

Consultation of the People

On October 10th, Pope Francis opened the latest synod on the way in which the Catholic Church listens to the Holy Spirit and journeys together as the People of God. In order to allow as much participation as possible the Diocese of Corner Brook and Labrador is inviting each Parish Council to have a discussion on each of the five subject areas below, including the development of a plan to encourage everyone in their parish to participate in this same discussion. For each discussion, one or two people should be charged to prepare a synthesis of the key themes that were present – answering the question: “What was the Spirit trying to say in this discussion?” Please forward each synthesis to the Diocese of Corner Brook and Labrador: Attention Denise Rumboldt, before June 1st.

1. In Luke’s account of the two disciples heading to Emmaus (Lk 24: 13-35), the Church is pictured as “companions on the journey”, with Christ revealing himself through Word and Sacrament.

How do you see this companionship lived out in our Church today (In your experience of parish, diocese, Universal Church)? How are we called to grow as companions?

2. Listening is a key component to journeying together.

Who is given a voice, and who is not? What helps or prevents us from listening? What space do we provide to listen to others, especially for those who may be on the peripheries?

3. A Church that journeys together shares together in Christ’s mission.

How do we as Church work together and support one another in carrying out the mission of Christ, each in our respective way? What hinders the baptized from being active in Christ’s mission? What areas of mission are neglected?

4. A Church that journeys together participates in the decision-making process.

How is authority exercised within our parish/diocese? What enables or hinders people from speaking up? By what procedures and methods do we discern together and make decisions? Do our decision-making methods help us to listen to the whole people of God? How can we grow in communal spiritual discernment?

5. Now that you have had a discussion on this matter, what is your plan to involve as many people, of all ages in your area, to participate in this same discussion?