

Script for Training the Facilitators Synod on Synodality – Journeying with Each Other “Together”

1. Explain the idea behind the Synod and the hoped for outcomes.

It is a two year process to explore how the Church can “journey together” with the People of God to help the Church be more aware of concerns and experiences of the faithful. We want to pay special attention to those on the margins whose concerns and perspectives are so often overlooked.

And, we want to touch on **communion** – the blessing of unity amid diversity; **participation** – the involvement of everyone in a process of deep, respectful listening to each other, and **mission** – once we have shared a sense of direction with each other, the Holy Spirit leads us forth to share the love of God with the whole human family – practicing Catholics, those no longer practicing the Faith, those who might feel excluded.

2. Outline the process.

Ask each of your counterparts in the parish to make plans to actively listen to the people of God, by asking the following questions:

- **How does “journeying together” happen in our local Church?**
- **What has been your experience of how the Church has journeyed with you?**
- **What steps does the Holy Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our journeying together?**
- **As Bishop Taylor and our Church leaders listen, what else is important for them to hear?**

If more explanation about the questions is necessary, you might also explain that these central questions are shedding light on whether a person feels a part of the Church and what that experience looks like. What is your experience of Church, do you feel a part of the Church? How can the Church make you feel more included? When and how have you experienced the movement of the Holy Spirit in your life and the life of the Church? What brings you joy – in the Church, in your life?

Synthesize the results.

- **What are the common observations?**
- **What was really significant that stood out in your conversations?**
- **Complete a report form and return it to the appropriate Diocesan office.**
- **Report form will be provided by the Diocese.**

How to complete this process.

- **Use pre-existing ministry settings as best you can, normally held meetings or programs.**
- **Take advantage of situations in which you have time for small group discussions.**
- **Facilitate personal, even one-on-one, conversations.**

Timeline

- **Begin planning your approach in November.**
- **Begin meeting with their groups in November.**
- **Complete the process March 1st and send synthesized results to the Diocese.**