



How can we be a synodal Church in mission?

SYNODALITY FORMATION COURSE

Methods of Participation in a synodal Church

June 6–8, 2024 – Oblate School of Theology – 285 Oblate Dr, San Antonio, TX

Promoted by the Evangelii Gaudium Center – Sophia University Institute, in collaboration with the General Secretariat of the Synod.

Main Speakers and Facilitators



Bishop Michael Mulvey,
Diocese of Corpus Christi



Dr. Bonnie Abadie
Oblate School of Theology



Andrew Spiteri,
Sophia University Institute

This course is open to all those who want to lead fruitful synodal processes – clergy, religious men and women, and active parishioners.

We want to explore and experience best practices in synodality as a way of being Church today.

Main topics

- **Participation:** the value of listening
- **Proven Methods:** Group dynamics
- **The Challenges in Communion:** Obstacles in “Walking Together”
- **Discernment 101:** Decision-making processes

Cost: \$65 (includes registration fee and lunch) – Please register by May 22!

Email registrations to Lisa Feighery, lfeighery@ost.edu, or Jennifer Nutzman, jennynutzman@gmail.com

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Agenda – Thursday, June 6, 2024

- 8:30 – 9:00 Fellowship & Welcome
- 9:00 – 9:40 Keynote Speaker, *Bishop Michael Mulvey, Diocese of Corpus Christi*
- 9:40 – 11:45 Participation in the Church: The value of listening
- Participation through the art of listening, *Presented by Allen Thyssen, Lay Cistercian of Gethsemani Abbey & hospital chaplain*
 - Facilitation training, *Presented by Andrew Spiteri, Sophia University Institute*
- 11:45 – 1:30 Lunch Break
- *12:10 Mass in St Joseph Chapel*
- 1:30 – 3:30 Participation in the Church: The value of listening
- Instruction in the Conversation in the Spirit method, *Facilitated by Andrew Spiteri*
 - Small group session: Conversation in the Spirit
- 3:30 – 3:45 Afternoon Break
- 3:45 – 5:30 Participation in the Church: The value of listening
- Conclusion of Conversation in the Spirit
 - Plenary session, *Presented by Andrew Spiteri*
- 5:30 Closing

Optional social & refreshments immediately following

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Agenda – Friday, June 7, 2024

- 8:30 – 9:00 Fellowship & Welcome
- 9:00 – 9:40 Spiritual Reflection, *Bishop Michael Mulvey, Diocese of Corpus Christ*
- 9:40 – 11:45 Methods of Participation: Group dynamics in discussions
- From “me” to “us” in working together, *Presented by Andrew Spiteri, Sophia University Institute*
 - Experiential learning methodology, *Facilitated by Andrew Spiteri*
- 11:45 – 1:30 Lunch Break
- *12:10 Mass in St Joseph Chapel*
- 1:30 – 3:30 The Challenge of Communion: Obstacles in “walking together”
- Identifying root causes and overcoming obstacles to walking together, *Facilitated by Andrew Spiteri & Lisa Feighery, OST Pastoral Ministry student*
 - Small group session: Conversation in the Spirit
- 3:30 – 3:45 Afternoon Break
- 3:45 – 5:30 The Challenge of Communion: Obstacles in “walking together”
- Conclusion of Conversation in the Spirit
 - Plenary session, *Presented by Andrew Spiteri*
- 5:30 Closing

Optional 7:00pm Oblate Community Healing Mass & Anointing of the Sick in Lourdes Grotto

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Agenda – Saturday, June 8, 2024

- 8:30 – 9:00 Fellowship & Welcome
- 9:00 – 9:40 Spiritual Reflection, *Dr. Bonnie Abadie, Director of Pastoral Lay Formation Certificate Programs, Oblate School of Theology, San Antonio*
- 9:40 – 11:45 Discernment 101: Decision-making processes
- How do we decide in a Synodal way? *Presented by Andrew Spiteri, Sophia University Institute & Fr Darryl D'Souza, Pastor of Holy Family Parish, Vicar of Campus Ministry for Universities and Colleges, Diocese of Corpus Christi*
 - Small group session: Conversation in the Spirit
- 11:45 – 1:30 Lunch Break
- 1:30 – 3:30 Discernment 101: Decision-making processes
- Conclusion of Conversation in the Spirit
 - Plenary session, *Presented by Andrew Spiteri*
- 3:30 – 3:45 Afternoon Break
- 3:45 – 5:30 Final Plenary Session
- Workshop reflection and summary, *Facilitated by Andrew Spiteri*
- 5:30 Closing