

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

Discussion and Dialogue

Introduction:

For a synodal process that is focused on participatory opportunities for discussion and dialogue this grouping will look into how we accomplish these ideas on a regular basis. We are encouraged to be rooted in the Holy Spirit and guided by courage and a boldness to speak out to those we encounter, whether in the pews or distant from their faith. The Church and society find themselves facing division and conflict on a regular basis. Our ability to share about ourselves and enter into dialogue with others will help to determine how effective we are at spreading the Gospel message.

Questions:

Under what circumstances and in what ways are Catholics communicating in the world today? How does the prevalence of digital and social media affect communication?

(Consider communication at home, at work or online, the ability to have civil conversations while in disagreement, the interaction between clergy and laity, and communication between parish and parishioners.)

How is the Church dialoguing, collaborating, and resolving conflicts among its own members in the Church? (Consider this question on different levels: within your parish, locally, within your deanery, between dioceses, between different ecclesial movements, or globally.)

How is the Church dialoguing, collaborating, and resolving conflicts with members of other Christian denominations, people of other non-Christian religious traditions, and people with no religious affiliation? What have been the fruits of doing so, and what have been the difficulties? (Do you see your community working together with other churches in your area? Is it a member of an ecumenical association or ministry? Are there interfaith service or charitable works being accomplished? Is your community meaningfully interacting with the those that identify as having no connection with religion?)

What areas and issues in the wider society is the Church focused on? Are there areas or issues we need to pay more attention to? (Consider politics, economics, culture, outreach, etc.)

Notes: