Pope Francis Wants to Hear from You
By Fr. Glenn McDonald, CSB

A Synodal Church is a new concept that Pope Francis is introducing, to help us to discern where the Holy Spirit wants the Church to go. Pope Francis is a firm believer that we can hear the voice of the Holy Spirit more clearly when we encounter and listen to one another — those inside the Church and out. In other words, Pope Francis wants to hear about your experience of the Church through the Synod process.

The Synod seeks to answer two main questions:

1) **A Synodal Church, in announcing the Gospel, "journeys together." How is this "journeying together" happening today in your local Church?**
2) **What steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our "journeying together"?**

Your experience will play an important role in answering these two questions. I invite you to take some time to pray and ponder about what your answers might be. However, before you come to a firm conclusion, I encourage you to create a space for the Holy Spirit to speak to you through others.

The Archdiocese of Edmonton is hosting a series of Listening Sessions, in which you can share about your experience of the Church and hear from others. The purpose of the Listening Sessions is not to debate or dialogue, but to listen to others and share from your heart in the context of prayer.

Afterwards, you will be invited to submit your thoughts on the Synod questions through an online platform. Your answers will be compiled and summarized in a report that will be sent to the next stage of the Synod process. For more information, go to www.caedm.ca/synod.

I am personally very grateful for the Synod, because it is creating the opportunity for us to draw closer to and empathize with one another. The past several months have revealed that our society needs help to heal wounds and relationships that have been harmed by the stress of the pandemic.

I look forward to hearing about your experience and what the Holy Spirit wishes to tell us about our journey together.

Synod
2021
2023

For a synodal Church
communion | participation | mission