



For a synodal Church
communion | participation | mission

Consultation Questionnaire

**ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE
OF
BRIDGETOWN**

**XVI ORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
SYNOD OF BISHOPS 2023**

*For A Synodal Church:
Communion, Participation and
Mission*

INTRODUCTION - The Main Question for Consultation

This Synod poses the following fundamental question:

A synodal Church, in announcing the Gospel, “journeys together.” How is this “journeying together” happening today in your local Church? What steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our “journeying together”? (PD, 26)

In responding to this question, we are invited to:

- - Recall our experiences: What experiences of our local Church does this question call to mind?
- - Re-read these experiences in greater depth: What joys did they bring? What difficulties and obstacles have they encountered? What wounds did they reveal? What insights have they elicited?
- - Gather the fruits to share: Where in these experiences does the voice of the Holy Spirit resound? What is the Spirit asking of us? What are the points to be confirmed, the prospects for change, the steps to be taken? Where do we register a consensus? What paths are opening up for our local Church?

To help people explore this fundamental question more fully, the following themes highlight significant aspects of “lived synodality” (PD, 30).

****IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

1. Please answer each question under the different Themes / Headings beginning on Page 4

2. Please RETURN your filled out questionnaire by email to:

synoddioceseofbridgetown.bb@gmail.com

Or drop your filled out questionnaire in the Diocesan Synod Team return box at your Parish Church door.

3. If one (1) questionnaire is filled in as a family or as a group, please indicate in the return email or on the return questionnaire the number of persons who participated in filling out the questionnaire.

4. For guidance and all queries:

Email :synoddioceseofbridgetown.bb@gmail.com

Telephone / Whatsapp: 1 246 282-9141

Participants are encouraged to share with honesty and openness about their real-life experiences, and to reflect together on what the Holy Spirit might be revealing through what they share with one another.

1. COMPANIONS ON THE JOURNEY

In the Church and in society we are side by side on the same road.

What groups or individuals are left on the margins?

2. LISTENING

Listening is the first step, but it requires an open mind and heart, without prejudice.

(a) What space is there for the voice of young persons, minorities, especially people who experience poverty, marginalization, or social exclusion?

(b) What facilitates or inhibits our listening?

3. SPEAKING OUT

All are invited to speak with courage and parrhesia, that is, in freedom, truth, and charity.

What enables or hinders speaking up courageously, candidly, and responsibly in our local Church and in society?

4. CELEBRATION

“Walking together” is only possible if it is based on communal listening to the Word and the celebration of the Eucharist.

How do we promote the active participation of all the faithful in the liturgy?

5. SHARING RESPONSIBILITY FOR OUR COMMON MISSION

Synodality is at the service of the mission of the Church, in which all members are called to participate.

What hinders the baptised from being active in mission?

6. DIALOGUE IN CHURCH AND SOCIETY

Dialogue requires perseverance and patience, but it also enables mutual understanding.

What particular issues in the Church and society do we need to pay more attention to?

7. ECUMENISM

The dialogue between Christians of different confessions, united by one baptism, has a special place in the synodal journey.

(a) What relationships does our Church community have with members of other Christian traditions and denominations?

(b) What do we share and how do we journey together?

8. AUTHORITY AND PARTICIPATION

A synodal church is a participatory and co-responsible Church.

How can we foster a more synodal (walking together) approach in our participation and leadership?

9. DISCERNING AND DECIDING

In a synodal style we make decisions through discernment of what the Holy Spirit is saying through our whole community.

(a) Do our decision-making methods help us to listen to the whole People of God?

(b) How can they be improved?

10. FORMING OURSELVES IN SYNODALITY

Synodality entails receptivity to change, formation, and on-going learning.

How does our church community form people to be more capable of “walking together,” listening to one another, participating in mission, and engaging in dialogue?

A WORD OF GRATITUDE

A sincere word of gratitude to all those who organize, coordinate, and participate in this Synodal Process. Guided by the Holy Spirit, we make up the living stones through whom God builds up the Church that he desires for the third millennium (1 Peter 2:5).

May the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of the Apostles and Mother of the Church, intercede for us as we journey together on the path that God sets before us. As in the Upper Room at Pentecost, may her maternal care and intercession accompany us as we build up our communion with one another and carry out our mission in the world. With her, we say together as the People of God: “Let it be with me according to your word” (Luke 1:38).