

TOWARDS A SYNODAL CHURCH: PATHWAYS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

ARCHDIOCESAN THEME: LISTENING WITHIN OUR PARISHES: RENEWAL AND PARISH COUNCILS, FINANCE COUNCILS AND DISCERNMENT



The Final Document of the Synod on Synodality calls on every parish community to practice synodality within its pastoral ministry, improving the way it carries out its mission through the ecclesial (of the Church) discernment that the Holy Spirit asks of us. Parish Pastoral and Finance Councils, as key participatory bodies, are at the heart of this mission. (FD)



The Parish “must remain a place of creativity, of relationship, of motherhood. It is there that this inventive capacity is realised; and when a parish moves forward this way, it achieves what I call ‘the parish on the move’ ”

Pope Francis, “The Pastoral Conversion of the parish community”

Your parish pastoral and finance councils are asked to undertake a time of spiritual discernment about how your parish, or collection of parishes, carries out its mission.

Lectio Divina - reflecting on scripture:

Matthew 9:16-17

And no one puts a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch tears away from the garment, and a worse tear is made. Neither is new wine put into old wineskins; if it is, the skins burst, and the wine is spilled, and the skins are destroyed; but new wine is put into fresh wineskins, and so both are preserved.”

Mark 2:21-22

No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment; if he does, the patch tears away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear is made. And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; if he does, the wine will burst the skins, and the wine is lost, and so are the skins; but new wine is for fresh skins.”

Luke 5:36-39

He told them a parable also: “No one tears a piece from a new garment and puts it upon an old garment; if he does, he will tear the new, and the piece from the new will not match the old. And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; if he does, the new wine will burst the skins and it will be spilled, and the skins will be destroyed. But new wine must be put into fresh wineskins. And no one after drinking old wine desires new; for he says, ‘The old is good.’”

Conversation in the Spirit, reflecting on these questions:

What do we hear God calling us towards in our parish or pastoral region?

How might we adjust how we gather, listen, include, plan, and discern to move forward together as a people of God?

Allow a time of silence to ponder the questions.

Other resources:

Video on Synodality (3 min): bit.ly/VideonSynodality

Reimagining Pastoral Councils from the School for Synodality bit.ly/ReimaginingPastoralCouncils