



For a synodal Church  
 communion | participation | mission

## Information on the Synod

### **WHY A SYNODAL PROCESS AND WHAT IS ITS PURPOSE?**

Pope Francis has invited everyone in the Church to embark on a journey together. Through listening and discernment rooted in the Holy Spirit, the entire People of God are being called to contribute to this process—the synodal process—by which the Church deepens in understanding of her mission and looks toward the future.

The purpose of the Synod, and therefore of this consultation, is not to produce documents, but “to plant dreams, draw forth prophecies and visions, allow hope to be nourished, inspire trust, bind up wounds, weave together relationships, awaken a dawn of hope, learn from one another, and create a bright resourcefulness that will enlighten minds, warm hearts, give strength to our hands.” (PD, 32)

### **WHO IS PARTICIPATING AND WHY IS MY VOICE NEEDED?**

Pope Francis is inviting all the baptized to participate. This includes parish groups and Catholic organizations, those from other faith traditions, along with persons with special needs and their families, those living in poverty, the incarcerated, migrants and refugees, as well as other marginalized groups. The full voice of all People of God is needed for true discernment as we listen to one another in the Holy Spirit.

## LISTENERS

We are encouraging all those who are interested to become listeners for the synod. Recruiting and training listeners is an important first step to listen to others. Listeners will help hear the stories, ideas, and thoughts of those throughout the Diocese of Saint Cloud. There are two types of listeners: one-on-one and group. ACCs may invite people to be trained to be listeners for their ACC. Below are the descriptions for each listener. Training for listeners is provided. Go to the diocesan synod website <https://stcdio.org/synod-2021-2023/> to register for training. For additional questions email [synod@stcdio.org](mailto:synod@stcdio.org). Trained listeners will be providing the resources and content needed for the consultations. The listeners will communicate with the host regarding number of copies of handouts and other materials.

### ONE-ON-ONE LISTENER MINISTRY DESCRIPTION

Would you reach out and listen to other people talk about their hopes, dreams, and struggles related to the Catholic Church?

#### ***What does a one-on-one listener do?***

***What:*** Listen one-to-one to another person for approximately 30 to 60 minutes. Our goal is to have at least 8 consultations for each listener.

***Where:*** In a coffee shop, at a kitchen table, on a walk in the park, ZOOM, Facetime or wherever you can create a safe space for a meaningful conversation.

***How:*** Be hospitable! Through sharing faith stories, asking meaningful questions, being fully present to the one you are accompanying. Listen for key words to go deeper—feelings, strong words, repeated words, unspoken words, images and metaphors; and listen to body gestures and changes in voice. Record the essential points of the conversation.

***When:*** During the Lenten and Easter seasons, face to face or online.

***How Do I Report Back to the Church:*** There will be a database for each listener to report a summary of what they heard from each face-to-face encounter. Those we listen to will not be identified by name.

### GROUP LISTENER MINISTRY DESCRIPTION

Would you reach out and listen to other people talk about their hopes, dreams, and struggles related to the Catholic Church?

#### ***What does a group listener do?***

***What:*** Facilitate a group experience that includes prayer, silence, individual reflection, small group conversation, and large group sharing. The size of these groups will vary for each group.

***Where:*** In a public space, i.e. church, library, YMCA, that is designated by the host that creates a safe space for a meaningful conversation.

***How:*** Leading to listen so that each voice is heard in a safe space. Through sharing faith stories, asking meaningful questions, being fully present to the group. Listen for key words—feelings, strong words, repeated words, unspoken words, images and metaphors; and listen to body gestures and changes in voice. Invite notetakers to record essential points of the conversation.

***When:*** During the Lenten and Easter seasons, face to face or online.

***How Do I Report Back to the Church:*** There will be a database for each listener to report a summary of what they heard from each consultation. Those we listen to will not be identified by name.

## CONSULTATIONS

There are three types of consultations (*ways to be listened to*):

### 1 INDIVIDUAL SELF-GUIDED

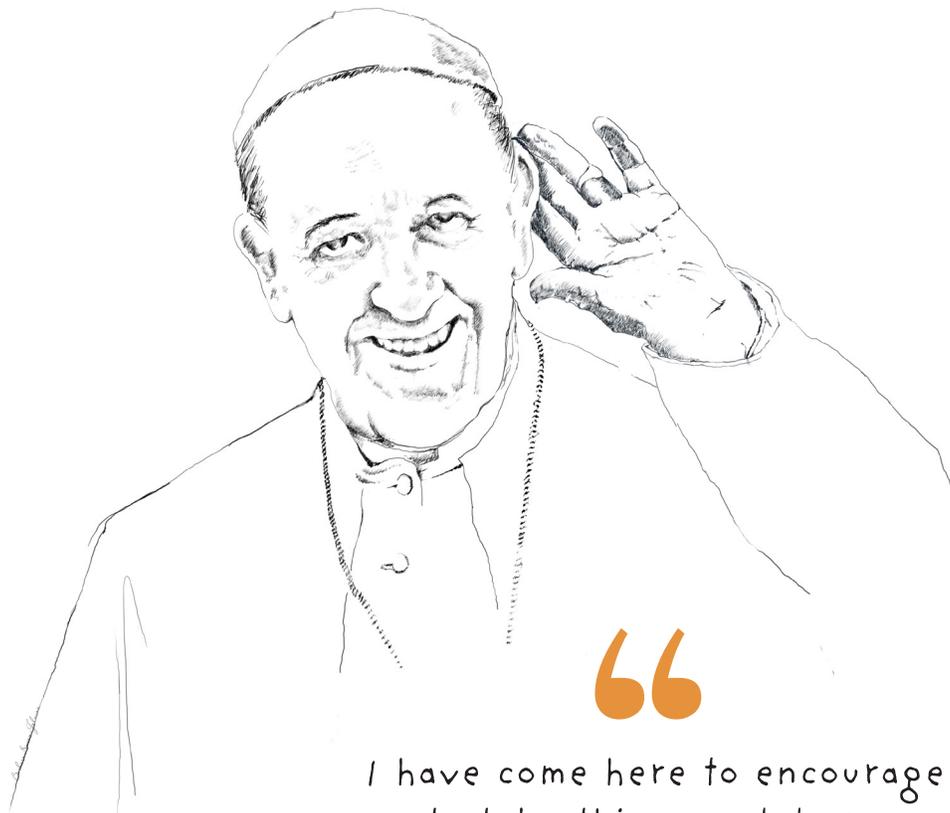
An online survey is set up for anyone who wishes to do a consultation this way. This survey asks the same questions as the one-on-one and group consultations. The online individual self-guided survey is available on the diocesan website synod page at <https://stcdio.org/synod-2021-2023>.

### 2 ONE-ON-ONE

A trained one-on-one listener will reach out to those who would prefer to have a one-on-one conversation. These conversations will be wherever the person would prefer: out for a walk, on Zoom, over the phone, etc. Time and location will be set between the listener and listenee. If someone would like to visit with a listener and is unaware of a trained listener to contact, the person should send an email to [synod@stcdio.org](mailto:synod@stcdio.org) or call 320-251-2340 and a trained listener will be found.

### 3 GROUP

A trained group listener will help facilitate a group synod consultation experience (*for example, for an Area Catholic Community, parish group, parish-related organization, etc.*). You may invite someone to be trained to be a group listener. If you are unaware of a trained group listener, email [synod@stcdio.org](mailto:synod@stcdio.org) and we will provide someone for you.



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I have come here to encourage you to take this synodal process seriously and to tell you that the **HOLY SPIRIT NEEDS YOU.**