



## **Resources on Synodality**

### **The 2021-2023 Synod on Synodality: Key Documents**

- **Preparatory Document:** <https://www.synod.va/en/documents/english-version-of-the-preparatory-document.html>
  - Outlines the meaning of synodality, theological resources for understanding and practicing synodality in Scripture and Tradition, and central themes to explore in “journeying together” through the synodal process.
- **Vademecum/Handbook:** <https://www.synod.va/en/documents/vademecum.html>
  - Guide to support the process of consultation, including methodological suggestions and examples from recent synodal processes, as well as liturgical, biblical, and prayer resources.
- **Synod Website:** <https://www.synod.va/en.html>
- **Archdiocese of Atlanta Resources:** <https://archatl.com/synod/>
- **Leadership Roundtable Guide for Facilitating Conversations:** [https://www.synod.va/content/dam/synod/document/common/resources/external\\_tools/Process-for-Facilitating-Synodal-Consultations.pdf](https://www.synod.va/content/dam/synod/document/common/resources/external_tools/Process-for-Facilitating-Synodal-Consultations.pdf)
  - Leadership Roundtable, a group of laity, religious, and clergy who work to promote best practices and accountability in the Church, have created a practical guide to facilitating synod conversations. The guide includes suggested ground rules, best practices for hearing all voices, and questions for discussion.

### **Key Theological Background:** A deeper exploration of the theology of synodality.

- **Address of Pope Francis commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Synod of Bishops (2015):** [https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2015/october/documents/papa-francesco\\_20151017\\_50-anniversario-sinodo.html](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2015/october/documents/papa-francesco_20151017_50-anniversario-sinodo.html)
  - In this five-page address, Pope Francis briefly explains the integral relationship between synodality and the *sensus fidei*, or the sense of the faith. He calls for a Church that listens and envisions the structure of the Church as an “inverted pyramid,” in which clerics serve and support the people of God.
- **International Theological Commission, “Synodality in the Life and Mission of the Church,” (2018):** [https://www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/congregations/cfaith/cti\\_documents/rc\\_cti\\_20180302\\_synodalita\\_en.html](https://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/cti_documents/rc_cti_20180302_synodalita_en.html)
  - This twenty-five-page document provides a deeper theological engagement with synodality and its significance for the mission of the Church. The four chapters

cover: 1) Synodality in Scripture, Tradition, and Church history; 2) The theology of synodality in light of Vatican II; 3) The structure of synodality at all levels in the Church; 4) The spiritual and pastoral conversion to listening and discernment necessary for synodality to characterize the Church.

### **Presentations/Podcast Resources:**

- **La Civiltà Cattolica English Synodality Series**
  - You can find this free podcast on Google, Apple, Spotify, etc. The Synodality Series offers short, 20-minute conversations with theological and practical information about synodality.
- **The Tablet Webinar with Sr. Nathalie Becquart:**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xf4ixP21R6U>
  - Sr. Natalie, who serves as the undersecretary of the Synod of Bishops, offers a brief, 14-minute explanation of synodality in light of the vision of Pope Francis.
- **“From Episcopal Collegiality to Ecclesial Synodality,” Dr. Massimo Faggioli:**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=31KMA5kZVD0>
  - Dr. Faggioli, a leading Church historian, offers a more in-depth 30-minute presentation on the historical development from Vatican II to our current moment of synodality. The presentation is followed by a longer Q&A.
- **“Walking Together: Pope Francis’ Vision for a Synodal Church,” Dr. Amanda Osheim:**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y1E5aKVhq6E>
  - Dr. Osheim, a professor of practical theology, offers an hour-long, accessible introduction to synodality and Pope Francis’ desire to hear the Spirit at work among the People of God. The presentation is followed by a longer Q&A.

### **Articles:** Brief explorations of key aspects of synodality

- **Cardinal Mario Grech, Secretary General of the Synod of Bishops, explains the importance of the first diocesan phase:**  
<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/church/news/2021-09/cardinal-grech-bishops-to-engage-all-the-faithful-in-the-synod.html>
- **Pope Francis’ Vision of Synodality:**  
<https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2021/10/09/pope-francis-synod-address-communion-participation-mission-241607>
  - Explains Pope Francis’ vision for the synod and the importance of listening to the Spirit.
- **A Closer Look at Synodality:** <https://www.ncronline.org/news/opinion/closer-look-synodality-and-its-promise-more-inclusive-church>
  - Dr. Hosffman Ospino interviews Dr. Rafael Luciani, one of the world’s leading experts on synodality.
- **Synodality: The Long Game:** <https://www.commonwealmagazine.org/long-game>
  - Cardinal Joseph Tobin explores synodality as the mode for the Church’s conversion to truly walking with the People of God.