



Pope Francis has invited the worldwide Church to participate in preparing for the next meeting of the Synod of Bishops in October 2023.

The topic? SYNODALITY

What is SYNODALITY?

The Greek word *synodos* means “to be on the journey together.” The Second Vatican Council speaks of the People of God (Pope, bishops, clergy, men and women religious and lay men and women) as being on a journey toward the heavenly Jerusalem. They walk together, exercising the gifts of their Baptism each in their particular roles. Along the way, they **speak and listen** to one another and to the Holy Spirit as they work to carry out their mission: to make known the Good News of salvation in Jesus Christ. In Acts 15, we see that at the Council of Jerusalem the apostles and the People of God considered, discussed and debated the issues that faced the early Church. They reached a consensus after consulting with the Holy Spirit and one another. They journeyed together. Synodality is a way of journeying together - of living out our faith - that calls for shared responsibility, open and honest dialogue, and discernment with the Holy Spirit to arrive at pastoral solutions to the issues of our day.

What are we being asked to do?

The people of the Diocese of Covington, with Dioceses and Christian communities around the world, are being asked to **speak and to listen** about one main theme:

A synodal Church, in announcing the Gospel, “journeys together:”

How is this “journeying together” happening today in your particular Church?

What steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our “journeying together”?

Plans are underway to give parishes, institutions, organizations, as many individuals as possible the opportunity to respond to this theme over the next several months. Look for more information in the diocesan *Messenger*, in parish communications, on social media, and on the diocesan website, www.covdio.org/synod. Or visit <https://www.synod.va/en.html>

