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SYNODAL SURVEY
c/o Jennifer Housel
Diocese of Scranton
330 Wyoming Ave.
Scranton, PA 18503

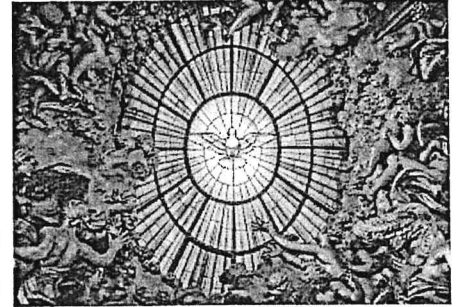
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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is a Synod?

Like many of the words that we use in our Catholic tradition, *Synod* is an ancient Greek word that means assembling to determine the path forward. A *Synod* is a *Process* that gathers Christ's disciples so that their voices can be heard. It is the Church's belief that each and everyone's voice is that of Christ. And when two or three of Christ's Faithful are gathered, he is present and alive in their midst.

The history of the Church also shows us that the model of Synodality was a critical tool at times of crisis and challenge. A particular 'synod' was called to address various crises in the life of the Church and history tells us that, in those moments, the presence of the Holy Spirit was alive in their midst, leading the Church forward. The model of a Synod allows the presence of Christ to be given voice at this moment in our history.



What is the 2021-2023 Synod about?



On March 7, 2020, Pope Francis announced that a Synod of Bishops would convene at the Vatican in October 2023, the theme of which will be *For a synodal Church: communion, participation and mission*. As a vital first step in the Synod process, the Holy Father has invited each diocese around the world to listen to the voices of its people including those who are marginalized or may have fallen away from the Church.

By virtue of our Baptism, all of us are called to be active participants in the life of the Church through discernment, participation and co-responsibility. Through a process of careful listening, our participation in the Synod process will enable us to better understand how the Christian community participates in the life of our Church in the Diocese of Scranton today and how that shared participation among our members might grow in the future.

(From Bishop Bambera's Letter to the Faithful, October 4, 2021)

Why is this Synod taking place?

Far from being a temporary or one-time experience in calling the Church to participate in the Synod process, Pope Francis is reminding us that the very mission of the Church requires the entire People of God to be on a journey together, with each member playing his or her crucial role, united with each other. The Holy Father's hope is that the experience of this unique world-wide opportunity will bring about a new springtime for listening, discernment, dialogue and decision-making in our Church, so that the whole People of God can better journey together with one another and the entire human family, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

(From Bishop Bambera's Letter to the Faithful, October 4, 2021)



What is my role in this Synod?

By calling for the 2021-2023 Synod on Synodality, Pope Francis is inviting the Church to *gather* and to *listen* to each and every Catholic to find the Church's path forward at this time in our history. This is a moment for the voice of God's people to be heard to give voice to the direction of the Church. Pope Francis is providing the opportunity for this ancient and tested model to find relevance in light of today's challenges and opportunities.

The Holy Father seeks to hear every voice. Prayerfully consider participating either in your parish's in-person consultation session or through the synodal survey

For more information or if you have questions about the Synod, please email us at synod@dioceseofscranton.org.

Diocese of Scranton Survey for the 2023 Synod of Bishops

1. In the Church and in society, we are called to walk together, side-by-side, as we journey through life.

The Catholic Church in the Diocese of Scranton is inclusive, meaning every person has the ability to participate as equals?

Strongly Agree

Disagree

Agree

Strongly Disagree

No Opinion

We invite you to provide any thoughts on groups or individuals who you feel the Catholic Church may be leaving on the margins.

2. Listening is one of the most powerful and deeply human experiences we can have. The act of listening respects and validates the voice that is being heard.

The Catholic Church in the Diocese of Scranton listens to all people?

Strongly Agree

Disagree

Agree

Strongly Disagree

No Opinion

We invite you to provide any additional thoughts on those that the Catholic Church does/does not listen to.

3. Catholics in the Diocese of Scranton are encouraged to speak up, be brave and boldly trust we are loved by God.

Catholics in the Diocese of Scranton are provided with the opportunity to speak candidly with their parish priest and our bishop?

Strongly Agree

Disagree

Agree

Strongly Disagree

No Opinion

We invite you to provide any additional thoughts on what enables or hinders people from speaking up about their hopes and concerns.

4. One of the foundations of the Catholic faith is the belief that God is alive in each and every human person. For Christians, we are baptized and anointed with the Holy Spirit and are nourished by Christ in the Eucharist.

The celebration of the Mass inspires me toward a more joyful and holier life?

Strongly Agree

Disagree

Agree

Strongly Disagree

No Opinion

We invite you to provide any additional thoughts on how prayer and/or Masses do or do not inspire you.

5. Every Catholic has a responsibility to participate actively in the mission of the Catholic Church, sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ.

The Catholic Church in the Diocese of Scranton is succeeding in the following areas of its mission?

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No Opinion
Leading People to a Deeper Relationship with God	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Educating People of All Ages in the Faith	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Helping the Poor, Lonely and Vulnerable	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Being Compassionate to those in Prison	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ensuring Racial Equality	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Promoting Pro-Life Issues	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Protecting Human Rights	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Caring for the Environment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Supporting Families	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

We invite you to provide any additional thoughts on where the mission of the Church is in need of greater focus.

6. From Pope Saint Paul VI to Pope Francis, successive popes have actively called the People of God to be a Church in dialogue. Through dialogue, all of the Christian faithful shape the way the Church achieves her mission.

Catholics in the Diocese of Scranton are provided with the opportunity to discuss, debate and dialogue about the future direction of the church?

Strongly Agree

Disagree

Agree

Strongly Disagree

No Opinion

We invite you to provide any additional thoughts on the places and opportunities that our church does or does not offer for constructive dialogue.

7. Christ calls all His disciples, united by Baptism, to work side-by-side with diverse groups and other faith communities.

It is a priority of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Scranton to work with other faith communities in promoting the well-being of all?

Strongly Agree

Disagree

Agree

Strongly Disagree

No Opinion

We invite you to provide any additional thoughts on the way the Catholic Church could interact with other Christian denominations and/or individuals with no faith tradition.

8. Through Baptism and Confirmation, the mission of the Catholic Church belongs to all the Christian faithful. Everyone is called to play an active role.

All Catholics, including young people, lay men and lay women, are challenged to use their gifts and talents in the life of the Church?

Strongly Agree

Disagree

Agree

Strongly Disagree

No Opinion

We invite you to provide any additional thoughts on how people are/are not invited to participate in the life of the Church.

9. The Christian faith is accessible to everyone. Because the mission of the Catholic Church belongs to the Church's members, every voice has a right to be heard.

In making important decisions, the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Scranton is transparent and accountable in its decision-making processes?

Strongly Agree

Disagree

Agree

Strongly Disagree

No Opinion

We invite you to provide any additional thoughts on the decision-making process that the church uses and how it can be improved.

10. The Church's Tradition, received from the Apostles, carries the Christian faith through history. A synod is meant to identify the needs, challenges and opportunities of the present moment.

While respecting Tradition, the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Scranton is responsive to the needs, challenges and opportunities at the present moment?

Strongly Agree

Disagree

Agree

Strongly Disagree

No Opinion

We invite you to provide any additional thoughts on how the church listens and engages in dialogue.

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

What is your gender?

Male Female

What is your age?

<input type="checkbox"/>	under 18
<input type="checkbox"/>	18–30
<input type="checkbox"/>	31-45
<input type="checkbox"/>	46-65
<input type="checkbox"/>	65-80
<input type="checkbox"/>	81 or older

Which race/ethnicity best describes you?
(Please choose only one.)

<input type="checkbox"/>	American Indian or Alaskan Native
<input type="checkbox"/>	Asian/ Pacific Islander
<input type="checkbox"/>	Black or African American
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hispanic
<input type="checkbox"/>	White/ Caucasian
<input type="checkbox"/>	Multiple Ethnicity (Please specify)

In which County do you currently reside?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Bradford	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lackawanna	<input type="checkbox"/>	Luzerne	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lycoming
<input type="checkbox"/>	Monroe	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pike	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sullivan	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tioga
<input type="checkbox"/>	Wayne	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wyoming	<input type="checkbox"/> I do not currently reside in the Diocese of Scranton.			

If you currently belong to a parish in the Diocese of Scranton, please indicate which parish .