



Greetings

Recently the Holy Father asked all the parishes in the world to consider some important questions for the universal church.

The Holy Father has called a synod; that is a meeting of bishops gathered to discuss a topic of theological or pastoral significance, to prepare a document of advice or counsel to the pope.

Pope Francis wants us to join him in praying, listening, discerning, examining ourselves personally, and the Church communally, to see if we're truly on the path Jesus has set for His beloved bride, His mystical body, the Church.

In this process it is understood

- The energy and direction driving the Church comes from the Holy Spirit, not ourselves.
- While in the world, we are not of the world, and thus our guiding principles come from the Gospel, revelation, and of settled Church teaching.

The Vatican announced in May that the **Synod on Synodality** would open with a diocesan phase lasting from October 2021 to April 2022. A second, continental phase will take place from September 2022 to March 2023. The third, universal phase will begin with the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, dedicated to the theme "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission," at the Vatican in October 2023.

In order to focus our efforts at Blessed Sacrament parish level the extensive list of original questions that was proposed by Rome has been narrowed down to seven. These questions were selected by members of our parish Pastoral Council as the ones that are most germane to the Blessed Sacrament Parish faith community.

In December at a joint session of the parish finance and pastoral council we plan to gather your input on these important questions. Then in early January we will have sessions inviting the entire parish community to offer their input as well. After all the groups have met the parish will produce a summary of the discussions for the diocese. Blessed Sacrament input will be incorporated into a summary report for the entire Diocese of LaCrosse summary. The summary from all the diocese in the United States will then be additionally summarized.

In order to provide the best input, we can to the diocese please consider the following attached questions. Remember that are responses are not just matters of personal opinion but are the workings of the Holy Spirit in our parish.

Attached you will find the questions for consideration for Blessed Sacrament Parish for our discussion on **January 5, 2022 at 6 PM in the parish center.**

Thank you and God Bless

Fr Peter Raj

Synod questions Blessed Sacrament Parish:

LISTENING

- What facilitates or inhibits our listening?
- What are some limitations in our ability to listen, especially to those who have different views than our own?

CELEBRATION

- How do prayer and liturgical celebrations actually inspire and guide our common life and mission in our community?
 - How do they inspire the most important decisions?

SHARING RESPONSIBILITY FOR OUR COMMON MISSION

- What areas of mission are we neglecting?

DIIALOGUE IN CHURCH AND SOCIETY

- What particular issues in the Church and society do we need to pay more attention to?

AUTHORITY AND PARTICIPATION

- How does our Church community identify the goals to be pursued, the way to reach them, and the steps to be taken?

FORMING OURSELVES IN SYNODALITY

- How does our church community form people to be more capable of “walking together,” listening to one another, participating in mission, and engaging in dialogue?