

For a Synodal Church

**KNOWING JESUS CHRIST,
EMBRACING HIS MISSION**
PASTORAL PLANNING



Let's Journey Together

The word "synod" means to journey together. In this synodal process, everyone around the world is invited to listen to God's word, celebrate the Eucharist, and reflect upon our experience as Church. **For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission** is Pope Francis' call for the largest consultation of the human family in history, and it includes all of us in Western Washington!

Local parishes, ministries and laypeople will host listening sessions to prayerfully read the signs of the times together and discern how the Holy Spirit is calling all of us, as the Body of Christ, to accomplish our mission here and now.

You are invited to journey together. We want to hear from everyone — especially people who have been marginalized or are often unheard.

"Together, we move in one direction — the way of Jesus, the way of faith and salvation." – Archbishop Paul D. Etienne

Listening sessions will focus on two central questions:

How is this "journeying together" happening today in our local Church?

What steps does the Holy Spirit invite us to take to grow in our "journeying together"?

Please visit archseattle.org/synod or check your local parish website to find listening sessions near you!

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For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission

To ensure everyone has a voice in this synodal process and an opportunity to journey with each other, Pope Francis has outlined **three phases of this global process**:

Diocesan, Your Local Church

October 2021 to May 2022

You are invited to journey and share your voice in a local listening session.

Continental

September 2022 to March 2023

Bishops from each diocese will share their learnings and develop regional reports for the Vatican.

Universal

October 2023 and beyond

In October 2023, the Vatican's General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops will focus on discussing the input and ideas from the people.

Our Journey Together

Archbishop Etienne's local mission-focused efforts align well with Pope Francis's synodal process. Parishes are encouraged to move forward in pastoral planning by participating in the global synodal efforts from October 2021 through early May 2022. Insights from these listening sessions will be shared with the pope and will inform local pastoral planning efforts.

Please visit archseattle.org/synod or check your local parish website to find listening sessions near you!

Synodal Process Prayer

We stand before You, Holy Spirit,
as we gather together in Your name.
With You alone to guide us,
make Yourself at home in our hearts;
Teach us the way we must go
and how we are to pursue it.
We are weak and sinful;
do not let us promote disorder.
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path
nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity
so that we may journey together to eternal life
and not stray from the way of truth
and what is right.
All this we ask of You,
who are at work in every place and time,
in the communion of the Father and the Son,
forever and ever.

Amen.