



Everything You Need to Know About The October 4-29 Synod

Part One: What's a Synod, Anyway?

“Synod”: Not a word we use every day! A “synod” (small “s”, pronounced “sin-ud”), is a group of people who come together to discuss something important. “Synod” (capital “S”) in recent Catholic Church history, is a large group of bishops from around the world, meeting every few years in Rome, to discuss something important in the life of the Church, then making some recommendations to the Pope.

This particular Synod, which will begin October 4, 2023, and conclude on Oct. 29, will also have a second session held in October 2024. It will have at least 400 participants, mostly bishops, from around the world. It is much smaller than an Ecumenical Council, called occasionally by the Pope, like Vatican Council II, which included all 2,860 bishops in the world.



XVI ORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SYNOD OF BISHOPS

INSTRUMENTUM LABORIS

For the First Session
(October 2023)



Why is this Synod Different?

This Synod will include lay men and women for the first time, and with voting rights. The Synod is guided by a working document that is not a set of ideas, laws, or doctrines, but questions brought forth from consultation with all the People of God around the world.

“Synodal”: Another strange word! Synodal (pronounced sin-OH-dull) is the adjective used to describe a process or event during which there is much dialogue and listening. Historically, Church meetings in our local and international experience, have offered presentations with little focus on dialogue. Often those with higher-level authority speak to the laity, truncating listening and focusing on their authority.



Litterae Communio

#ChurchOnTheWay

This coming Synod will emphasize participants LISTENING and DIALOGUING

with each other. Since the Synod process began almost two years ago, it has promoted the image of the Church as the people of God **“journeying together”** toward the Kingdom of God. One of the questions that has been asked during planning of the Synod is “who is on this journey, and who is being left out?” and “is the institutional church listening to all its baptized members?”

So, what does “Synodality” mean? Synodality (pronounced sin-oh-DAL-ity) comes from the Greek word to “journey together.” Synodality sees the Holy Spirit as guiding our journey together. It refers to a way of “being Church” where listening, both to the Holy Spirit and to each other, is the normal “characteristic” of being a Catholic, whether lay or ordained.



The title of the Oct. 4-29 Synod is the “Synod on Synodality” which hopes to promote a new experience of Church in which there is much more listening and dialogue.



www.pentecostvigilproject.org