

# Hello From, Your Local Parish: \_\_\_\_\_



We are currently engaged in a listening exercise in our parish as part of the larger consultation in the entire diocese and in fact in the worldwide Catholic church.

**We would like to invite you and your family to participate.**

There are number of **opportunities to be part of the process between now and the end of March 2022:**

- 1) By filling in and sending in the form enclosed. Drop off at the church or mail in to: \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2) By contacting our parish committee for information about the group gatherings to share our stories. Contact Info: \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) By going to the diocese website to complete an on-line survey or participate in a zoom forum: <https://www.padiocese.ca/synod2023>

## What is Pope Francis Asking of Us?

Pope Francis is asking each of us to **engage in an exercise of listening** to the Holy Spirit and to each other “asking ourselves what it is that God wants to say to us in this time. . . and the direction in which He wants to lead us.” (Pope Francis, October 10, 2021, Opening Mass for the Synod)

Pope Francis also encourages us to have “a willingness to allow ourselves to be challenged by the presence and the stories of others.” As Church we are called to journey together. We are not just individuals. We are each called to be a vital component of the Body of Christ.

## What Question(s) Are We Asking?

1. Do I feel I belong in my faith community/parish/church and that I have a role in the Church's mission? Which situations have made me feel I belong? Which situations have made me feel unwelcome or unheard? Are there those that my faith community excludes, values less or values more? Share your stories.
2. Is my faith community/parish/diocese a safe place for me to speak courageously, candidly, and responsibly about the church and about society? Do I feel heard? Share your stories.

The questions above are only a small portion of the questions that could be discussed. If these questions do not resonate with you, you may wish to choose others from Appendix A (attached).

**Whether you choose to participate or not, please consider praying for the success of this listening and discerning exercise in the Church.**

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.



# Feedback Form, Number of People Responding: --

Please take a moment to quiet your mind and prayerfully reflect on this line from Scripture.

Our soul waits for the Lord; he is our help and our shield. Our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name. Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in you. Psalm 33: 20-22

Then indicate the question (s) that you are responding to and the stories/responses that you would like to share with Pope Francis and the rest of the Church.

Question 1:

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My Story/ Response (Attach more pages if required): \_\_\_\_\_

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Question 2:

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My Story/ Response (Attach more pages if required): \_\_\_\_\_

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Would you like your parish to contact you to discuss this or any other questions you may have about our parish? If so, please provide your information below:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail and/or Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you for your participation!*

## **Appendix A: Additional Questions**

### **1. Celebration**

How do prayer, devotions (rosary, pilgrimage etc.) and liturgical celebrations actually inspire and guide our common life and mission in our community?

How do we promote the active participation of all the faithful in the liturgy?

### **2. Sharing Responsibility For Our Common Mission**

Since we are all missionary disciples, how is every baptised person called to participate in the mission of the Church? What hinders the baptised from being active in mission? What areas of mission are we neglecting? How does the community support its members who serve society in various ways (social and political involvement, scientific research, education, promoting social justice, protecting human rights, caring for the environment, etc.)?

### **3. Dialogue in Church and Society**

To what extent do diverse peoples in our community come together for dialogue? What particular issues in the church and society do we need to pay more attention to? How are divergences of vision, or conflicts and difficulties addressed?

### **4. Christian Unity (Ecumenism)**

What experiences of dialogue and collaboration do we have with members of other Christian traditions and denominations? What do we share and how do we journey together? What fruits have we drawn from walking together?

What are the difficulties? How can we take the next step in walking forward with each other?