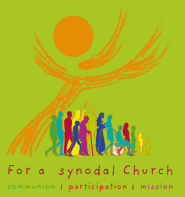


TOWARDS A SYNODAL CHURCH: PATHWAYS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

LITURGY



Scripture:

Luke 24:13-35

The story of the disciples on the road to Emmaus expresses a rich understanding of synodality and the Eucharist liturgy. The two disheartened disciples are "walking together" (a literal translation of the Greek roots of "synod"). Jesus joins them, listens to their concerns, explains the scriptures, and is ultimately recognized by them in the "breaking of the bread" (early description of the Eucharistic liturgy). This journey represents a model of communal discernment that ends with an encounter with Christ in the breaking of the bread. *Please read the full scripture text.*

1 Corinthians 10:16-17

The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a sharing in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.

Sacrosanctum Concilium (Constitution on Sacred Liturgy, Vatican II): 14. Mother Church earnestly desires that all the faithful should be led to that fully conscious, and active participation in liturgical celebrations which is demanded by the very nature of the liturgy.

There is a close link between...the Eucharistic assembly and the synodal assembly. In both cases, albeit in different forms, Jesus' promise to be present where two or three are gathered in His name is fulfilled (cf. Mt 18:20). Synodal assemblies are events that celebrate the union of Christ with His Church through the action of the Spirit.

Deepening the link between liturgy and synodality will help all Christian communities, in the diversity of their cultures and traditions, to adopt celebratory styles that make visible the face of a synodal Church.
FD27

Discussion:

- How do we create a welcoming environment where people feel comfortable participating and are ready to engage each other?
- How do we empower diverse voices to have a greater role in the liturgy, including those on the margins?
- How do we engage the community to contribute their charisms and talents during the celebration, according to their unique gifts (i.e. various ministries, preaching, planning liturgy, decision-making)?