



ARCHDIOCESE
OF
SAINT PAUL &
MINNEAPOLIS

*United in Faith,
Hope and Love*

Synod Update

The Church Engages

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September 21, 2021

Synod Overview/One-Page Document



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SYNOD 2022



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The Synod Process

What is a Synod? What is the purpose?

Quotes below are from Archbishop Hebda's June 6, 2019 article in *The Catholic Spirit*. Find the full article at www.archspm.org/synod.

- "A Synod is a formal representative assembly designed to help a bishop in his shepherding of the local Church."
- The purpose is "to discern and establish clear pastoral priorities in a way that will both promote greater unity and lead us to a more vigorous proclamation of Jesus' good news."

What is a Listening Church?

- The pre-Synod process has been designed to engage in a "sincere and respectful 'mutual listening' in which everyone has something to learn."
- "Moreover, it is not just listening to one another but to the Holy Spirit, the 'Spirit of Truth' (Jn 14:17), to know what the Spirit is 'saying to the Churches' (Rev. 2:7)."

What is the Synod process?

- The pre-Synod process began fall 2019 engaging the People of God — laity, clergy, consecrated men and women and bishops — all walking together at the personal, parish, deanery, and Archdiocesan levels.
- The process culminates in the Archdiocesan Synod Assembly to be held Pentecost weekend, June 3-5, 2022, followed by a Pastoral Letter leading to a Pastoral Plan.

Year 1 (2019-2020):
The Church Listens

Year 2 (2020-2021):
The Church Prepares

Year 3 (2021-2022):
The Church Engages

Prayer and Listening Events

- 30 Prayer & Listening events (19 open and 11 focus) held and attended by Archbishop Hebda.
- Over 8,000 faithful attended providing over 35,000 comments on what is working well in the Archdiocese and challenges and opportunities as we move forward together.

Synod Focus Areas

- Based on this feedback, along with other consultations and discernment, Archbishop Hebda determined the three focus areas that will shape the Year 3 Consultation process.
 1. Forming parishes that are in the service of evangelization,
 2. Forming missionary disciples who know Jesus' love and respond to his call, and
 3. Forming youth and young adults in and for a Church that is always young.

Praying with Scripture

- Five-part video series on praying with scripture and growing in holiness, including 25 prayer companions with reflections.

Healing and Hope

- Five-part video retreat to encounter Jesus' love and mercy to bring healing and hope and to provide resources for next steps.

Faith and Culture

Videos with expert teachers, testimonials, and panel discussion on four topics:

- Sources of Catholic teaching,
- Sexual morality and the family,
- The dignity of women, and
- The priesthood (both baptized and ordained).

Synod at Home

Five-part video series to create a faith plan to live as an intentional disciple based on four pillars:

- Prayer & sacraments,
- Lifelong learning,
- Generosity & service, and
- Traditions & fun.

All these free resources are available at archspm.org/synod

Fall 2021: Parish Consultation Process with Small Groups

- Small groups meet in every parish to learn, pray, and discuss the focus areas.
- Parish feedback on priorities within each focus area will help inform the Deanery consultation.

January/February 2022: Deanery Consultation Process

- Pastors and parish representatives gather one Saturday to learn, pray, and discuss the focus areas.
- Deanery feedback will help determine the Synod topics.

June 2022: Archdiocesan Synod Assembly (Pentecost Weekend)

- Approximately 500 appointed delegates (including two from each parish) gather to learn, pray, and discuss the Synod topics and recommend pastoral priorities to Archbishop Hebda.
- After considering the Synod recommendations, Archbishop writes a Pastoral Letter (November - Feast of Christ the King) leading to a Pastoral Plan to move our Archdiocese into the future.

**Join a
Synod small group
at your parish this fall!**

See reverse side for details.

Synod Overview for Year 3 can be found at:

www.archspm.org/synod



Focus Areas for Parish and Deanery Consultations



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1. Forming parishes that are in the service of evangelization.
2. Forming missionary disciples who know Jesus's love and respond to his call.
3. Forming youth and young adults in and for a Church that is always young.

The Church Engages (2021-2022)



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SYNOD 2022



Year Three Synod Consultations: The Road to the Pastoral Plan

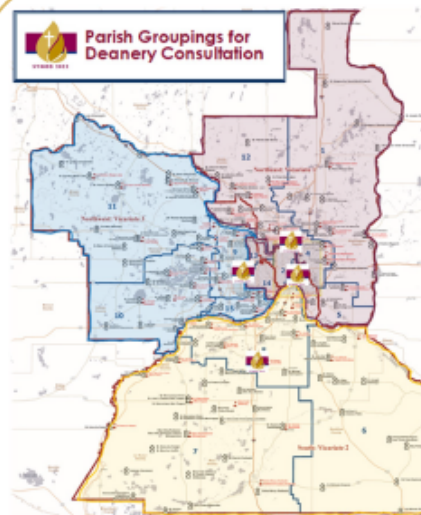
Parish Consultation
with Small Groups
Fall 2021

Pastors invite all parishioners to participate in the Parish Consultation with Small Groups.



Deanery Consultation
with Parish Representatives
January/February 2022

10 people, appointed by their pastor, from each parish + the pastor will participate in Deanery Consultations at regional sites.



Archdiocesan Synod Assembly
with 500 Delegates
June 3-5, 2022

2 Members, nominated by their pastor, from each parish will proceed from Deanery Consultation to the Synod Assembly.

NOTE: Each pastor is also to nominate an Alternate Member to step in if a parish member is unable to attend.

Archbishop Hebda will appoint more than 100 other Members to participate in the Synod Assembly in keeping with canon law requirements.

Approximately 500 Members
...will gather to learn, pray, and discuss the Synod topics in a weekend event at Cretin-Derham Hall High School in Saint Paul.

Priorities:
Collectively, the Synod Members will recommend pastoral priorities to Archbishop Hebda.

Archbishop Hebda's
Pastoral Letter
November 2022

The Recommended Pastoral Priorities will be sent to the Archbishop for consideration.

After considering the Recommended Pastoral Priorities, the Archbishop will write a Pastoral Letter, which will be published on the Feast of Christ the King.

The Pastoral Letter will lead to a Pastoral Plan to move our Archdiocese into the future.

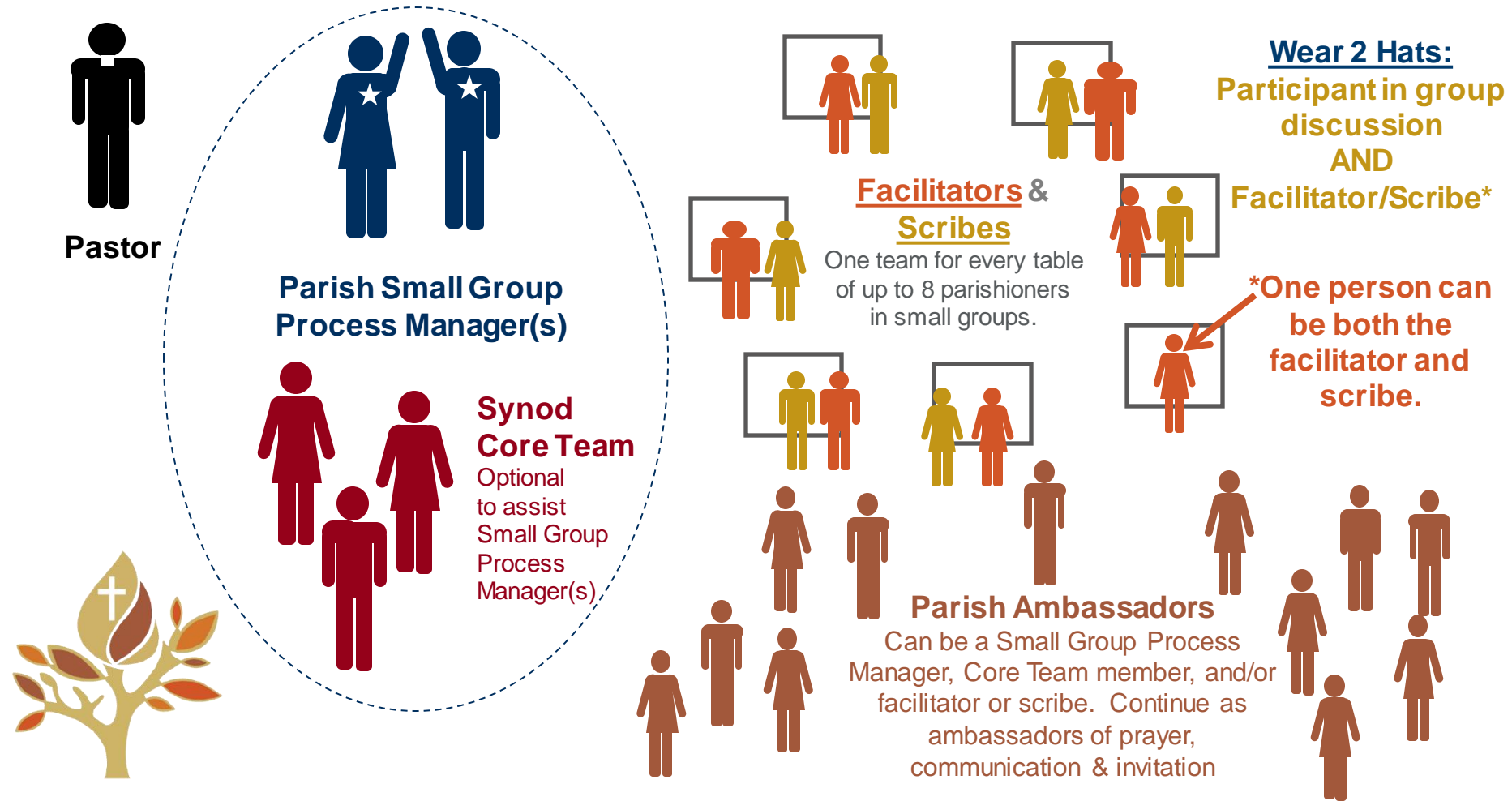


- Reserve 6 weeks on your parish adult faith formation calendar between September 19 and November 14, 2021, avoiding other adult faith formation opportunities during this time to encourage Synod small group participation. At minimum, Archbishop Hebda has asked the following of each pastor:
 1. Parish Hosted Open Invite Small Groups
 - Parish hosts small groups open to all parishioners.
 2. Existing Small Groups asked to use Synod Small Group Materials for 6 weeks

Roles of People in Parish Implementation



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Training People for their Roles



- Small Group Process Managers (1 or 2 per parish) appointed by pastor to plan and implement small groups.
 - Over 60 training times offered mid-February through mid-August for advance planning
 - 32 training times offered August 24- Sept 25 (this Saturday) for implementation training
- Table Facilitators and Scribes are being appointed and trained to guide discussions at tables and report results
 - 32 options for Facilitators and Scribes training offered August 24-Sept 25.
- To register for training (6 options of each still this week) go to:
www.archspm.org/ambassadors
 - Note: Small Group Process Managers and Core Team Members should also attend Facilitator and Scribe Training First.

Topics of the 6 Sessions



- **3 focus areas; 2 sessions per focus area**
 - Sessions 1 & 2: Forming missionary disciples ...
 - Sessions 3 & 4: Forming parishes ...
 - Sessions 5 & 6: Forming youth and young adults ...
- **Each session contains 2 topics**
 - For example, the 2 topics for Session 3 are:
 - Topic 3A: Welcoming parishes
 - Topic 3B: Collaboration in parish ministry
- **For all 12 topics: archspm.org/facilitatorscribe**

Materials for and Format of the Sessions



- **Materials**

- Created by Archdiocese; Parishes use without adjustment
- 2-hour video session each week (includes 1 hour for discussion)
- Session handout & feedback forms (Parish copies and provides to participants)
- English and Spanish versions

- **Format of event**

- No pre-work and no home-work
- Participants stay at table entire time (take personal breaks as needed)
- Designed for in-person small groups

What Happens During the Sessions



Each session 2-hour video (includes 1 hour for discussion)

Opening

- **Prayer**
 - ✓ Lectio & Litany (8-9 minutes)
- **Topic A**
 - ✓ Teaching on Church's wisdom (less than 15 minutes)
 - ✓ Some also add personal stories
 - ✓ Table discussion and feedback (30 minutes)
- **Topic B** (same format)

Closing

Accessing Weekly Materials



- What needs to be downloaded?
 - Videos (downloaded to computer or watched via YouTube Link)
 - Session Handouts
- **Thursday noon, before start week**
 - Session 1: Posted Thursday noon, September 16
 - Session 2: Posted Thursday noon, September 23
 - Session 3: Posted Thursday noon, September 30
 - Session 4: Posted Thursday noon, October 7
 - Session 5: Posted Thursday noon, October 14
 - Session 6: Posted Thursday noon, October 21

archspm.org/synodsmallgroups

Downloading the Materials/Videos



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TRAINING RESOURCES FOR SMALL GROUP PROCESS MANAGERS AND CORE TEAMS

REPORT ABUSE

Home > Training Resources for Small Group Process Managers and Core Teams

Videos and Materials for Parish Consultation with Small Groups

[Resources in Spanish](#)

[Instructions for Accessing Videos](#)

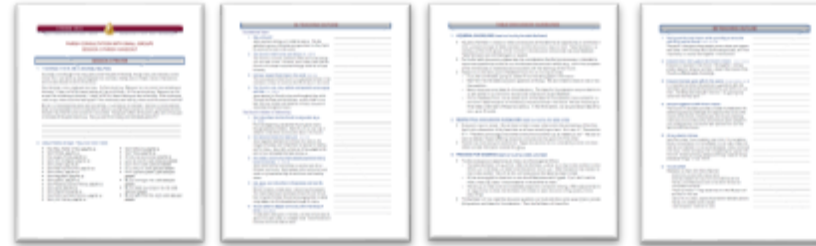
Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4	Session 5	Session 6
Video:	<i>To be posted by noon on Thursday, September 23</i>	<i>To be posted by noon on Thursday, September 30</i>	<i>To be posted by noon on Thursday, October 7</i>	<i>To be posted by noon on Thursday, October 14</i>	<i>To be posted by noon on Thursday, October 21</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Download and play from computerWatch on YouTube (requires a good internet connection)					

Also, see: [Adding Captions to the Video](#)

Handouts for Each Session

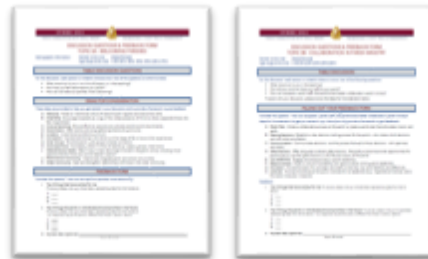
- **6 pages for each participant every session**
 - Parish copies and provides to participants
- **Session Handout** (4 single/2 double sided pages, stapled)

- Prayer (Scripture & Litany)
- Outline for Topic A teaching
- Table Discussion Guidelines
- Outline for Topic B teaching



- **Discussion Questions & Feedback Forms**

- Topic A
- Topic B



Downloading the Materials/Handouts



Also see: [Adding Captions to the Video](#)

Materials:

- [Session 1 Handout](#)
- [Discussion Questions for Topic 1A](#)
- [Discussion Questions & Feedback Form for Topic 1B](#)
- [Year 3 Infographic](#)
- [The 6 Sessions and 12 Topics](#)

REPORT ABUSE

Returning Feedback to the Archdiocese



- Parishes have flexibility on how this is done.
- Scribes are being trained to enter the data from paper feedback forms into an electronic feedback form to relieve burden from parish staff.
- Parishes decide how to discard the paper feedback forms once the data is entered electronically.
 - Archdiocese will return the data to parishes however, the data may not be sent for a while as the focus will be to analyze the data to prepare for the Deanery consultation in January
 - If a parish wants the data quickly, the parish may capture the data by collecting the paper feedback forms

- **RECOMMEND to scribes – input data same day or next**
- **DUE DATES - AT THE LATEST – MONDAY**
 - Session 1: October 11
 - Session 2: October 18
 - Session 3: October 25
 - Session 4: November 1
 - Session 5: November 8
 - Session 6: November 15
- **REASON FOR DUE DATES**
 - Data evaluated session by session; short turnaround to prepare for January Deanery Consultation

- archspm.org/synodsmallgroups
 - Web page for SGPMs and Core Team members. Contains this PPT, the link to the session videos and session handouts, and documents referenced in this SGPM training.
- archspm.org/facilitatorscribe
 - Web page for facilitators, scribes, SGPMs, and Core Team members. Contains this PPT, the Data Input Instruction video, and all documents referenced in the Facilitator & Scribe training.
- archspm.org/ambassadors
 - **Sign up all trainings: Facilitator & Scribes & SGPMs**
- archspm.org/synodpromo: Promotional materials

Thank you



- Thank you for all the work that many of you have done already to make possible what has already happened in the Synod process.
- Please pray that the Synod Small Groups will bear great fruit in your parish and in our Archdiocese.
- Questions about Synod Implementation:
ambassadors@archspm.org

Contact Information



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