

A large, stylized graphic in the background features a sun on the left and a tree with thick, textured branches extending across the top and right. The sun and tree are rendered in a light orange or tan color. The text is overlaid on this graphic.

# For a Synodal Church:

Communion, Participation, & Mission

A row of colorful silhouettes representing a diverse group of people, including a person in a wheelchair, a person with a cane, and a child, walking towards the right.

Diocesan Synodal Network 16  
December 2021

# Opening Prayer

“The synod is a process of spiritual **discernment**, of ecclesial discernment, that unfolds in adoration, in **prayer** and in **dialogue** with the word of God.”

Pope Francis

Homily from Opening of the Synodal Path  
10 October 2021

## Adsumus Sancte Spiritus

We stand before You, Holy Spirit,  
as we gather together in Your name.

With You alone to guide us,  
make Yourself at home in our hearts;  
Teach us the way we must go  
and how we are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful;  
do not let us promote disorder.  
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path  
nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity  
so that we may journey together to eternal life  
and not stray from the way of truth  
and what is right.

All this we ask of You,  
who are at work in every place and time,  
in the communion of the Father and the Son,  
forever and ever. Amen.

# Agenda

- **Part One: Information**
- Diocesan Synodal Network
- USCCB Priorities & Approach
- Diocesan Syntheses
- **Part Two: Formation**
- Small Group Reflection

# Synod

- Generational Project
- Patience, Creativity & Curiosity
  - ❖ God
  - ❖ Ourselves
  - ❖ Others

# Diocesan **Synodal** Network

- **Goal:** To become a more synodal Church by working to create networks for synodal activity beyond the Diocesan Phase
- **Purpose:** To build a community of practice through sharing information & resources; providing opportunities for reflection & formation in a synodal spirit

# Diocesan **Synodal** Network

## Future Meetings

Every **Third Thursday** at 3 PM Eastern

**January 20**

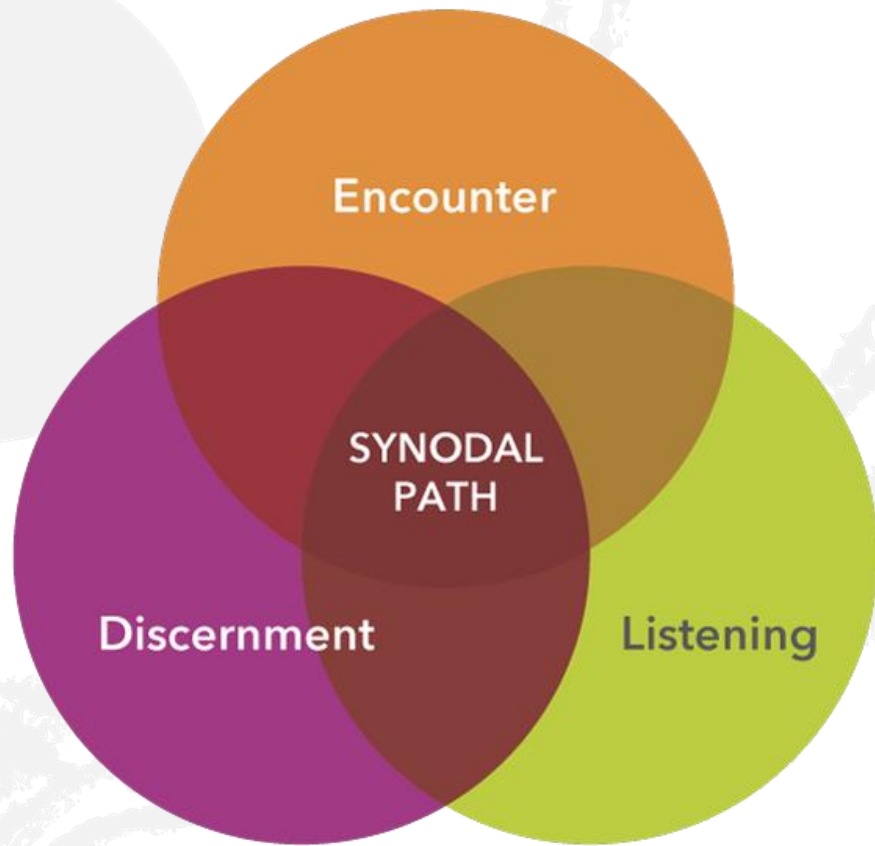
**February 17**

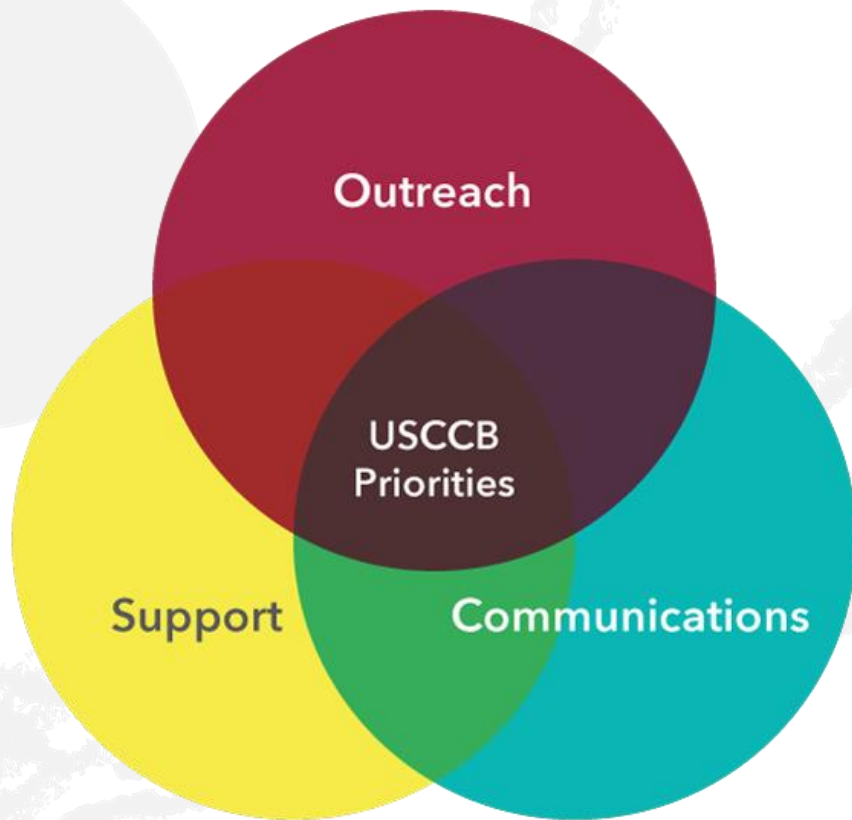
**March 17**

**April 21**

**May 19**

**June 16**





# USCCB's Approach





National Synodal Team

USCCB Synodal  
Advisory Team

USCCB  
Synodal Team

USCCB  
Co-Contacts

# USCCB Synodal Team

## Communications

Social Media, Website Updates, Spanish Translations,  
Sharing Stories with CNS, Working with Creative Services

Alexandra Carroll

John Lilly

## Outreach

Activating Networks,  
Supporting Bishops

Danielle Brown

Mar Muñoz-Visoso

## Support

Formation Materials, Formation &  
Educational Opportunities

Paul Jarzembowski

Jill Rauh

Marilyn Santos

# Consultations: Casting a Wide Net



# Important Dates

- January – Poverty Awareness Month
- Jan 18-25 – Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- Jan 30 –Feb 5 – Catholic Schools Week
- Feb 4 – International Day of Human Fraternity
- March 2 – Ash Wednesday

# Strategic Overview



# Pathway not Production

- **Stronger** bonds of ecclesial communion
- **Wiser** missionary discernment
- **Creative** consultation

# DEADLINE

Diocesan Reports: June 30, 2022

# Diocesan Synthesis Report Process

- **Focus** on themes and voices
- **Public** discernment and feedback
- **Review** by the bishop
- **Submission** to USCCB by June 30, 2022

# Four Requests for Consultation & Synthesis Reports

- Demographics
- Consultation Context
- Methodology
- Themes, Topics, Questions,  
& Recommendations

# Synthesis Specs

- Word Document
- 10 Pages
- Double-spaced
- 1" Margins
- 12 pt **Times New Roman Font**
- Supporting Documentation – up to 10 items  
(videos, images, art, poetry, etc)

# Leveraging the Regional Model



# USCCB Synthesis Timeline

- June 30 – Diocesan Syntheses
- July 21 – Regional Syntheses
- August 8-10 – Public Draft
- August 15 – National Synthesis

# Stay Updated

[www.synodresources.org](http://www.synodresources.org)

[www.synod.va](http://www.synod.va)

[Synodal Journey Newsletter](#)

[www.usccb.org/synod](http://www.usccb.org/synod)

[synod@usccb.org](mailto:synod@usccb.org)

# Reflection Groups

- Gifts
- Challenges
- Opportunities

# Synodality for the Future

- ❖ Requires patience, curiosity, & creativity - especially in light of COVID-19 limitations
- ❖ Think beyond the diocesan phase, continuing consultations in your diocese and supporting your bishop
- ❖ Be nimble to the will of the Holy Spirit