

The Synod on Synodality.

Perhaps you have heard about Pope Francis' call to the universal Church to participate in preparing for the extraordinary Synod to take place in Rome in 2023. The Holy Father has asked all the Bishops of the World to prepare for this Synod by giving the laity of the Church a voice in this period of preparation so that the Bishops and those who will be participating explicitly in the extraordinary Synod in Rome will know what the people of God are experiencing in their lives as Catholic Christians. The Diocese of Steubenville, therefore has had a couple of meetings



with the facilitators and note-takers of each parish to give some direction to how this process of listening is to take place. Bob and Kathi Blatt from Hannibal have agreed to be the facilitator and note taker for the meetings that will occur over the next few months. The first such meeting for our Catholic communities here in Monroe County will be held on **Monday, November 15th following the 5:30 p.m. Mass at St. Sylvester.** We will watch a video on the Bible as we have been doing for the past couple of months and then instead of discussing the video we will talk over some ideas regarding our walk together as Catholics. The questions are listed below and the participants are those of the Bible Study and anyone else who wishes to participate. It was suggested that the questions be made available before the meeting and thus here are the questions that we are being asked to answer. The responses will be carefully noted and will be sent to the Diocese so that they can make their report to Rome by next Spring.

1. How do I experience my parish as journeying together? Who do I experience as with me on this journey? Who do I experience as further away or going in a different direction? How does our parish/diocese address divergences of vision, conflicts, and difficulties?
2. In journeying together, it is important that we both speak and listen. What obstacles do I have in speaking out concerns or ideas that are important to me in my lived Church experience? How well do I listen to others?
3. What keeps me from taking a more active role in the Church's life and mission? What is the substance and quality of my worship and sacramental life? What makes me feel welcome and unwelcome? Do I welcome others? What aspects of the Church's life and mission are we excelling in our parish and or diocese? What are we neglecting?
4. Based on these shared experiences, where might we hear the Holy Spirit guiding us?