

Synod – Part 3

The Wedding in Cana is our Gospel reading for this 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time – “Everyone serves good wine first... but you have kept the good wine until now.” (Jn 2:10) On this synodal journey it is extremely important to remember that Jesus is the main figure and therefore central to our situation. The Holy Spirit needs to guide the conversations and the process so that this synod journey can bear good fruit and even better “wine” to come.

As stated in my earlier articles on the Synod, this is an opportunity for our local church to reflect, listen, dialogue, and learn together how God is calling us to be Church in the 3rd millennium.

So how do we, the members of the Church, participate in this Synodal Process? There are several ways to do this within our parish:

- existing groups in our parish may wish to spend time over the next two months focusing on one or more of the ten themes of the Synod,
- small groups of people may self-organize, with a facilitator and notetaker, around one or more of the themes,
- the parish will offer some open forums where people may just show up and decide on one or more themes around which to reflect and discuss, and a facilitator will be supplied,
- and, although the process is meant to be a conversation among people, individuals may wish to submit their own reflection relative to one or more of the themes.

Please note that this process must be completed, and the **Synodal Input Form submitted by March 31, 2022**. The **Input Form** is short and may only be submitted online. Following the submittal of all forms, the Diocesan personnel will synthesize everything received into a ten-page document to be submitted to the Synod Committee.

A reminder that the process for the synod is open to practicing and non-practicing Catholics as well as those who are not part of the Catholic church. So please feel free to solicit other people’s insights about our Church in addition to those of us who are practicing Catholics. The process is to engage a variety of voices.

All the information you will need can be found at www.dor.org/synod and you can contact me for any assistance or clarification you may need. **Please let me know if you have a group you will be working with to provide synod input.** I can guide you with the facilitation and note-taking process. With the short timeframe, we will all need to get started right away in order to meet the March 31st deadline. Remember that this is intended to be a process and therefore will likely take more than one session. It will also depend on how many of the Synod themes are focused on by the particular group.

The ten themes are as follows and are fleshed out more precisely on the website:

- The Journeying Companions
- Listening
- Speaking Out
- Celebrating
- Co-Responsibility in Mission
- Dialogue in Church and Society
- With Other Christian Denominations
- Authority and Participation
- Discerning and Deciding
- Forming Ourselves in Synodality

If there is a theme you do not find there, you may submit something else that you believe is calling for attention.

I invite all of our parishioners to go to the website for the synod, www.dor.org/syn synod and read the materials that are provided in order to familiarize yourself with what a Synod is all about and what this Synod that Pope Francis has called is all about. We all desire input into those things that affect us and here is our opportunity. I pray we will all take this invitation seriously and let us pray daily for the success of this Synod leading to continued growth in our beloved Church.

Sister Sheila