



## Interim Stage Guidelines

### *Towards October 2024*

#### GUIDING QUESTIONS

- Where have I seen or experienced successes—and distresses—within the Church's structure(s)/organization/leadership/life that encourage or hinder the mission?
- How can the structures and organization of the Church help all the baptized to respond to the call to proclaim the Gospel and to live as a community of love and mercy in Christ?

#### DEEPENING

Hold 2-3 listening sessions during Lent 2024 regarding the guiding questions.

#### BROADENING

The Secretariat for the Synod of Bishops has produced a [worksheet](#) to assist with receiving the fruits of the October assembly and to continue on a path of conversion in the local churches.

#### SCRIPTURE

Prayer and reflection with the word of God is essential on the synodal path. The US Synod Team recommends using the following scripture for deepening reflection upon synodality:

- [John 14](#)
- [Romans 12](#)
- [Isaiah 61](#)

## HOLDING LISTENING SESSIONS

The USCCB offers these suggestions to meet the proposed schedule from the Synod of Bishops.

- Hold 2-3 diocesan-wide listening sessions regarding the guiding questions.
  - Include voices that may not have been heard in earlier stages of the Synod, or other groups that were underrepresented in your diocesan consultations.
  - Collaborate with Catholic-affiliated groups and organizations in your diocese, including schools, colleges, non-profits, and healthcare facilities.
  - Focus upon the voices of the People of God and use quotations in the synthesis.
- Use the [Conversation in the Spirit](#) method.

## SYNTHESIS

- Prepared collaboratively by a small team. For continuity, the team may be comprised of members of the Diocesan Synod Team or those who worked on the Diocesan Synthesis for the Diocesan Stage of the Synod.
- **No longer than 3-5 pages.**
  - Focus upon the voices of the People of God and use quotations in the synthesis.
  - An optional two-page testimony of best practices for synodality used in your diocese is welcome. These will be collected by the US Synod Team and sent directly to the Vatican.
- **Due Monday, April 8, 2024**

## TIMELINE

January 2024	Prayer and spiritual preparation of the People of God
Lent 2024	Hold 2-3 diocesan wide listening sessions regarding the guiding question
<b>April 8, 2024</b>	<b>3-5 page synthesis of diocesan listening sessions due to USCCB</b>
April 9-22	Regional synthesis process

April 23-May 14      Drafting National Synthesis

**May 15, 2024      US Synthesis due to Synod Secretariat**

#### RESOURCES

- [\*A Synodal Church in Mission\*](#)
- Interim Stage [Worksheet](#)
- [Letter of the Synod to the People of God](#)
- [\*Instrumentum Laboris\*](#) for XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops
- North American [\*Final Document\*](#)
- [\*Document for the Continental Stage\*](#)
- [\*US National Synthesis\*](#)
- [\*Preparatory Document\*](#)
- [\*Vademecum\*](#)

#### USCCB CONTACT

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