AN INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE: POPE FRANCIS’ SYNODAL PROCESS

Pope Francis has invited the entire People of God to journey together in a global listening process called “For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission.” What does it all mean? The word “synod” is rooted in a Greek term denoting a “journey together.” The synod process, therefore, is a journey of the whole church, an encounter with the Good News and with one another. It is about listening … listening to one another and listening to the Holy Spirit active among us in our time.

The Wheaton Franciscan and IBVM communities invite you to three virtual Listening Circles in response to Pope Francis’ synodal invitation. All sessions will take place over Zoom. There will be two opportunities within the week to participate. The subsequent sessions will build upon the conversation the previous week.

SYNOD LISTENING SESSION OPPORTUNITIES

| SESSION 1 | Tuesday, Feb 8, 2022 ● 6:30-8:00 pm CT  
Or  
Saturday, Feb 12, 2022 ● 10:00-11:30 am CT |
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| SESSION 2 | Tuesday, Feb 22, 2022 ● 6:30-8:00 pm CT  
Or  
Saturday, Feb 26, 2022 ● 10:00-11:30 am CT |
| SESSION 3 | Tuesday, Mar 8, 2022 ● 6:30-8:00 pm CT  
Or  
Saturday, Mar 12, 2022 ● 10:00-11:30 am CT |

REGISTER FOR THE LISTENING SESSION

Registration is required to receive the Zoom link. To register for the Synod Listening Session, visit https://www.eventbrite.com/e/synod-listening-circles-with-the-wheaton-franciscans-registration-227865942167

Online registration closes on Tuesday, February 1, 2022. Registered participants will receive the Zoom link the day before the scheduled session.
DREAMING ABOUT OUR CHURCH IN THE FUTURE

Pope Francis wants to know what your dreams are for the church of the future. The method by which Pope Francis is initiating this global conversation is a synod, and the topic of the synod is “synodality.”

Pope Francis is taking the meaning of synod back to its New Testament roots to say that it’s not just the bishops who are supposed to meet and discuss the matters of the church. The entire church should discuss what is important to the church.

The invitation by Pope Francis is to gather to discuss what is important to the People of God church of our time. The invitation extends to all ages and to all people of Good Will.

WHAT TO EXPECT LISTENING SESSIONS

Small Groups.

We will break into small Zoom groups to provide a greater opportunity for everyone to be heard. The emphasis will be on respectful listening: not debating not making decisions, simply and joyfully listening to one another.

Respectful Sharing.

- Each person will have 2 minutes of uninterrupted time to say what is important to them.
- The small group will reflect silently on what everyone said, and then have another opportunity to speak, one at a time.
- The emphasis is on respectful listening. Not debating. Not making decisions.

1.5 Hours.

From our initial welcoming with a prayer to our final closing, we plan to spend 1.5 hours together in each session.

FUNDAMENTAL QUESTION

The fundamental question that guides all listening sessions around the world is the following:

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

A Reflection Guide to support preparation for the Listening Circles hosted by the Wheaton Franciscans and IBVM Communities is available here.