



Synod 2021/2023

For a synodal Church

communion | participation | mission

JOURNEYING TOGETHER

1. Companions on the journey – in Church and society, we walk side by side on the same road

- a. Who are those who “walk together”?
- b. What groups or individuals are left on the margins?

2. Listening – the first step, which requires an open mind and heart without prejudice

- a. How are the laity listened to, especially women and young people?
- b. What space is there for the voice of minorities, especially people who experience poverty, marginalization, or social exclusion?

3. Speaking out – speak with courage and parrhesia (in freedom, truth and charity)

- a. What enables or hinders speaking up courageously, candidly and responsibly in our local Church and in society?
- b. When and how do we manage to say what is important to us?

4. Celebration – “walking together” only possible if based on communal listening to the Word and the celebration of the Eucharist

- a. How do prayer and liturgical celebrations actually inspire and guide our common life and mission in our community?
- b. How do we promote the active participation of all the faithful in the liturgy?

5. Sharing responsibility for our common mission – synodality is at the service of the mission of the Church, all members are called to participate

- a. How is every baptized person called to participate in the mission of the Church?
- b. How does the community support its members who serve society in various ways (social and political involvement, scientific research, education, promoting social justice, protecting human rights, caring for the environment etc.)?

6. Dialogue in Church and Society – dialogue requires perseverance and patience, but also enables mutual understanding

- a. To what extent do diverse peoples in our community come together for dialogue?
- b. What particular issues in the Church and society do we need to pay more attention to?

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

- a. What relationships does our Church community have with members of other Christian traditions and denominations?
- b. How can we take the next step in walking forward with each other?

8. Authority & Participation – a synodal church is a participatory and co-responsible Church

- a. How does our Church community identify the goals to be pursued, the way to reach them, and the steps to be taken?
- b. How are lay ministries and the responsibility of lay people promoted?

9. Discerning and deciding – in a synodal style we make decisions through discernment of what the Holy Spirit is saying through our whole community

- a. What methods and processes do we use in decision-making?
- b. How can they be improved?

10. Forming ourselves in synodality – synodality entails receptivity to change, formation, and ongoing learning

- a. 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?
- b. What formation is offered to foster discernment and the exercise of authority in a synodal way?

Prepared by Sr. Lois Prebil for use in a parish.