

Working with Young People

Process: Select and adapt the activities that are appropriate for your gathering.

Introductions

Explain that the purpose of this session is to give the leadership of the Catholic Church feedback about the direction of the Catholic Church. The bishops and the Pope are gathering in a Synod or Council in 2023 that will assess this feedback and review our ways of being Church. During this process we understand Church as being the People of God. We are a pilgrim community charged with the mission of being and bringing good news of God's love, healing and justice to the world.

Prayer: Walking Together

May our ears and hearts be open,

to hear what the Spirit says to our Church.

Loving God, help us to express our hopes and joys, fears and doubts, dreams and wonderings with clarity and charity.

With your guidance, may our words bring light and healing to our wounded world.

We pray, in the name of Jesus,

Amen.

Introductory Video: Synod on Synodality Explainer

Show the introductory video from [Cardinal Carter](#) or one prepared by your diocese. You can check here for your [diocesan resources](#). <https://carfleo.com/2022/01/02/synod-on-synodality-2021-2023/>

Taking stock: Questionnaire, Group Discussion, Large Group Discussion

Invite participants to complete the questionnaire on the final page "Taking Stock". The purpose of the activity is to allow participants to consider how they feel about the Church and their membership in the Church. You can use an online survey (e.g Google Forms) to anonymously collate results.

After completing this activity, gather in groups of four to analyze the results.

Assign a recorder and a spokesperson. Answer the following questions

- 1) What points of agreement can you discern from the results?
- 2) If you were going to create a headline from an article that reports on this survey, how would it read?
- 3) If you were to create your own survey, what statements would you add?

The spokesperson reports back to the large group. The facilitator collates the input

Dreaming: Group Discussion and Large Group Synthesis

The facilitator retains the same grouping as in Taking Stock. Change roles to find an alternative recorder and spokesperson. Each group will be assigned one of the questions

- 1) What positive contribution does the Church make to the world today?
- 2) What do you think should be changed and/or improved in the Church?
- 3) What do you sense the Holy Spirit is asking of the Church?
- 4) What support do we need to help us grow as a Church journeying together, listening to each other and the Spirit?
- 5) Who walks with us on our journey of faith? What persons or groups are marginalized?
- 6) How can we best share the Good News of Jesus with others? What difference are we currently making?
- 7) In what ways do our parishes/communities speak to each other and the wider society? How could we do this better?

After discussing the question, each group captures the essence of their response by writing a headline that captures the essence of the sharing. These are written on chart paper or shared on the screen and briefly explained by the group spokesperson.

Synthesis: Song Analysis: As an individual reflection listen and look at the lyrics of Gather Us In by Marty Haugen.(Link to video with lyrics: <https://youtu.be/lbNXqjwh8is>) Which words or phrases reflect our explorations today?

Here in this place new light is streaming
Now is the darkness vanished away
See in this space our fears and our dreamings
Brought here to you in the light of this day
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken
Gather us in, the blind and the lame
Call to us now and we shall awaken
We shall arise at the sound of our name
We are the young, our lives are a mystery
We are the old who yearn for your face
We have been sung throughout all of history
Called to be light to the whole human race
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty
Gather us in, the proud and the strong
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly
Give us the courage to enter the song
Here we will take the wine and the water
Here we will take the bread of new birth
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters
Call us anew to be salt for the earth
Give us to drink the wine of compassion
Give us to eat the bread that is you
Nourish us well and teach us to fashion
Lives that are holy and hearts that are true
Not in the dark of buildings confining
Not in some heaven light years away
But here in this place the new light is shining
Now is the kingdom, now is the day
Gather us in and hold us forever
Gather us in and make us your own
Gather us in, all peoples together
Fire of love in our flesh and our bones
Fire of love in our flesh and our bones

Social Media Post

Create a short message of less than 150 words that tells Pope Francis what changes need to be taken in the church. Adapt the message to the social media platform of your choice .

Adapted from the Diocese of Palencia in Spain

Taking Stock

Individual exercise, where people make an assessment from 1 (not at all) to 5 (a lot) of the following aspects about their vision and experience of the Church

	Amount of agreement with statements				
	Not at all		Sometimes		A lot
Listening	1	2	3	4	5
There are channels to express myself and give my opinion in the parish and in the larger Church					
I feel heard when I have participated in the parish					
I believe that the Church is interested in the excluded, marginalized, and those who consider themselves outside the Church					
Celebrating life and faith	1	2	3	4	5
I participate in the celebrations that take place in the parish and school					
The religious celebrations in which I participate have meaning to my life					
Participating and sharing responsibilities	1	2	3	4	5
Responsibilities and positions are shared in the Church between laity, religious and priests					
As young people, we can make proposals and actions in the parish, feeling supported and accompanied					
Dialogue in the church and with the society	1	2	3	4	5
There are spaces for dialogue in the Church and the opinion of young people, women and men counts.					
Social problems are part of life and church messages					
The voice of the Church is heard in our society, denouncing injustice and announcing the message of Jesus					
Discern and decide	1	2	3	4	5
When young people need to make vital decisions, we can find support and accompaniment in the Church					
Decision-making in the Church is shared by all believers					
Transparency and responsibility are promoted in church					