck Chau
rev.bismarck.chau@rcan.org

Milissa Else
milissa.else@rcan.org

Communion + Participation + Mission
