



I WANT TO HOST A SYNODAL ENCOUNTER IN MY PARISH, GROUP, COMMUNITY... NOW WHAT?

STEP 1 Identify leaders in your parish, group, movement, lay ecclesial community, etc. and inform them about the importance and desire of Pope Francis, Archbishop Gustavo, as well as your Pastor/Administrator or Ministry Leader for every voice to be heard during the Diocesan phase of this Synod of Bishops that goes initially from January 2022 through the end of May 2022. Find out when the group meets and introduce the possibility of using one of the regular meetings to host a synodal consultation encounter. As Synodal Parish Liaison or group leader, you might or might not be present during the meeting as long as there is someone who commits to take notes and capture the essence of the conversation. The consultation must be free and easy to conduct. Pray for and with them for that encounter.

STEP 2 Share in advance with all the members of the group or invitees the two fundamental questions of the synod (found in the toolkit – Page 6). Make sure the group understands and agrees to conduct the conversation around these two questions. The themes on pages 7 & 8 are optional and exists only to facilitate the conversation not to substitute the two main questions. Everyone is invited to share willingly, freely and honestly how they feel, they see, and they dream ‘Journeying together’ in the Church. If someone in the group have particular skills which might be helpful for the process of capturing and synthesizing the conclusions, share with him/her (or the group leader) the way of submitting the summary of the conversation (Page 4 of the Toolkit). If someone finds this option challenging or inconvenient, contact synodality@archsa.org and we will make whatever it takes to assist the groups with the submission.

STEP 3 With the help of your parish or group leaders, discern when/if doing a second round of encounters. Read, Listen, Discern and Gather in the views and voices of as many people as possible if the two fundamental questions have been answered. Particularly, include those who may not always feel listened to. No one should be excluded, everyone has a voice, and all are invited to participate. Discuss if necessary with your Pastor/Leader how best to do this in your parish/community/group.

STEP 4 As group leader, offer to help gather the information of consultation summaries (Page 13 in the toolkit - QR Code #4 Reflection Sheet). Offer to help those who might have difficulty completing the reflection sheet.

Visit www.archsa.org/synodality in case you need additional information or help