

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS AND SYNOD THEMES

*For individuals and groups. Individuals should choose at least one area to reflect on. The pull up the Synod Submission Form and fill out any of the questions you choose. Thank you!*

**WALKING TOGETHER**—All groups will spend some time with these questions.

A synodal Church, in announcing the Gospel, “journey’s together” asks two fundamental questions:

1. *How is this “journeying together” happening at Holy Spirit and St. Joseph?*
2. *What steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our “journeying together”?*

## LISTENING

1. *How are the Laity, especially families, young people and women, listened to?*
2. *What persons or groups are on the ‘outside’, left on the margins, expressly or in fact? What space is there for the voice of minorities, the discarded, and the excluded?*
3. *How do we listen to the social and cultural context in which we live?*

## SPEAKING OUT

1. *Who speaks on behalf of the Christian community, and how are they chosen?*
2. *How do we individually witness to our faith?*
3. *How do we promote a free and authentic style of communication within our sister parishes and its groups and organizations, without duplicity and opportunism?*

## CELEBRATION

1. *How do prayer, liturgical celebration including homilies & music inspire and direct our “journeying together”?*
2. *What is ‘active participation’? How do we promote the active participation of all the Faithful in the liturgy and the exercise of the sanctifying function?*
3. *Are celebrations of Mass reverent, welcoming, inspiring, uplifting, sacred moments?*

## SHARING RESPONSIBILITY FOR OUR COMMON MISSION

1. *How is discernment about mission-related choices made, and who participates in it?*
2. *How does the community support its members committed to service in society; social outreach (social and political commitment, in scientific research and teaching, in the promotion of social justice, in the protection of human rights, especially the right to life from the moment of conception until natural death, and in caring for the common home, etc.)?*
3. *How does the Church respond to social and political trends that are challenging and are in conflict with the faith of Jesus Christ?*

## DIALOGUE IN CHURCH AND SOCIETY

1. *What are the places and modes of dialogue within our particular Church?*
2. *How are divergences of vision, the conflicts, the difficulties addressed?*
3. *How do we promote collaboration with neighboring Dioceses, with and among religious communities in the area?*

## ECUMENISM- WITH OTHER CHRISTIAN DENOMINATIONS

1. *What relations do we have with the brothers and sisters of other Christian denominations? What areas do they concern?*
2. *What fruits have we drawn from this “journeying together”?*
3. *What are the difficulties?*

## AUTHORITY AND PARTICIPATION

1. *How do we identify the goals to be pursued, the way to achieve them, and the steps to be taken?*
2. *How are lay ministries and the assumption of responsibility by the Faithful promoted?*
3. *What understanding is there of the mission of the bishops, the successors to the Holy Apostles? Of other Clergy-priests and deacons?*

## DISCERNING AND DECIDING

1. *How do we articulate the consultative phase with the deliberative one, the process of decision-making with the moment of decision-taking?*
2. *By what procedures and methods do we discern together and make decisions? How can they be improved?*
3. *How and with what tools do we promote transparency and accountability?*

## FORMING OURSELVES IN SYNODALITY

1. *How will we provide formation for people, especially those who hold roles of responsibility within the parish?*
2. *How will we make people even more capable of “journeying together,” listening to one another and engaging in dialogue as we go into the future?*
3. *What steps should we take following the Synod process to develop sister parish vision and goals?*