

Paper Submission for Local Synodal Process

Adsumus, Sancte Spiritus

Prayer of invocation to the Holy Spirit for an ecclesial assembly of governance or discernment (thus synodal)

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.

Title revised from Latin, to have a proper *incipit*, different from the *Adsumus Dominus Sancte Spiritus*. The *Caeremoniale Episcoporum* 1984ss., n. 1173, only proposes the use of the *Adsumus* but does not give the text. The German version *Das Zeremoniale für die Bischöfe*, n. 1188, gives a German translation based on the Latin text of the *Acta Synodalia* of the Council, vol. I/1, p. 159.

After some time in prayer, reflect on the following questions.

LISTENING: Listening is the first step, but it requires an open mind and heart, without prejudice. How is God speaking to us through voices we sometimes ignore? How are the laity listened to, especially women and young people? What facilitates or inhibits our listening? How well do we listen to those on the peripheries? How is the contribution of consecrated men and women integrated? What are some limitations in our ability to listen, especially to those who have different views than our own? What space is there for the voice of minorities, especially people who experience poverty, marginalization, or social exclusion?

SHARING RESPONSIBILITY FOR OUR COMMON MISSION: Synodality is at the service of the mission of the Church, in which all members are called to participate. Since we are all missionary disciples, how is every baptised person called to participate in the mission of the Church? What hinders the baptised from being active in mission? What areas of mission are we neglecting? How does the community support its members who serve society in various ways (social and political involvement, scientific research, education, promoting social justice, protecting human rights, caring for the environment, etc.)? How does the Church help these members to live out their service to society in a missionary way? How is discernment about missionary choices made and by whom?

FORMING OURSELVES IN SYNODALITY: Synodality entails receptivity to change, formation, and on-going learning. How does our church community form people to be more capable of “walking together,” listening to one another, participating in mission, and engaging in dialogue? What formation is offered to foster discernment and the exercise of authority in a synodal way? The Synod website provides suggestions on how to go about narrowing these down.
