



For a synodal Church
communion | participation | mission

JOURNEYING TOGETHER

Diocese of Grand Falls



Your Invitation

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

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DIOCESE OF GRAND FALLS

Hello,

Thank you for taking some time to look through this document. You will also find a Prayer Card with a prayer for the Synod. Please pray this prayer when you have a moment of quiet.

It is my sincere hope that, after reading the material here, you will decide to become a participant in this special project of Pope Francis.

Since becoming Pope, Francis has been a leader in reaching out to people throughout the world.

In a spirit of welcoming everyone, he has convened this special Synod, which he has named a Synod on Synodality, as the vehicle for world-wide outreach. This is your opportunity to have your say, to express your opinions on the church of the past and the church you envision for the future. I truly hope you will seize the opportunity and come talk with us. Details on the time and place of the meeting will follow soon.

Let us pray together for the success of this courageous and ambitious project.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Anthony Daniels", with a small cross at the beginning.

Most Reverend R. Anthony Daniels
Bishop of Grand Falls

Themes For Your Consideration

1. **We are called as a Church and as a society to walk together, side by side, on the same journey. Our journey calls us to follow Jesus, “the Way, the Truth and the Light”.**

- *Do you feel your Church is inclusive in welcoming everyone to “walk together”?*
- *In what ways do you think it is inclusive?*
- *Do you think there are individuals or groups who may feel they have been left on the margins? If so, why do you think this is?*
- *In what ways do you think the Church can become more inclusive?*

2.



Church is not a building. We, the people, are the Church. We are the people of God. Many times, we are reminded of the need to listen to God speaking to us. This does not mean that God speaks to us from the clouds, but rather God speaks to us through a number of means, often through other people.

- *Do you think there may be times when God speaks to the Church through voices that may be ignored? If so, whose voices may be ignored?*
- *Why do you think some voices may be ignored?*
- *What would help the Church do a better job of listening?*

3.

While we the people are the Church, we have organized ourselves into groups such as laity, priests, bishops, cardinals, and others. Pope Francis is the head of the Roman Catholic Church. We, as members of the laity, also need to have our voices heard by each of these groups, and especially by the Pope.



- *Do you feel your voice is heard by these various groups within your Church?*
- *Are some voices heard more than others? Is there anything preventing your voice from being heard?*
- *Do the groups within your Church need to change in some way(s) to ensure they can do a better job of listening to you and to others?*

4. **The Church encourages each person to speak to it with courage, with complete freedom, in truth, and with charity.**

- *In what ways does the Church enable you to speak up courageously?*



- *In what ways does the Church hinder you from speaking up courageously?*
- *Do you feel you can speak in freedom, in truth, and with charity?*
- *In what ways can the Church change to enable it to be a better listener?*

5. **Mass in the Catholic Church is based on communal listening to the Word and the celebration of the Eucharist.**

- *How does listening to the Word help you in your daily living?*
- *What do you like about the Liturgy of the Word?*
- *Are there any changes you would like in order for the Liturgy of the Word to become more inspiring for you?*
- *What do you like about the Liturgy of the Eucharist?*
- *Are there any changes you would like in order for the Liturgy of the Eucharist to become more inspiring for you?*
- *In what ways can there be more active participation in these liturgies by you and others?*



6. **The Church promotes participation in liturgies by the faithful. All members are called, through Baptism, to participate in the mission of the Church.**

- *Is there anything that hinders the baptised from being active in mission?*



- *Are there areas of mission being neglected?*
- *Do you think the Church can improve its mission to serve society in various ways such as education, climate change, conservation, human rights, social justice?*
- *Is the Church helpful to you and others in living out your service to society in a missionary way?*

7. **Talking to others helps us achieve mutual understanding. In talking with others, is there a need for perseverance and patience. It also involves a great deal of listening.**

- *Are you aware of opportunities in your community for people of different backgrounds and life experiences to come together to chat?*
- *Are you aware of any such opportunities in your Church?*
- *Are you aware of times when your Church comes together with neighbouring religious communities?*
- *Are you aware of any opportunities for dialogue with believers of other religions, and with those who may have no religious affiliation?*
- *In what ways can your Church reach out to others, listen to their views, and learn from them?*



8. **Christians of different denominations who are united by one baptism have a special place in a synodal journey (a “coming together”).**



- *Are you aware of your Church having a relationship with members of other Christian traditions and denominations?*
- *In such a relationship, what can be shared and in what ways can we journey together?*
- *What do you think would be some of the benefits that can be obtained by such relationships?*
- *What do you think would be some of the difficulties in such relationships?*

9. **A synodal Church is one of participation and co-responsibility. In such a Church all members share in the communication, the participation and the mission.**

- *Does our Church help you feel part of the process that sets the goals to be pursued and the methods to reach them?*
- *Do you feel teamwork and co-responsibility is being put into practice? If so, how is it accomplished? If not, how do you feel it could be accomplished?*
- *Do you feel our Church promotes participation in various lay ministries?*
- *Do you feel connected to your Parish Council or other groups within your local Church?*
- *In what ways do you think our Church can become a more synodal Church?*



10. **A synodal Church is receptive to change, to formation, and to on-going learning.**

- *Do you feel our Church encourages its members to be more capable of “walking together”?*
- *Do you feel our Church encourages its members be better listeners to one another?*
- *Do you feel our Church encourages its members to participate in mission?*
- *Do you feel our Church encourages its members to engage in dialogue?*
- *What are your thoughts on how our Church can become a more synodal Church?*



Synod on Synodality - What a Mouthful!

Ok, you have an idea about what a synod is,
but what does Synod on Synodality mean?

Imagine you are on a road trip to explore the island of Newfoundland.

You leave Point A to travel to Point Z.

Along the way you discover Points B, C, Y

These places are interesting and may distract you from your goal to reach Point Z.

Somewhere along the way, maybe Point G or M,

you need to pause and consider the route you are taking.

Do you need to make some corrections to get back on track?

Well, a Synod on Synodality is something like that.

We (the Church) are on a journey in which we intend to follow in the footsteps of Christ.

The plan is to follow "the Way, the Truth, and the Life".

Being human, we may become distracted and stray from "the Way".

We need to pause and consider some corrections to our route.

This is what a Synod on Synodality is.

It is a coming together as an entire People of God

to examine where we are as a Church

and to consider the corrections we may need to make.

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The above is a sample of bulletin announcements we have been sharing. To see more, please go to our website: www.rcdioceseofgfnl.org

Please come join us on this journey and have your say. It is important.

Dates for your parish meeting to be announced soon.