



SYMPOSIUM FOR DIOCESAN PASTORAL PLANNERS

MAY 21 & 22, 2024

UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON, OHIO



WHO ARE WE?

- Atlanta
- Baltimore
- Boston
- Cincinnati
- Ft. Wayne-South Bend
- LaCrosse
- Newark
- Philadelphia
- Seattle
- St. Cloud
- St. Paul-Minneapolis
- Toledo
- Washington D.C.

OPENING PRAYER

- *Lectio Divina* on Emmaus Gospel
- Intercessory Prayer
- Lord's Prayer
- Concluding Prayer

OVERVIEW AND GOALS

- What are essential elements of a spirituality and ecclesiology to support the journey to a synodal Church?
- What are the important characteristics of effective synodal processes and structures for addressing critical issues facing the local Church?
- How can synodality be incorporated into pastoral planning, e.g. parish reconfiguration and reconfiguration of Catholic Schools?
- What formation is required of the People of God (bishops, priests and laity) to undertake the journey to a synodal Church?

MEET YOUR TABLEMATES

FOR EACH PERSON

- Name, diocese/institution, role
- Why are you here?
- What is the most important thing you hope to bring back home with you?
- What is your favorite flavor of ice cream (or dessert of any kind) and why?

IF TIME AS A TABLE

- What do we hope to accomplish during these two days?

CONTENT BLOCK I

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF SYNODALITY - SPIRITUALITY AND ECCLESIOLOGY

A THEOLOGY OF SYNODALITY

BLOCK 2



For a synodal Church
communion | participation | mission

ACADEMIC OBSERVERS RESPONSE

Academic Observer Participants

- Bro. Raymond L. Fitz (UD)
- Dr. Timothy Gabrielli (UD)
- Dr. Martin Madar (XU)
- Dr. Dennis Doyle (UD)
- Rev. Daniel Hess (Seminary)
- Dr. Nicholas Rademacher (UD)
- Sr. Angela Ann Zukowski (UD)



SYNODALITY & THEOLOGIES OF THE CHURCH

DR. TIMOTHY GABRIELLI





PROMPT DISCUSSION QUESTION #1

- Where do you see elements of Church as Mystery, Church as Field Hospital, and their relationship to Synodality in pastoral planning discussions in your local Church?
- Is there a preference for one or the other?
- Are there other theologies that you see operative?

PROMPT DISCUSSION QUESTION #2

- How do we keep a theological frame in our work of pastoral planning and not lapse into mere organizational imperatives?
- How do you recognize the Holy Spirit's work?



Facilitating Difficult Pastoral Planning Conversations

BRO. RAYMOND FITZ, S.M.

Together on the Way



PROMPT DISCUSSION QUESTION #1

- In what ways has some form of **Conversation in Spirit** been integrated into the Pastoral Planning Process?



PROMPT DISCUSSION QUESTION #2

- What are effective ways for **increasing participation** in the Pastoral Planning Processes?



SYNODALITY IN ACTION: PROMPTING THOUGHT, PREP FOR TOMORROW

What practical questions arise? What obstacles exist?

What is a question you wrestle with vis-à-vis synodality and planning? What question did you come here seeking an answer to? What practical ideas can we surface to further develop a synodal approach?

1. On the notecards provided, share the questions that arise for you. Be particularly mindful of obstacles that exist in putting synodality into action in pastoral planning.

- For example, “How do you meaningfully include people when they don’t have all the context or info to fully participate?” – or--
- “What formation is required of the People of God (bishops, priests and laity) to undertake the journey to a Synodal Church?”

EVENING PRAYER

TUESDAY
IN THE 7TH
WEEK OF
THE YEAR

LECTIO DIVINA

WEDS

SYNTHESIS OF DAY 1, HOPES FOR DAY 2

*At your table (for 15 minutes) then
as a large group:*

- What did we learn about synodality in planning yesterday?
- What are the implications for our work going forward?
- What do we hope to accomplish today?



CONTENT BLOCK III

SYNODALITY IN ACTION

WEDNESDAY MORNING *LECTIO DIVINA*

I, then, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to live in a manner worthy of the call you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love, striving to preserve the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace: one body and one Spirit, as you were also called to the one hope of your call; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.

And he gave some as apostles, others as prophets, others as evangelists, others as pastors and teachers, to equip the holy ones for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of faith and knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood,* to the extent of the full stature of Christ, so that we may no longer be infants, tossed by waves and swept along by every wind of teaching arising from human trickery, from their cunning in the interests of deceitful scheming. Rather, living the truth in love, we should grow in every way into him who is the head, Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, with the proper functioning of each part, brings about the body's growth and builds itself up in love.

SYNODALITY IN ACTION

How do we cultivate the desire and skill to be silent, patient, taking the time necessary to listen to the Holy Spirit and one another?

How do we balance the technical aspects of planning (including time constraints) with the spiritual dimensions of synodality?

How do we train and form laity, including youth, and clergy for participation in a synodal way?

SYNODALITY IN ACTION

How to operationalize synodality – how do we discern and build consensus?

When is the synodal approach appropriate and when is it not?

How do we cultivate and model synodality and create passion for synodality at the diocesan level (i.e., Bishop, curia, staff)?

SYNODALITY IN ACTION: INITIAL TABLE CONVERSATION

What are your initial reactions?

- Any surprises?
- What resonates with your experience?
- If positive examples come to mind, make a note for later conversation.

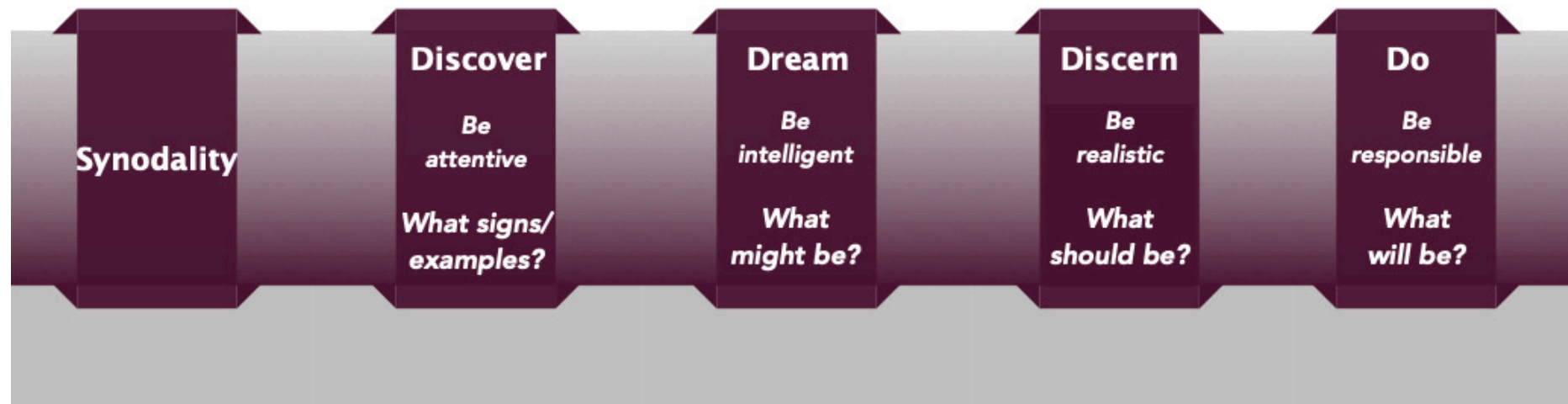
SYNODALITY IN ACTION: FURTHER EXPLORATION

Explore one question/theme in a small group:

- What is the special leadership challenge of this question or obstacle?

SYNODALITY IN ACTION: DISCOVERING POSSIBILITIES

An Appreciative Process



LUNCH CONVERSATION

Future of the Diocesan Planners Network

- Topics and Presenters
- What would another in-person gathering focus on and when/where should it happen?
- What else is worth your time?

CONTENT BLOCK IV

A FUTURE FOR SYNODALITY IN PASTORAL PLANNING

A FUTURE FOR SYNODALITY IN PASTORAL PLANNING: HELPFUL DISPOSITIONS

From the *Vademecum*, section 2.3

Synods are a time to dream and “spend time with the future.” We are encouraged to create a local process that inspires people, with no one excluded to create a vision of the future filled with the joy of the Gospel.

The *Vademecum* enumerates 12 attitudes that “enable genuine listening and dialogue.”

HELPFUL DISPOSITIONS FOR SYNODALITY

1. An innovative outlook: To develop new approaches, with creativity and a certain audacity.
2. Being inclusive: A participatory and co-responsible Church, capable of appreciating its own rich variety, embraces all those we often forget or ignore.
3. An open mind: Let us avoid ideological labels and make use of all methodologies that have borne fruit.

HELPFUL DISPOSITIONS, CONT'D

4. Listening to each and every one: By learning from one another, we can better reflect the wonderful multi-faceted reality that Christ's Church is meant to be.
5. An understanding of "journeying together": To walk the path that God calls the Church to undertake for the third millennium.
6. Understanding the concept of a co-responsible Church: To value and involve the unique role and vocation of each member of the Body of Christ, for the renewal and building up of the whole Church.
7. Reaching out through ecumenical and interreligious dialogue: To dream together and journey with one another throughout the entire human family.

TABLE CONVERSATION

Discern individually and share with your table:

- In which dispositions do I feel strongest as an individual disciple? In which disposition is our diocese/parish strongest?
- In which disposition do I most need to take the next step in conversion personally? What does my next step look like concretely in the next 6 months?
- In which disposition does my diocese or parish most need to take the next step in conversion? What might 2-3 next steps look like?

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HONORABLE CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS

What is one thing you will commit to doing in the next few weeks to foster more synodality in pastoral planning?

What more can we do to foster synodality in planning in the Church in the United States?

What else is God calling us to do in this moment?