



Animation proposal
five dialogue meetings
to live the synodal process

From fall 2021 to spring 2022



PRESENTATION

The Church is summoned to a Synod by Pope Francis. This journey, under the title “**For a Synodal Church : communion, participation and mission**”, is a preparation for the celebration of the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, in October 2023. Together, we will seek to cultivate, with the help from the Holy Spirit, the attitudes which favor “walking together” in order to realize and manifest what the Church truly is as a pilgrim and missionary People of God.

We propose a model of animation to live the synodal process in five meetings.

The consultation of phase 1 of the synodal process consists of 10 main questions and 3 additional questions. This facilitation tool offers two questions per meeting. If you find it difficult to take two questions during one of the meetings, then choose the one that will appeal to the participants in your group more.

The questionnaire can be found on pages 7 to 12 of the diocesan document on the synodal process. The **PDF** file of this document is available at the diocesan secretariat. The questions are also available in **WORD** file to facilitate the work of the person who will act as secretary of the meetings.

We recommend 75 to 90 minutes per meeting.

A 6th meeting may be necessary to answer the 3 additional questions, namely questions 11 to 13 which you will find on page 12 of the diocesan notebook of the synodal process.

At the end of each meeting, a person appointed as secretary will write a short summary. When your meetings are completed, a report of these summaries will be sent to Father Marc Richer (mricher@ecd.ca). Your reports will allow us to write a diocesan summary.

Synod 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

Dialogue meeting I

Question no 1 : *Our travel companions*

Question no 2 : *How do we listen to each other in Church?*

- Each person briefly introduces himself.
- Go around the table briefly and ask each person how they feel about coming to the meeting.

INTRODUCTION

In this first meeting, we want to share with whom we walk in Church. We will also reflect on our listening experience in our Christian community and our diocese. Also, we will pray together, sharing our experiences of listening and not listening. Ask us: what is my listening experience in Church?

PRAYER TIME

Take the time to come up with who we are, take the time to focus on our breathing, unite our mind to our body, without judging ourselves; prepare ourselves to hear the breath of the Holy Spirit breathing in us and which unites us to one another. Let us be prepared to enter an attitude of listening and discernment.

Let us recite together the prayer to the Holy Spirit for the beginning of a synodal meeting. (Synod prayer)

WORD OF GOD (Mark 7, 31-37)

Jesus left the territory of Tiro, and returned by Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, crossing the land of the Decapolis. A deaf man was brought to him who had difficulty speaking, and he was asked to lay his hands on him. He took him aside from the crowd, put his fingers in his ears, and touched his tongue with his own saliva; then, raising his eyes to heaven, he sighed, and said: Ephatha, that is to say, open yourself. Immediately his ears snapped open, his tongue loosened, and he spoke very well. Jesus told them not to tell anyone about it; but the more he recommended it to them, the more they published it. They were in the greatest astonishment and said: He does everything wonderfully; even he makes the deaf hear, and the dumb speak.

(Time of silence)

CHANT : *Ouvre mes yeux, Seigneur.*  [Lien sur YouTube](#)

Ouvre mes yeux, Seigneur
aux merveilles de ton amour.
Je suis l'aveugle sur le chemin.
Guéris-moi, je veux te voir.

Fais que je marche, Seigneur,
aussi dur que soit le chemin.
Je veux te suivre jusqu'à la croix.
Viens me prendre par la main.

Ouvre mes mains, Seigneur,
qui se ferment pour tout garder.
Le pauvre a faim devant ma maison,
apprends-moi à partager.

Fais que j'entende, Seigneur,
tous mes frères qui crient vers moi.
À leurs souffrances et à leurs appels,
que mon cœur ne soit pas sourd.

Garde ma foi, Seigneur.
Tant de voix proclament ta mort.
Quand viennent le soir et le poids du jour,
Ô Seigneur, reste avec moi.

First dialogue time (20 minutes)

Question no 1 : Travel companions (page 7 of the diocesan document)

Second dialogue time (20 minutes)

Question no 2 : Listening (page 7 of the diocesan document)

Third dialogue time (20 minutes)

In this third round, participants reflect on what seemed to emerge, what resonated during the conversation, which touched them and made sense to them, followed by a period of silence. We try to discern what the Spirit is saying to the Church through our dialogue.

What does the Holy Spirit murmur in you, what does he teach you about yourself, your environment, your community, towards what growth is he directing your steps; towards what strength to develop, charism to discover, to cultivate as an individual and as a Church.

CONCLUSION

Go around the table by asking participants to summarize in a few words what they took away from the workshop and say how they found the process. A secretary takes note of these comments and prepares a summary of the meeting.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Let us recite psalm 99 together:

Hail the Lord, whole earth, serve the Lord with joy, come to him with songs of joy!

Know that the Lord is God : he made us, and we are his, we, his people, his flock.

Come to his house to give thanks to him, to his house sing his praises; give him thanks and bless his name!

Yes, the Lord is good, his love is eternal, his faithfulness remains from age to age.

RECOGNITION TIME

As you return home, thinking back to what you heard in these dialogues, in the presence of the Risen One, ask yourself today and in the days to come: what is rising in me? What call is the Lord placing in me? You might catch yourself saying, "Lord, what do you want me to do?"

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Dialogue meeting II

Question no 3 : *Speak*

Question no 4 : *Celebrate*

INTRODUCTION

In today's meeting, starting with question 3, we will reflect on speaking in our Christian community and our diocese. Speaking out takes courage to express yourself freely and in charity. Then, starting from question 4, we will share our experiences of celebrations in the Church. We will answer the question: how our liturgical celebrations inspire our missionary action?

PRAYER TIME

Take the time to come up with who we are, take the time to focus on our breathing, unite our mind to our body, without judging ourselves; prepare ourselves to hear the breath of the Holy Spirit breathing in us and which unites us to one another. Let us be prepared to enter an attitude of listening and discernment.


Let us recite together the prayer to the Holy Spirit for the beginning of a synodal meeting. (Synod prayer)

WORD OF GOD (Colossians 3, 13-17)

Support each other and forgive each other if you have any complaints. The Lord has forgiven you: do the same. Above all of this, have love, which is the most perfect bond.

And may in your hearts reign the peace of Christ to which you have been called, you who are one body. Live in Thanksgiving. May the word of Christ dwell in you in all its richness; educate and rebuke one another in all wisdom; through inspired psalms, hymns, and songs, sing to God, in your hearts, your gratitude. And whatever you say, whatever you do, always in the name of the Lord Jesus, offering through him your thanksgiving to God the Father.

(Time of silence)

CHANT : Je voudrais (Robert Lebel)  [Lien sur YouTube](#)

Je voudrais, qu'en vous voyant vivre,
étonnés, les gens puissent dire :
Voyez comme ils s'aiment! Voyez leur bonheur!

Qu'il y ait dans votre langage
Plein d'amour et de vérité;
Qu'il soit clair, simple et sans ambages;
Qu'il soit bon comme un soir d'été
Comme un soir d'été!

Mais plus fort que bien des paroles,
Vos regards toucheront les cœurs.
La plus belle des paraboles
C'est le chant de votre bonheur
De votre bonheur.

Et devant tout ce que vous êtes,
Ils pourront voir les traits de Dieu.
En voyant tout ce que vous faites,
Ils sauront qu'il est avec eux.
Qu'il est avec eux.

S'il est vrai qu'on reconnaît l'arbre
En voyant la beauté des fruits,
Je voudrais, quand ils vous regardent
Qu'ils y voient les fruits de l'Esprit,
Les fruits de l'Esprit.

First dialogue time (20 minutes)

Question no 3 : Speak (page 8 of the diocesan document)

Second dialogue time (20 minutes)

Question no 4 : Celebrate (page 8 of the diocesan document)

Third dialogue time (20 minutes)

In this third round, participants reflect on what seemed to emerge, what resonated during the conversation, which touched them and made sense to them, followed by a period of silence. We try to discern what the Spirit is saying to the Church through our dialogue.

What does the Holy Spirit whisper in you, what does he teach you about yourself, your environment, your community, towards what growth does he direct your steps, towards what strength to develop, charisma to be discovered, to cultivate as an individual and as a Church.

CONCLUSION

Go around the table by asking participants to summarize in a few words what they took away from the workshop and say how they found the process. A secretary takes note of these comments and prepares a summary of the meeting.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Let us recite psalm 66 together :

May God take us in favor and bless us, may his face light up for us; and your way will be known on earth, your salvation among all nations.

May the peoples, God, give you thanks; they give you thanks all together!

Let the nations sing of their joy, for you rule the world in righteousness; you rule the peoples with righteousness; on earth you lead the nations.

May the peoples, God, give you thanks; they give you thanks all together!

The earth gave its fruit God; our God, bless us. May God bless us and may the whole earth worship him!

RECOGNITION TIME

Going home, thinking back to what you heard in these dialogues, in the presence of the Risen One; ask yourself today and in the days to come: what is rising in me? What call is the Lord placing in me? You might catch yourself saying, "Lord, what do you want me to do?"

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Dialogue meeting III

Question no 5 : *Co-responsible in the mission*

Question no 6 : *Dialogue in the Church and in society*

INTRODUCTION

In this meeting, we will share about our experiences of co-responsibilities in the Church. We will also seek to answer the question: what are the places and means of dialogue in the Church?

PRAYER TIME

Take the time to come up with who we are, take the time to focus on our breathing, unite our mind to our body, without judging ourselves; prepare ourselves to hear the breath of the Holy Spirit breathing in us and which unites us to one another. Let us be prepared to enter an attitude of listening and discernment.

Let us recite together the prayer to the Holy Spirit for the beginning of a synodal meeting. (Synod prayer)

WORD OF GOD (Acts of the Apostles 2, 41-47)

Then those who had accepted the word of Peter were baptized. About three thousand people joined them that day. They were assiduous in the teaching of the Apostles and in fellowship, in the breaking of bread and in prayers. The fear of God was in all hearts at the sight of the many wonders and signs performed by the Apostles. All the believers lived together, and they had everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions, and they divided the proceeds among all according to the needs of each.

Each day, with the same heart, they assiduously frequented the Temple, they broke bread in the houses, they ate their meals with joy and simplicity of heart; they praised God and had the favor of the whole people. Each day, the Lord added to them those who were to be saved.

(Time of silence)

CHANT : *Qu'il est bon de louer Dieu.*  [Lien sur YouTube](#) *(N. B. : Arrêtez la vidéo à 3 h 46)*

Il est bon de louer Dieu. Alléluia

Il est bon d'élever Dieu. Alléluia

Quand la tempête se lèvera,
quand le vent soufflera,
ce que tu as besoin de t'inquiéter?
Tu as un Dieu, invoque-le!

First dialogue time (20 minutes)

Question no 5 : Co-responsible in the mission (page 9 of the diocesan document)

Second dialogue time (20 minutes)

Question n° 6 : Dialogue in the Church and in society (page 9 of the diocesan document)

Third dialogue time (20 minutes)

In this third round, participants reflect on what seemed to emerge, what resonated during the conversation, which touched them and made sense to them, followed by a period of silence. We try to discern what the Spirit is saying to the Church through our dialogue.

What does the Holy Spirit murmur in you, what does he teach you about yourself, your environment, your community, towards what growth is he directing your steps; towards what strength to develop, charism to discover, to cultivate as an individual and as a Church.

CONCLUSION

Go around the table by asking participants to summarize in a few words what they took away from the workshop and say how they found the process. A secretary takes note of these comments and prepares a summary of the meeting.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Let us recite psalm 116 together:

Praise the Lord, all peoples; celebrate it, all countries!

His love for us has been shown to be the strongest; eternal is the faithfulness of the Lord!

RECOGNITION TIME

Going home, thinking back to what you heard in these dialogues, in the presence of the Risen One; ask yourself today and in the days to come: what is rising in me? What call is the Lord placing in me? You might catch yourself saying, "Lord, what do you want me to do?"

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Dialogue meeting IV

Question no 7 : *Ecumenism*

Question no 8 : *Authority and participation*

INTRODUCTION

In today's meeting, starting with question 7, we will reflect on our relationships with members of other Christian denominations. In a synodal style, we make our decisions prepared to discern what the Holy Spirit is telling us in what we are living or not yet living in our community. This is the spirit of the 8th question.

PRAYER TIME

Take the time to come up with who we are, take the time to focus on our breathing, unite our mind to our body, without judging ourselves; prepare ourselves to hear the breath of the Holy Spirit breathing in us and which unites us to one another. Let us be prepared to enter an attitude of listening and discernment.


Let us recite together the prayer to the Holy Spirit for the beginning of a synodal meeting.
(Synod prayer)

WORD OF GOD (Acts of the Apostles 6, 1-7)

In those days, as the number of disciples increased, the Greek-speaking brethren complained against the Hebrew-speaking ones, because the widows in their group were at a disadvantage in daily service.

The Twelve then called together all the disciples and said to them, "It is not good that we forsake the word of God and serve at tables. Rather, brothers, seek seven of you, men who are esteemed by all, filled with the Holy Spirit and with wisdom, and we will put them in this office. As far as we are concerned, we will remain assiduous in prayer and in the service of the Word." These words pleased everyone, and we chose:

Stephen, a man filled with faith and the Holy Spirit, Philip, Procore, Nicanor, Timon, Parménas and Nicolas, a convert to Judaism from Antioch. They were presented to the Apostles, and after praying, they laid their hands on them. The word of God was fruitful, the number of disciples greatly increased in Jerusalem, and a large crowd of Jewish priests came to the obedience of the faith.

CHANT : *Seigneur que veux-tu que je fasse?*  [Lien sur YouTube](#)

Seigneur que veux-tu que je fasse?
Je n'ai pas grand-chose à t'offrir
Sinon mon unique désir
De te laisser toute la place

Depuis longtemps tu me façannes
Entre révoltes et beaux jours.
Voilà qu'entre tes mains d'amour,
Ô Dieu, mon Dieu, je m'abandonne.

May now you be the space where I let myself be loved by my heart, that I no longer look elsewhere for what comes only from your grace. May all my life be yours, and my winters and my summers, for my only will is to live according to yours.

You who have given me to teach you through hope and at night, I would so much that others too would find your fire under their ashes. To those who are dying to wait, may my tenderness be extended; may she reveal your coming to those who suffer without understanding.

First dialogue time (20 minutes)

Question no 7 : Ecumenism ((page 10 of the diocesan document))

Second dialogue time (20 minutes)

Question no 8 : Authority and participation (page 10-11 of the diocesan document)

Third dialogue time (20 minutes)

In this third round, participants reflect on what seemed to emerge, what resonated during the conversation, which touched them and made sense to them, followed by a period of silence. We try to discern what the Spirit is saying to the Church through our dialogue.

What does the Holy Spirit murmur in you, what does he teach you about yourself, your environment, your community, towards what growth is he directing your steps; towards what strength to develop, charism to discover, to cultivate as an individual and as a Church.

CONCLUSION

Go around the table by asking participants to summarize in a few words what they took away from the workshop and say how they found the process. A secretary takes note of these comments and prepares a summary of the meeting.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Let us recite psalm 137 together:

With all my heart, Lord, I give you thanks: you have heard the words of my mouth. I sing to you in the presence of the angels, towards your sacred temple, I bow down.

I give thanks to your name for your love and your truth, for you exalt, above all, your name, and your word. The day you answered my call, you made the strength grow in my soul.

All the kings of the earth give thanks to you when they hear the words of your mouth. They sing the ways of the Lord: "How great is the glory of the Lord!"

However high the Lord may be, he sees the humblest; from afar he recognizes the proud. If I walk during anguish, you give me life, your hand falls on my angry enemies. Your right hand makes me victorious.

The Lord does everything for me! Lord, eternal is your love : do not stop the work of your hands.

RECOGNITION TIME

Going home, thinking back to what you heard in these dialogues, in the presence of the Risen One; ask yourself today and in the days to come : what is rising in me? What call is the Lord placing in me? You might catch yourself saying, "Lord, what do you want me to do?"

DATE OF THE NEXT TIME

Dialogue meeting V

Question no 9 : *Discern and decide*

Question no 10 : *To train for synodality*

N.B. : During this meeting or, if necessary, during an additional meeting, discuss the 3 additional questions, namely questions 11 to 13. (page 12 of the diocesan document)

INTRODUCTION

“Synodality is at the service of the mission of the Church in which all its members are called to participate” (Vademecum for the Synod on Synodality). In today's meeting, we will reflect on the synodal style of our decisions and on the spirituality of “Walking Together”. We will share our experience by answering the question: how do we carry the mission in Church in our Christian community and our diocese? Since we are all missionary disciples, how is each baptized person called to participate in the mission of the Church?

PRAYER TIME

Take the time to come up with who we are, take the time to focus on our breathing, unite our mind to our body, without judging ourselves; prepare ourselves to hear the breath of the Holy Spirit breathing in us and which unites us to one another. Let us be prepared to enter an attitude of listening and discernment.

Let us recite together the prayer to the Holy Spirit for the beginning of a synodal meeting. (Synod prayer)

WORD OF GOD (Luke 10, 1-11)

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two more of the disciples, and he sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he himself was going to go. He said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest. Go on! Here I am sending you out like lambs during wolves. Do not carry purses, bags, or sandals, and do not greet anyone on the way. But in any house, you enter, say first, “Peace to this house.” If there is a friend of peace there, your peace will rest with him; otherwise, it will come back to you. Stay in this house, eating and drinking what you are served, because the worker deserves his salary. Do not go from house to house. In any city you enter and be greeted, eat what is presented to you. Heal the sick who are there and say to them, “The kingdom of God has come near to you.” But in any city, you enter and where you will not be welcomed, go to the squares and say, “Even the dust of your city, stuck to our feet, we remove it to leave it to you.” However, know this: the reign of God has drawn near.”

CHANT : *Jésus qui m’a brûlé le cœur.*  (CNPL/Rimaud/Akepsimas/Studio SM) [Lien sur YouTube](#)

Jésus, qui m’as brûlé le cœur au carrefour des Écritures,
ne permets pas que leurs blessures en moi se ferment.
Tourne mes sens à l’intérieur, force mes pas à l’aventure,
pour que le feu de ton bonheur à d’autres prenne!

La Table où tu voulus t’asseoir, pour la fraction qui te révèle,
je la revois : elle étincelle de toi, seul Maître!
Fais que je sorte dans le soir, où trop des miens sont sans nouvelles,
et par ton Nom dans mon regard, fais-toi connaître!

First dialogue time (20 minutes)

Question no 9 : Discern and decide (page 11 of the diocesan document)

Second dialogue time (20 minutes)

Question no 10 : To form oneself for synodality (page 12 of the diocesan document)

Third dialogue time (20 minutes)

In this third round, participants reflect on what seemed to emerge, what resonated during the conversation, which touched them and made sense to them, followed by a period of silence. We try to discern what the Spirit is saying to the Church through our dialogue.

What does the Holy Spirit murmur in you, what does he teach you about yourself, your environment, your community, towards what growth is he directing your steps; towards what strength to develop, charism to discover, to cultivate as an individual and as a Church.

CONCLUSION

Go around the table by asking participants to summarize in a few words what they took away from the workshop and say how they found the process. A secretary takes note of these comments and prepares a summary of the meeting.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Let us recite psalm 148 together :

Alleluia! Praise the Lord from on high, praise him in the heights.

You, all his angels, praise him, praise him, all universes. Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all the stars of light; praise him, heavens of heavens, and the waters of the heights of heaven.

Let them praise the name of the Lord : at his command they were created; it was he who laid them down forever under a law that will not pass.

Praise the Lord from earth, sea monsters, all abysses; fire and hail, snow and fog, hurricane wind that fulfills his word; the trees of the orchards, all the cedars; The mountains and all the hills, the wild beasts and all the flocks, the reptile and the flying bird; the kings of the earth and all the

peoples, the princes and all the judges of the earth; all young men and women, old men and children alike.

Let them praise the name of the Lord, the only one above all names; on heaven and on earth his splendor : he increases the vigor of his people.

Praise from all his devotees, from the sons of Israel, the people of his relatives! Alleluia!

RECOGNITION TIME

Going home, thinking back to what you heard in these dialogues, in the presence of the Risen One; ask yourself today and in the days to come: what is rising in me? What call is the Lord placing in me? You might catch yourself saying, “Lord, what do you want me to do?”

N. B. : Regarding additional questions 11 to 13, it would be appropriate to propose to live a 6th dialogue meeting. (Page 12 of the diocesan document)

To write the meeting report

This report should not exceed two printed pages.

1. Describe the group that met: level of involvement in the Church, membership (parishioners, religious, members of a committee, a service or a movement), young or old, homogeneous group or diversified, etc.
2. How did the process go: harmoniously? hardly? Why? If you adapted it, how did you do it?
3. From the notes that will have been collected during the conclusion (after the third round of dialogue), present the main conclusions reached by the group: observations, sources of joy or sadness, realizations, proposals, hopes, etc.
4. Did the group members leave satisfied with the experience? Why?

Please send your report to:
Father Marc Richer, general vicar for pastoral affairs
By email: mricher@ecd.ca

Your report will help develop a diocesan synthesis.

Thanks!