



Synodality in Practice:

Listening to the Spirit and Leading Change

Facilitator's Discussion Questions

Session 1: Archbishop Mark Coleridge

Topic: Leaders that Listen: Synodality in Practice

Question 1: Synodality is a word not much heard till Pope Francis started using it, and some people struggle to understand it. How new is it and how does it relate to Vatican II and Scripture?

Question 2: In a truly synodal Church who listens to whom?

Session 2: Mrs Lana Turvey-Collins

Topic: Synodality in Practice – Preparing for the Australian Plenary Council

Question 1: What do you think God is asking of us at this time?

Question 2: What have been your own experiences of faith, and of the Church which have shaped you?

Question 3: Who can you/your community encourage to join in a Listening and Dialogue Encounter to ensure their story is contributes to shaping the future of the Church in Australia?

Session 3: Professor Massimo Faggioli

Topic: Structures of Synodality: Insights from Pope Francis

Question 1: What are the effects of Francis' theology of synodality in the church at the local level? What needs to be done to make our church truly synodal?



Question 2: Are there different responses of the theology of synodality in different groups in the Church? Are bishops, the clergy, the laity, religious orders, youth acting on Francis' synodal call, in different ways?

Question 3: What are the limits of Francis' synodality - at the theoretical or practical level?

Recommended Reading

- *Synod and Synodality, Theology, History, Canon Law and Ecumenism in New Contact*, eds. Alberto Melloni and Silvia Scatena (Münster: LIT, 2005).
- Luc Forestier, *Le pape François et la synodalité. Evangelii gaudium, nouvelle étape dans la réception de Vatican II*, in "Nouvelle Revue Théologique", tome 137, n° 4, octobre 2015, pp. 597-614
- Jean-François Chiron, "Sensus fidei et vision de l'Église chez le Pape François", in "Recherches de Science Religieuses", 2016/2, tome 104, pp. 187-205
- *For a Missionary Reform of the Church. The Civiltà Cattolica Seminar*, eds. Antonio Spadaro, SJ, and Carlos Maria Galli. Foreword by Massimo Faggioli (New York/Mahwah NJ: Paulist Press, 2017)

Session 4: Professor Richard Lennan

Topic: Change and the Church's Tradition

Question 1: "Tradition" reminds us that we live our faith in history, which we receive from those who have passed on their faith to us. Have you experienced "tradition" as a positive force in the life of the Church? What might it contribute to the life and mission of the Church?

Question 2: The Holy Spirit at the centre of the Church calls the Church to move to the future, to the fullness of life in Christ, without abandoning the faith we have received through history. What challenges do you face in being open to change and the "eternal newness" of God, while remaining connected to the past, to the history of faith?



Question 3: The Holy Spirit “blows where it wills” (Jn 3:8). Where might the Spirit be blowing today? What might the Spirit be asking of us as a Church? What skills/attitudes/practices enable us to listen for the Spirit in different points of view while also remaining united in our faith?

Session 5: Ms Gemma Cruz

Topic: Synodality, Community and the Margins

Question 1: What are the ways in which you experience the "culture of encounter" and dialogue (or lack thereof) in your own group or community, e.g. in your parish? How might a "culture of encounter" and dialogue be (more deeply) fostered?

Question 2: Who are the people on the margins in your own community, e.g. family, institution/association/organisation, parish who need most urgent attention? Discuss concrete steps that you or your group could do to address the cause(s) of marginalisation.