



ARCHDIOCESE  
OF NEW YORK



A Synodal Church is a Listening Church

## SYNODAL LISTENING INTERIM PHASE PARTICIPANT'S GUIDE

### OPENING PRAYER

### OPENING SCRIPTURE READING FOR REFLECTION

Matthew 28:16-20

*Reader proclaims the Scripture reading.*

The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them. When they saw him, they worshiped, but they doubted. Then Jesus approached and said to them, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."

**Leader:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**All:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

### ADSUMUS PRAYER

*This ancient prayer has been used at Synods and Councils of the Church since the 7<sup>th</sup> century.*

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.

## **BASICS OF SYNODAL LISTENING**

- In synodal listening, each person shares in turn. The facilitator will keep time as needed. For rounds 1 and 2, there is no back-and forth, no responding, no agreement or disagreement. We simply listen without responding.
- In round three, we will have free conversation and back-and forth as we share about where we sense the Holy Spirit calling.
- Maintain confidentiality. Make the listening a “safe place” where people feel free to share openly.
- Even if someone else says exactly what you were going to say, go ahead and share from your own perspective.

### **Question 1 – Round 1**

Where have I seen or experienced successes within the Church’s structure(s) / organization / leadership / life that encourage the mission? How can we expand on that?

### **Question 1 – Round 2**

What did you hear in round 1? Very briefly, just a word, a phrase, a sentence.

### **Question 1 – Round 3**

What did you hear in round 2? Is there a common theme or word that Holy Spirit is bringing forward?

### **Question 2 – Round 1**

How can the structures and organization of the Church help all the baptized to respond to the call to proclaim the Gospel and to live as a community of love and mercy in Christ?

### **Question 2 – Round 2**

What did you hear in round 1? Very briefly, just a word, a phrase, a sentence.

### **Question 2 – Round 3**

What did you hear in round 2? Is there a common theme or word that Holy Spirit is bringing forward?

### **Group sharing**

What did we hear? Where do you sense the Holy Spirit moving in our sharing today?

## **CONCLUDING PRAYER**