



For a Synodal Church: Communion, participation and mission

Archdiocese of Edmonton Listening Phase



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Prayer for Synod

Versions in different languages may be found at the Vatican Website:
<https://www.synod.va/en/documents/adsumus.html>

Every session of the Second Vatican Council began with the prayer *Adsumus Sancte Spiritus*, the first word of the original Latin, meaning, "We stand before You, Holy Spirit," which has been historically used at Councils, Synods and other Church gatherings for hundreds of years, and is attributed to Saint Isidore of Seville (c. 560 - 4 April 636). As we embrace this Synodal Process, this prayer invites the Holy Spirit to be at work in us so that we may be a community and a people of grace. For the Synodal journey from 2021 to 2023, we propose to the following simplified version,¹ so that any group or liturgical assembly can pray it more easily.

**This prayer is
available in
different languages
on the Vatican
Website (Synod)**

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.



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Live in **Communion** Achieve **Participation** Open in **Mission**

What it is that God wants to say to us in this time?
What is the direction in which He wants to lead us?





What is a Synod?

Synod derived from the Greek “to walk with” and expresses the idea of journeying together.

Canon 342 of the Code of Canon Law,

a synod is an assembly of bishops chosen from the different regions and episcopal conferences from around the world, who meet on specific occasions to foster close union between the Pope and the Bishops

Goal is to have the opportunity to exchange information and share experiences with each other with the common goal of seeking pastoral solutions that have universal validity and application.

Synods do not have the power to legislate, they are purely consultative.



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How is this Synod different?

- ❖ Pope is looking for the participation of not only the Bishops, but of **all the faithful** of the Church,
- ❖ First time since the Synod of Bishops was established at opening discussions are **decentralized**,
- ❖ Holy Father wants to hear from all corners of the world, for all of us to **listen to each other and the Holy Spirit**,
- ❖ This synod is an opportunity to listen to what we have to do as a FAITH community **walking together toward God.**





What the Synod is NOT

Pitfalls to avoid...the temptation

- of wanting to lead ourselves instead of being led by God
 - to focus on ourselves and our immediate concerns
 - to only see “problems”
 - of focusing only on structures
 - not to look beyond the visible confines of the Church
 - to lose focus on the objectives of the Synodal process
 - of conflict and division
- to treat the Synod as a kind of parliament or town hall meeting
- to listen only to those who are already involved in Church activities
 - of simplifying this process to the level of a “to do” list





Pope Francis has had other Synods

2014 – **Synod on the Family**: Pastoral Challenges of the Family in the Context of Evangelization

2015 – **Synod on the Family**: The Vocation and Mission of the Family in the Church and in the Contemporary World

2018 – **Synod on Young People**, Faith, and Vocational Discernment

2019 – **Synod of Bishops for the Pan-Amazon Region** where the purpose was to identify new paths for the evangelization



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Participation Matters

Participate in the consultation(listening) Diocesan phase with fervent prayer and discernment,

Listen to the voice of others including the baptized, unafiliated, marganilized, and those on the peripheries,

Listen with an open ear and speak with courage and wisdom, inspired by the Holy Spirit and rooted in prayer,

Synodal speaking and listening is oriented rowards discernment in which people listen to each other, to their faith tradition,and to the signs of the times in order to discern what God is saying to all of us.



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CAEDM Listening

Membership	Numbers	Total
		1,899,097
Parishes with Priests	59	211229
Parishes with out Priests	64	
Priests	126	126
Deacons	40	40
Sisters	163	163
Brothers	8	8
Lay Institutes (Members)	5	5
Lay Missionaries	15	15
Seminarians	12	12
Seminary	1	34
Colleges	2	3,800
Catholic Schools	304	77,005
Hospitals	6	6
Homes afflicted	7	1,980
Senior Assisted Living	6	730
Shelters and Services	140	70,000+
		436,792



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Synodal listening is oriented towards discernment in which people listen to each other, to their faith tradition and to the signs of the times in order to discern what God is saying to all of us.

Peripheries / Prison

Those who experience poverty or marginalization

Those who rarely or never practice their faith

Refugees, immigrants, the excluded

Voiceless

Those who have left the church

The faithfully baptized



It requires an openness to others, as well as courage and a willingness to allow ourselves to be challenged by the presence and the stories of others.



Spending Time with the Future

- This involves an openness to God, taking time for prayer and adoration, and listening to what the Holy Spirit tells us
- Pilgrims in love with the Gospel and open to the surprises of the Spirit
- Listening to the Holy Spirit, who like the wind "blows where it wills; you can hear the sound it makes, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes" (Jn3:8)
- Remaining open to the surprises that the Spirit will certainly prepare along the way.



What is the Holy Spirit asking of the Church for the 21st century?



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What will we be talking about?

Visit the CAEDM website for a full explanation of all 12 questions

5.3 The Main Question for Consultation

A Synodal Church, in announcing the Gospel, “journeys together.” How is this “journeying together” happening today in your local Church? What steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our “journeying together”? (PD, 26)

In responding to this question, we are invited to:

- ✓ ***Recall our experiences:*** What experiences of our local Church does this question call to mind?
- ✓ ***Re-read these experiences in greater depth:*** What joys did they bring? What difficulties and obstacles have they encountered? What wounds did they reveal? What insights have they elicited?
- ✓ ***Gather the fruits to share:*** Where in these experiences does the voice of the Holy Spirit resound? What is the Spirit asking of us? What are the points to be confirmed, the prospects for change, the steps to be taken? Where do we register a consensus? What paths are opening up for our local Church?

In responding to these questions, it is helpful to remember that “journeying together” occurs in two deeply interconnected ways. First, **we journey together with one another as the People of God.** Next, **we journey together as the People of God with the entire human family.** These two perspectives enrich one another and are helpful for our common discernment towards deeper communion and more fruitful mission.





Important Dates

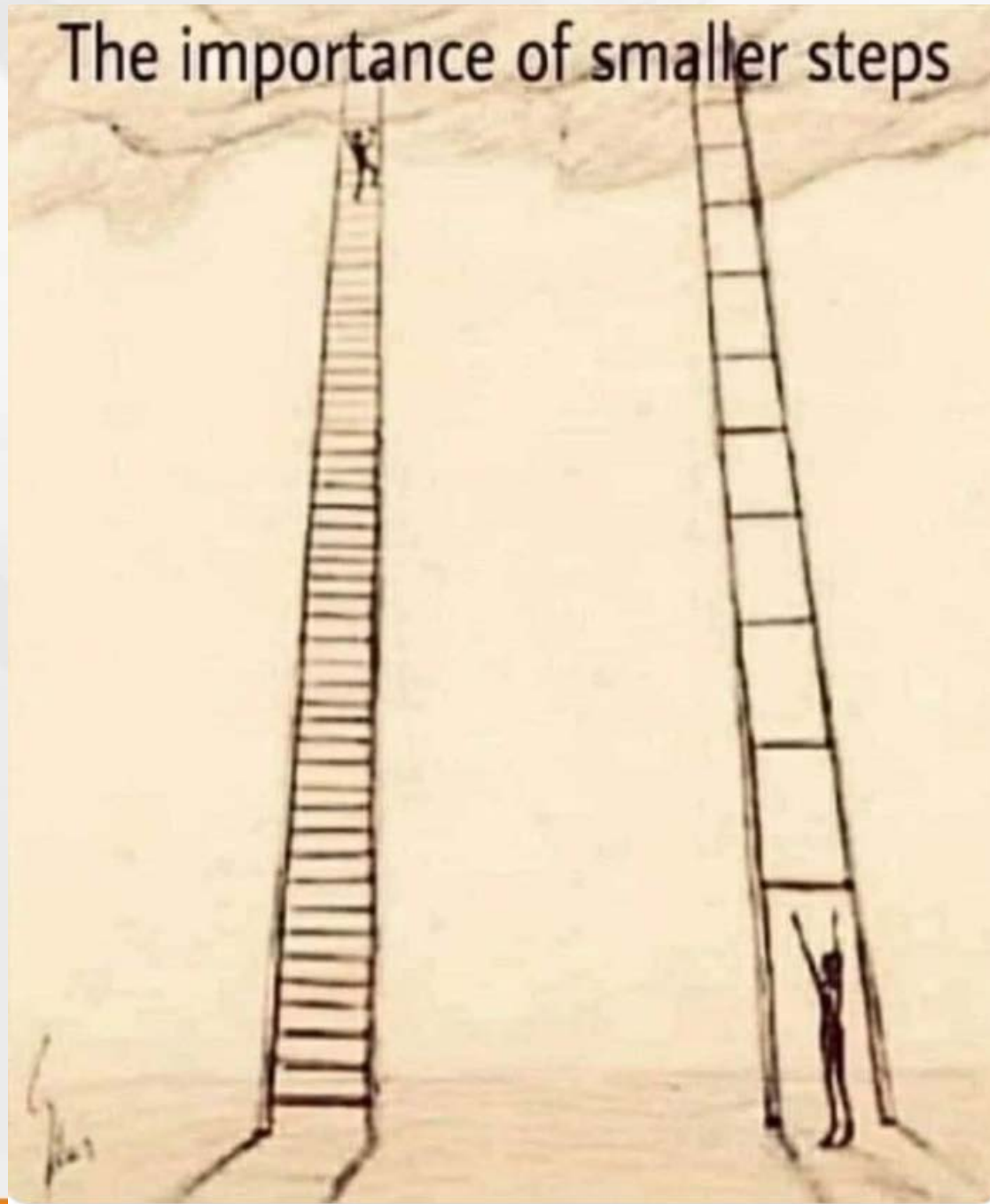
December	<p>Archdiocese of Edmonton communication plan including: Archbishop Information Videos, Engagement Plan, Resources.</p> <p>Introduction of the Synod Advisory Committee</p> <p>Website Update</p>
January	<p>On line Submission Platform Launched</p> <p>Learn About the Synod Information Sessions (January 7, 8,10, and 11) Via ZOOM</p> <p>Listening Leaders Orientation/Training Sessions (January 7, 8,10, and 11) Via ZOOM</p> <p>Listening Sessions Begin at the local and diocesan level (dates to follow)</p> <p>Provide continuous support to Listening Leaders and Local Coordinator</p>
February	<p>Continue listening session</p> <p>Provide continuous support to Listening Leaders and Local Coordinator</p> <p>On Line submission platform open</p>
March	<p>Continue listening session</p> <p>Provide continuous support to Listening Leaders and Local Coordinator</p> <p>On Line submission platform open</p>
April	<p>Listening Sessions conclude on April 29th</p> <p>On Line submission tool closes on April 29th</p>
May 31	<p>May 1 is the last day for submitting any further listening session data including online Synthesis and Analysis of collect data</p> <p>Diocesan Pre-Synodal Meeting with Synod Advisory Council (SAC)</p>
June 17	<p>Submit the Archdiocese of Edmonton ten page report June 17</p>



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The importance of smaller steps



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COMMUNICATION TOOLKIT



TOOLS FOR FACILITATING THE SYNODAL CONSULTATION



Roadmap for the Diocesan Phase




PREPARATORY DOCUMENT
AVAILABLE IN SEVERAL LANGUAGES



VADEMECUM



The LOGO



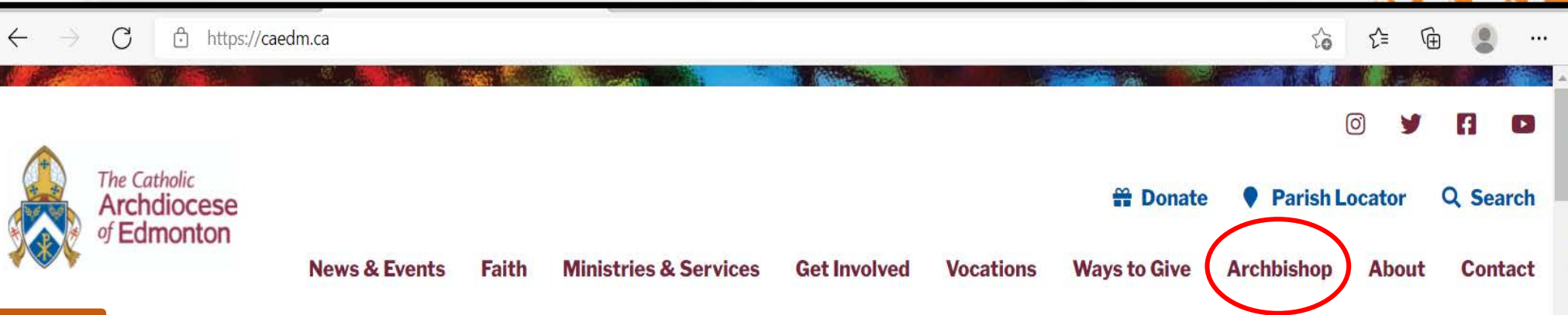
ADSUMUS PRAYER
AVAILABLE IN SEVERAL LANGUAGES

Resource

Vatican Synod Website:

www.synod.va





Resource

Archdiocese of Edmonton
Website:

<https://caedm.ca/synod>

It's launched! Welcome to the new CAEDM website!

...s been under construction for some time and we have worked with and heard from many of you to understand your needs and to develop a site that works for you! We know we have more work to do, and we will continue to make improvements and update information about the Archdiocese in the days ahead. We are excited about the new website and hope you are too!

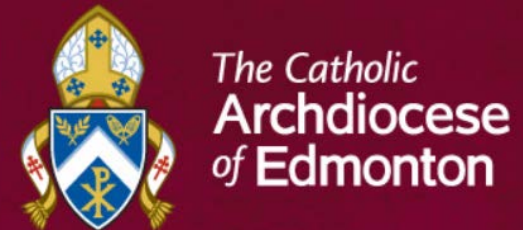
CAN WE HELP YOU FIND A...
Mass? Parish? Person?

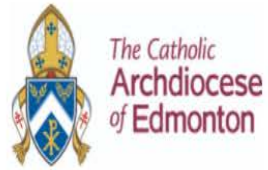
[Go to Parish Locator](#)

Jump to a Parish or Find a Person

- Find a Person or Parish
- From an Address
- Near your current location

Find a parish or person...



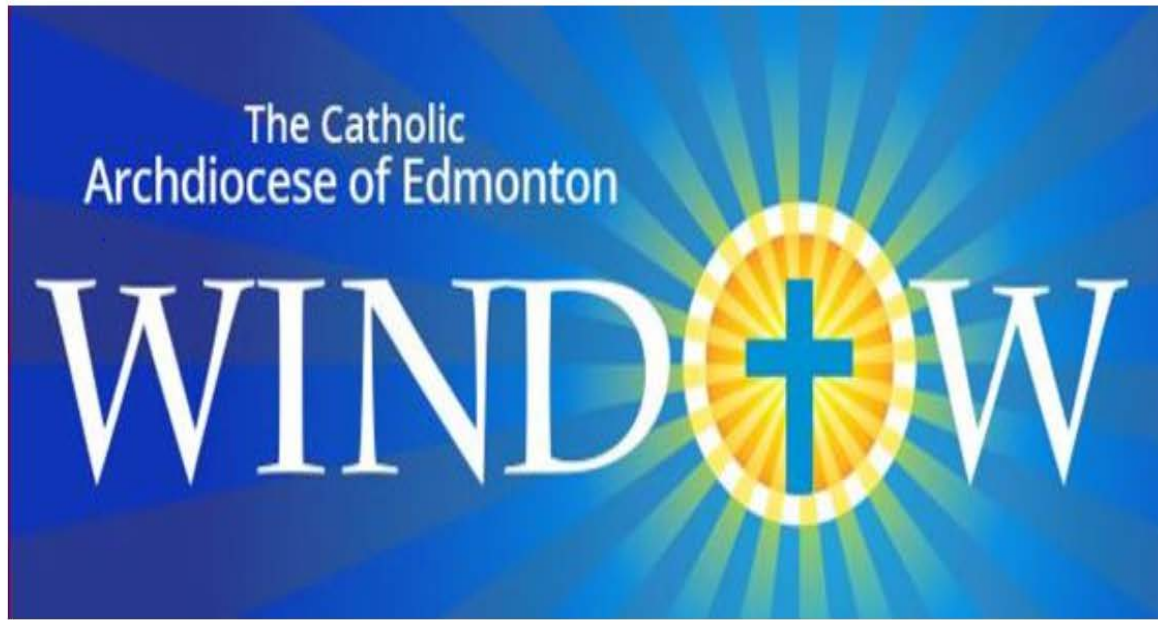


THE WINDOW NEWSLETTER

Resource

**The Window
(CAEDS Newsletter)**

[The WINDOW Newsletter -
caedm](https://caedm.ca/news-events/window/)



See Other Pages within
News & Events

Pilgrimages

The WINDOW Newsletter

Workshops & Seminars





General Secretariat for the Synod of Bishops
www.synod.va - media@synod.va

[View this email in your browser](#)

#newsletter n.10 - 12/2021 - Available also in [FR](#) - [PT](#) - [ES](#) - [IT](#)

Resource

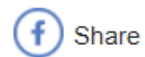
Synod Newsletter

https://mailchi.mp/synod/newsletter9_en



Litterae
Communions

#ChurchOnTheWay



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CAEDM Synod Advisory Committee

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Who is Who?

Synod Coordinator (Eugenia) Main contact person, design engagement plan, materials, and resources, work in a synodal manner with Archbishop Smith and Senior leads and with the Synod Advisory Committee, local coordinators, and listening leaders. My role is to journey alongside others so that I am able to write ten page synthesis report that captures the Holy Spirit inspired voice of our Archdiocese.

Synod Advisory Council: Diverse leaders within the Archdiocese that are experts in their respectful field. They are collaborative, effective communicators, familiar with structure and process, and have extensive ties within their communities. They are humble, gracious, prayerful, faith filled leaders who wish to serve.

Local Coordinators/leaders: Identified within their respective communities who will serve as the liason between their parish/organization and the Synod Coordinator (Eugenia). Commit to remaining informed about what is happening and sharing this information in a timely and systematic manner. Commit to attend the Learn about the Synod Information and how to facilitate a Listening Session.

Listening Leaders: Identified within their respective communities as having strong communication skills. Trusted and well respected members of the community who understand process and can model respectful speaking and listening. Commit to attend the Learn about the Synod and how to facilitate a Listening Session

Participants: People of God who through prayerful discernment are inspired by the Holy Spirit to respond to the Synod Questions with courage. Understand that speaking and listening to one another is grounded, first and foremost, to listening to the Word of God.



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Learn about the Synod and how to facilitate a Listening Session:

This workshop is necessary for all Synod Coordinators and Listening Leaders.

Please select one to attend:

Date	Time
Friday, January 7 th , 2022	10:00 – 12:00 (morning session)
Saturday, January 8 th , 2022	10:00 – 12:00 (morning session)
Monday, January 10 th , 2022	7:00 – 9:00 (evening session)
Tuesday, January 11, 2022	1:00 – 3:00 (afternoon session)

On going support is always available.
Please do not hesitate to contact me
synod@caedm.ca



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How can you participate in this Synodal Journey?

- Ensure that the materials reach far and wide in your respective communities, organizations, and parishes (newsletters, websites),
- Consider the role of Synod Coordinator,
- Consider the role of Listening Leader,
- Attend, and encourage others to attend, the Synod Learning Sessions in January,
- Identify the different groups in your respective communities, parishes, and organizations. How will their voices be heard?
- Remain open to the idea that Listening Sessions can happen wherever the Holy Spirit guides (boardroom, classroom, staff room, parish hall, hospital bed, prison, shelter, family dinner),
- Pray that the Holy Spirit will guide every word and action,
- Participate in multiple Listening session (local, diocesan, and on line)
- Connect with Eugenia, Synod Coordinator for the Archdiocese of Edmonton



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Contact Us!



Dr. Eugenia Pagnotta-Kowalczyk

Synod Coordinator

780-965-4694

synod@caedm.ca

A WORD OF GRATITUDE

A sincere word of gratitude to all those who organize, coordinate, and participate in this Synodal Process. Guided by the Holy Spirit, we make up the living stones through whom God builds up the Church that he desires for the third millennium (1 Peter 2:5). May the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of the Apostles and Mother of the Church, intercede for us as we journey together on the path that God sets before us. As in the Upper Room at Pentecost, may her maternal care and intercession accompany us as we build up our communion with one another and carry out our mission in the world. With her, we say together as the People of God: *"Let it be with me according to your word"* (Luke 1:38).



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