

Synod on Synodality Update

Office of the Chancellor

July 14, 2022



Walking Together on the Synodal Path

Listening Session Report

Thank You!

A big thank you to all who participated in the synod listening sessions and reported your syntheses. In total, we received 4,500 pages which were read with great reverence. This was a remarkable amount of work for all of us in parishes, religious congregations of women and men, Catholic Charities, Mercy House, grammar schools, high schools, universities, the Archdiocese, and many more.

The reports were synthesized into major themes with sub-headings. Besides the volume of responses, what was shared was insightful and valuable as we continue to listen to the Holy Spirit and pray, listen, and discern the call for the Church and our Archdiocese.

Our report includes an explanation of the synod process in the Archdiocese, major themes that evolved, and an appendix listing the many resources that were made available to the parishes and other organizations on the RCAN website.

The report was sent to the USCCB and to Episcopal Region 3, which includes the dioceses of New Jersey and Pennsylvania. A small committee will compare and categorize the major themes from each diocese and collect them into a regional report to send back to synod coordinators in their respective dioceses. All of the Episcopal regions of the United States will follow the same process and eventually will be combined into one report, which will be part of the synod gathering in Rome in October 2023. More information will be coming soon.

We listed six major themes that were identified in the Archdiocese:

- 1. Parish Community: Welcome, Hospitality, Outreach (Evangelization)**
 - To all: parishioners, those who are no longer part of the parish, people on the margins, and others.
- 2. Youth and Young Adults**
 - Teens
 - University Students
- 3. Faith Formation**
 - Handing on the Faith
 - The Eucharistic Celebration
 - Faith Formation for Children

- Catholic School Education
4. **Participation of the Laity in Church Leadership**
 - Role of the Laity
 - Women in Church Leadership
 5. **Governance**
 - Finance and Parish Pastoral Councils
 - Clergy
 - Sex Abuse Scandal
 6. **Communication**
 - Parish
 - Archdiocesan

Also included are the reports from men and women religious and suggestions for the ministries of the Archdiocese.

County Gatherings

County gatherings are planned for this Fall to pray together, share listening session results, and apply what was learned to our ministry areas. Stay tuned for more information!

SAVE THE DATE:

**When: October 16, Sunday Noon Mass
at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart**

What: “Continuing the Synodal Journey”

Mass to celebrate the good work of the Holy Spirit and thank you for the great participation by our parishes, schools, religious congregations, campus ministries, and so many more in our Archdiocese!

Who: All priests, deacons, religious, parishes, schools, ministries, and more.

More information and registration are coming soon.



A synodal Church is a Church that listens, which realizes that listening “is more than simply hearing.” It is a mutual listening in which everyone has something to learn. The faithful people, the college of bishops, the Bishop of Rome: all listening to each other, and all listening to the Holy Spirit, the “Spirit of truth” (Jn 14:17), in order to know what he “says to the Churches” (Rev 2:7).

