



ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK

“A synodal church is a church that listens.” --Pope Francis

As you know, in the fall of 2021, Pope Francis opened a three-phase synod process from the Vatican. The Holy Father asked dioceses, religious communities, and Catholic institutions to come together to listen, discuss, and contemplate, in a process he called *synodality*.

This opportunity for introspection was kicked off in the Archdiocese of New York on October 17, 2021, with an introductory Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral celebrated by His Eminence, Timothy Cardinal Dolan. During his homily, the cardinal referred to this communal exploration “as an examination of conscience on how we, as a Church are living up to the model of the Church given by Jesus.”

The archdiocese was fortunate to have more than 4,000 people contribute to various listening and discernment sessions. The listening sessions began within the deaneries during the season of Lent. The sessions continued with a diverse cross-section of our community, including but not limited to the St. John Vianney Clergy Residence, ArchCare residents in person and via Zoom, students from our Catholic schools and religious education programs, and Obreros Unidos, a Catholic Charities’ day laborer community – among many others, including an online bilingual listening session.

“The Church is of divine origin but is composed of very human membership.”
--Timothy Cardinal Dolan

At the end of this past spring, our synod activity had been completed, and we began the process of harmonizing the results. Through reflection and review, we distilled our focus for the future to four goals:

1. Re-establishing Catholic culture;
2. Increasing awareness of our good works;
3. Support for evangelization and faith formation;
4. Consulting our clergy about synodality.

In addition, we will be working on more plans within the Catholic Center.

A copy of our results has been sent to the United States Conference of Bishops for further reflection and discussion. You can find the results of our Synodal Synthesis [here](#). You will see it outlines the most prevalent themes we found in the conversations held with our community.

We are deeply grateful to those who led and supported the synodal process. We would like to recognize the team members who hosted and facilitated listening sessions, as well as those who synthesized feedback for their local reports. We are especially indebted to everyone who attended the listening sessions. It is only because of their willing spirits and open hearts that we were able to realize so much through these sessions.