



Archdiocese of Boston

Questions for Groups Participating in the Pre-Synodal Archdiocesan Phase of the Synod on Synodality

The following questions are a possible guideline for various communities who are participating in the Archdiocesan Phase of the Synod on Synodality. They should be seen as seeds for discussion, not as boundaries. Other questions can be found on pages 40-42 of the *Vademecum* document, available in English here: bit.ly/vademecumhandbook.

As a general guideline, it should be noted that this synod is about synodality itself. **Its goal is not to discuss all of the issues in the Church, but rather to discuss how the Church listens to, and can listen better to, all her people and draws the voices of all into her prayer, her mission, and her decision-making process on every level.**

We invite you to talk about these questions, or a subset of them, in your various groups. We are seeking feedback from groups, not from individuals. When your group has notes they want to submit, they can send them to psoper@rcab.org. Please send any feedback no later than July 15, 2022.

1. In our experience – within our parish or other community – who should have a voice? And who does in fact have a voice? How could we improve that? And how could the same thing happen in our Archdiocese and in the Church around the world?
 - a. How can the common person in our communities be better heard?
 - b. Who are the marginalized people in our communities, and how can they be better heard?
2. How well do we listen to people whose opinions are different from our own ...
 - a. ... in our conversations?
 - b. ... in our families?
 - c. ... in our parishes or other local communities?
 - d. ... in our archdiocese?
 - e. ... in the global Church?
 - f. How could we do all of that better?
3. How does our prayer – both individual prayer and at Mass and other liturgical gatherings (communal liturgy) – impact our ability to listen?
4. How connected do you feel to the core mission of the Church – making disciples for Jesus? Do you feel like you have been chosen for mission, equipped for that mission, and sent specifically out on that mission? In the course of that mission, do you feel like you have a group of fellow missionary disciples with whom to share your experiences? How could we improve that kind of interaction in the Church?

5. How does the Church (local/diocesan/global) support those who take part in her mission within the society and culture (parents, grandparents, educators, scientists, lawmakers, writers, artists, social workers, those who work with the poor, those who seek to protect the environment)? And how does she listen to them?
6. Listening often involves listening across borders. How well do the parishes or other local communities in your area work together and listen to one another? What is the involvement of various communities of religious men and women in your parish? Is there a dialogue with other faith communities who are not Catholic?
7. How could the decision-making process within your local community be improved? Is there room for a broader process? How can transparency be improved? Is prayerful discernment a part of the process?

Any questions about the process can be sent to psoper@rcab.org.