Resources on Synodality

The 2021-2023 Synod on Synodality: Key Documents

  - Outlines the meaning of synodality, theological resources for understanding and practicing synodality in Scripture and Tradition, and central themes to explore in “journeying together” through the synodal process.

  - Guide to support the process of consultation, including methodological suggestions and examples from recent synodal processes, as well as liturgical, biblical, and prayer resources.

- **Synod Website:** [https://www.synod.va/en.html](https://www.synod.va/en.html)

- **Archdiocese of Atlanta Resources:** [https://archatl.com/synod/](https://archatl.com/synod/)

  - Leadership Roundtable, a group of laity, religious, and clergy who work to promote best practices and accountability in the Church, have created a practical guide to facilitating synod conversations. The guide includes suggested ground rules, best practices for hearing all voices, and questions for discussion.

**Key Theological Background:** A deeper exploration of the theology of synodality.

  - In this five-page address, Pope Francis briefly explains the integral relationship between synodality and the *sensus fidei*, or the sense of the faith. He calls for a Church that listens and envisions the structure of the Church as an “inverted pyramid,” in which clerics serve and support the people of God.

  - This twenty-five-page document provides a deeper theological engagement with synodality and its significance for the mission of the Church. The four chapters
cover: 1) Synodality in Scripture, Tradition, and Church history; 2) The theology of synodality in light of Vatican II; 3) The structure of synodality at all levels in the Church; 4) The spiritual and pastoral conversion to listening and discernment necessary for synodality to characterize the Church.

**Presentations/Podcast Resources:**

- **La Civiltà Cattolica English Synodality Series**
  - You can find this free podcast on Google, Apple, Spotify, etc. The Synodality Series offers short, 20-minute conversations with theological and practical information about synodality.

- **The Tablet Webinar with Sr. Nathalie Becquart:**
  - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xf4ixP21R6U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xf4ixP21R6U)
  - Sr. Natalie, who serves as the undersecretary of the Synod of Bishops, offers a brief, 14-minute explanation of synodality in light of the vision of Pope Francis.

- **“From Episcopal Collegiality to Ecclesial Synodality,” Dr. Massimo Faggioli:**
  - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=31KMA5kZVD0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=31KMA5kZVD0)
  - Dr. Faggioli, a leading Church historian, offers a more in-depth 30-minute presentation on the historical development from Vatican II to our current moment of synodality. The presentation is followed by a longer Q&A.

- **“Walking Together: Pope Francis’ Vision for a Synodal Church,” Dr. Amanda Osheim:**
  - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y1E5aKVhq6E](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y1E5aKVhq6E)
  - Dr. Osheim, a professor of practical theology, offers an hour-long, accessible introduction to synodality and Pope Francis’ desire to hear the Spirit at work among the People of God. The presentation is followed by a longer Q&A.

**Articles:** Brief explorations of key aspects of synodality

- **Cardinal Mario Grech, Secretary General of the Synod of Bishops, explains the importance of the first diocesan phase:**

- **Pope Francis’ Vision of Synodality:**
  - Explains Pope Francis’ vision for the synod and the importance of listening to the Spirit.

- **A Closer Look at Synodality:**
  - Dr. Hosffman Ospino interviews Dr. Rafael Luciani, one of the world’s leading experts on synodality.

- **Synodality: The Long Game:**
  - [https://www.commonwealmagazine.org/long-game](https://www.commonwealmagazine.org/long-game)
  - Cardinal Joseph Tobin explores synodality as the mode for the Church’s conversion to truly walking with the People of God.