

Diocese of Richmond
For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission
Participant's Guide

Communion

Introduction:

This first grouping examines the idea of Communion in a particular way. The themes draw us into discussion on what it means to journey together, listen to each other, and celebrate together. We're prompted to examine who is on the margins and who feels that they have the opportunity to speak and to be heard. The celebration of Mass is turned to as a communal experience and we are led to discuss the experience in our individual communities.

Questions:

How would you characterize your Church community-the people who are journeying together? What persons or groups are left on the margins? How is your parish inviting those on the margins into relationship?

(Consider different demographics, levels of involvement and levels of satisfaction. Also consider methods of outreach and evangelization and the effectiveness of those methods.)

Who does our Church currently listen to? Who is not being listened to? Which groups are less likely to be listened to? Who is being left out of the conversation? (Consider age, social status, race/ethnicity, gender, etc. in your discussion.)

Do our liturgies promote the active participation of all the faithful in the liturgy and encourage them to live lives of faith? Does the homily draw from the Word of God and inspire the faithful? (Who are the people attending and actively participating in Mass? Is the music calling the faithful to deeper prayer in the Mass?)