



**For a Synodal Church  
Diocese of Ogdensburg**

**Synodal Discussion Feedback Form**

Submit feedback using this form. Email it to [synod@rcdony.org](mailto:synod@rcdony.org) or mail it to Diocese of Ogdensburg, Marika Donders, PO Box 369, Ogdensburg NY 13669.

If you have compiled your summary in another document, please feel free to submit this form as a cover sheet with your document.

Submissions can also be made via web form at <http://150.rcdony.org>. Choose Feedback on the Synod page.

Submitted by \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Facilitator \_\_\_\_\_

Recorder \_\_\_\_\_

Date(s) of discussion \_\_\_\_\_

**Describe the synodal discussion participants**

What phase(s) of the local synod are represented in your participants:

- Phase 1: Existing parish groups
- Phase 2: Uninvolved parishioners
- Phase 3: The periphery

Group type (to the best of your ability, please check all)

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parish staff   | <input type="checkbox"/> Living Stones Planning Committee (and similar) | <input type="checkbox"/> Consecrated Religious Community |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pastoral Council   | <input type="checkbox"/> RCIA group                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Clergy                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Finance Council  | <input type="checkbox"/> Vocation Committee (and similar)               | <input type="checkbox"/> Catechists                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ministry Group (lectors, Rosary society, bible study...) | <input type="checkbox"/> Open discussion for parish                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Religious Education students    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Service Group (Knights of Columbus, sacristans...)       | <input type="checkbox"/> Open discussion for community                  | <input type="checkbox"/> School admin, teachers, staff   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Evangelization Committee (and similar)                   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> School classroom                |

Other description of the group:

Ages represented (to the best of your ability, please check all)

- |  |  |                                       |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> pre-high school | <input type="checkbox"/> young adult (25 - 40) | <input type="checkbox"/> 80 and older |
| <input type="checkbox"/> high school     | <input type="checkbox"/> 41 - 59               |                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> college age     | <input type="checkbox"/> 60 - 79               |                                       |



**For a Synodal Church  
Diocese of Ogdensburg**

**Synodal Discussion Feedback Form**

Other notes about the group:

**Questions used for discussion**

If you selected questions from the "Guiding Questions from the Vademecum and other sources", please select the Question(s) offered for discussion.

No question used to inspire discussion.

**Vademecum**

A synodal Church, in announcing the Gospel, "journeys together." How is this "journeying together" happening today in your local Church? What steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our "journeying together"?

**0. Diocesan vision and mission**

- a. In 2014, the Diocese created three priorities: Creating a Culture of Vocations, Strengthening Faith Formation in Family Life and Building Parishes with Living Stones. How have you seen these priorities achieved (or not)?
- b. In 2014, the Diocese created three priorities: Creating a Culture of Vocations, Strengthening Faith Formation in Family Life and Building Parishes with Living Stones. What other priorities would you suggest for your parish and for the Diocese?
- c. How do you see the core values of Encouragement, Faithfulness and Respect lived out in your parish and what can be improved?

d. How do you see our diocesan mutually shared vision lived out in your parish? "Christ Led, Christ Fed and Hope filled, the Diocese of Ogdensburg joyfully invites the people of the North Country to the journey of faith through the proclamation of the Gospel, the celebration of the Eucharist and the Sacraments and the loving service of neighbor."

e. What can be done better to live out our diocesan mutually shared vision? "Christ Led, Christ Fed and Hope filled, the Diocese of Ogdensburg joyfully invites the people of the North Country to the journey of faith through the proclamation of the Gospel, the celebration of the Eucharist and the Sacraments and the loving service of neighbor."

**1. Companions on the Journey**

- 1. In our local Church, who are those who "walk together"?
- 2. Who are those who seem further apart?
- 3. How are we called to grow as companions?
- 4. What groups or individuals are left on the margins?

**2. Listening**

- 1. How is God speaking to us through voices we sometimes ignore?
- 2. How are the laity listened to, especially women and young people?
- 3. What facilitates or inhibits our listening?
- 3. What facilitates or inhibits our listening? What facilitates or inhibits our speaking up or being candid in our local Church and society?
- 4. How well do we listen to those on the peripheries?
- 5. How is the contribution of consecrated men and women integrated?
- 6. What are some limitations in our ability to listen, especially to those who have different views than our own?
- 7. What space is there for the voice of minorities, especially people who experience poverty, marginalization, or social exclusion?

**3. Speaking Out**

- 1. What enables or hinders speaking up courageously, candidly, and responsibly in our local Church and in society?

- 2. When and how do we manage to say what is important to us?
- 3. How does the relationship with the local media work (not only Catholic media)?
- 4. Who speaks on behalf of the Christian community, and how are they chosen?

#### 4. Celebration

- 1. Walking together is only possible if it is based on communal listening to the Word and the celebration of the Eucharist. How do prayer and liturgical celebrations actually inspire and guide our common life and mission in our community?
- 2. How do they (prayer and liturgical celebrations) inspire the most important decisions?
- 3. How do we promote the active participation of all the faithful in the liturgy?
- 4. What space is given to participating in the ministries of lector and acolyte?
- a. "Do this in remembrance of Me" is Jesus calling us to live a Eucharistic Life: to share in the life and mission of Jesus, to share in His paschal mystery, to share His Love with others. How are we living a Eucharistic Life and how are we inviting others to walk with Jesus in our life?"
- b. How can we help people come to a deeper understanding of the Eucharist?
- c. If you believe in the Real Presence, when and how did you first realize that Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist? If you do not believe in the Real Presence, are you able to articulate any reasons for believing it is merely symbolic?
- d. What does the Eucharist mean to you?
- e. Where do you experience genuine welcome in the Church?

#### 5. Sharing responsibility for our Common Mission

- 1. Since we are all missionary disciples, how is every baptized person called to participate in the mission of the Church?
- 2. What hinders the baptized from being active in mission?
- 3. What areas of mission are we neglecting?
- 4. 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.)?
- 5. How does the Church help these members to live out their service to society in a missionary way?
- 6. How is discernment about missionary choices made and by whom?
- a. What can we do to discern and rekindle the gifts of the Holy Spirit and form disciples in our parishes on fire for the mission of the Church?

#### 6. Dialogue in Church and Society

- 1. To what extent do diverse peoples in our community come together for dialogue?
- 2. What are the places and means of dialogue within our local Church?
- 3. How do we promote collaboration with neighboring dioceses, religious communities in the area, lay associations and movements, etc.?
- 4. How are divergences of vision, or conflicts and difficulties addressed?

- 5. What particular issues in the Church and society do we need to pay more attention to? What experiences of dialogue and collaboration do we have with believers of other religions and with those who have no religious affiliation?
- 6. How does the Church dialogue with and learn from other sectors of society: the spheres of politics, economics, culture, civil society, and people who live in poverty?
- a. What struggles do you see in your community?
- b. How can the diocese assist your parish?

#### 7. Ecumenism

- 1. What relationships does our Church community have with members of other Christian traditions and denominations?
- 2. What do we share and how do we journey together?
- 3. What fruits have we drawn from walking together?
- 4. What are the difficulties?
- 5. How can we take the next step in walking forward with each other?
- a. Who is missing from our communion? Who does not think they are welcome to participate? How can we reach out to them, listen to them, form relationships with them, draw them into the Church?

#### 8. Authority and Participation

- 1. How does our Church community identify the goals to be pursued, the way to reach them, and the steps to be taken?
- 2. How is authority or governance exercised within our local Church?
- 3. How are teamwork and co-responsibility put into practice?
- 4. How are evaluations (of the Church community's goals) conducted and by whom?

- 4b. How are lay ministries and the responsibility of lay people promoted?
- 5. Have we had fruitful experiences of synodality on a local level?
- 6. How do synodal bodies function at the level of the local Church (Pastoral Councils in parishes and dioceses, Presbyteral Council, etc.)?
- 7. How can we foster a more synodal approach in our participation and leadership?
- a. How is the Church helping you grow in discipleship and how do you share that journey with others?
- b. How are decisions made in your parish? Is there a process of consultation, or requests for input and collaboration?
- c. How are parishioners encouraged to use their gifts and charisms as a channel of God's love and grace?
- d. How do the laity in our diocese understand their role in the mission of the church?
- e. What questions would you like to ask the Bishop or Chancery staff about faith, the church, the diocese?

**9. Discerning and Deciding**

- 1. What methods and processes do we use in decision-making?
- 2. How can they (methods and process in decision-making) be improved?
- 3. How do we promote participation in decision-making within hierarchical structures?
- 4. Do our decision-making methods help us to listen to the whole People of God?
- 5. What is the relationship between consultation and decision-making, and how do we put these into practice?
- 6. What tools and procedures do we use to promote transparency and accountability?
- 7. How can we grow in communal spiritual discernment?
- a. What is something that is going well in your parish community? What is something that can be built upon or expanded?
- b. What should your parish start doing, stop doing, or expand?
- c. How has the pandemic changed the way you see faith, church, purpose in life?
- d. What challenges your faith?
- e. what is the Holy Spirit doing in your life?

**10. Forming Ourselves in Synodality**

- 1. 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?
- 2. What formation is offered to foster discernment and the exercise of authority in a synodal way?
- a. How do you understand the words of the Synodal Process: What does Communion, Participation and Mission mean to you? How are you in Communion? How do you Participate? What is your mission? What do these ideas imply for our Church in the North Country? How can we better live out these mandates of Communion, Participation and Mission?
- b. How are we journeying together as the People of God? How are we journeying as People of God with the entire human family? How can we enrich one another and form a deeper communion and be more fruitful on mission?

Other questions offered for discussion or that discussion may have revolved around:

## Discussion

Please offer a summary of the discussion:

Can you draw any themes or consensus that arose from the discussion?

Other thoughts you might like to share?

Thank you for adding to our local and global *For a Synodal Church* discussion. Please send this form and any supplemental sheets to [synod@rcdony.org](mailto:synod@rcdony.org) or Diocese of Ogdensburg, Marika Donders, PO Box 369, Ogdensburg NY 13669.