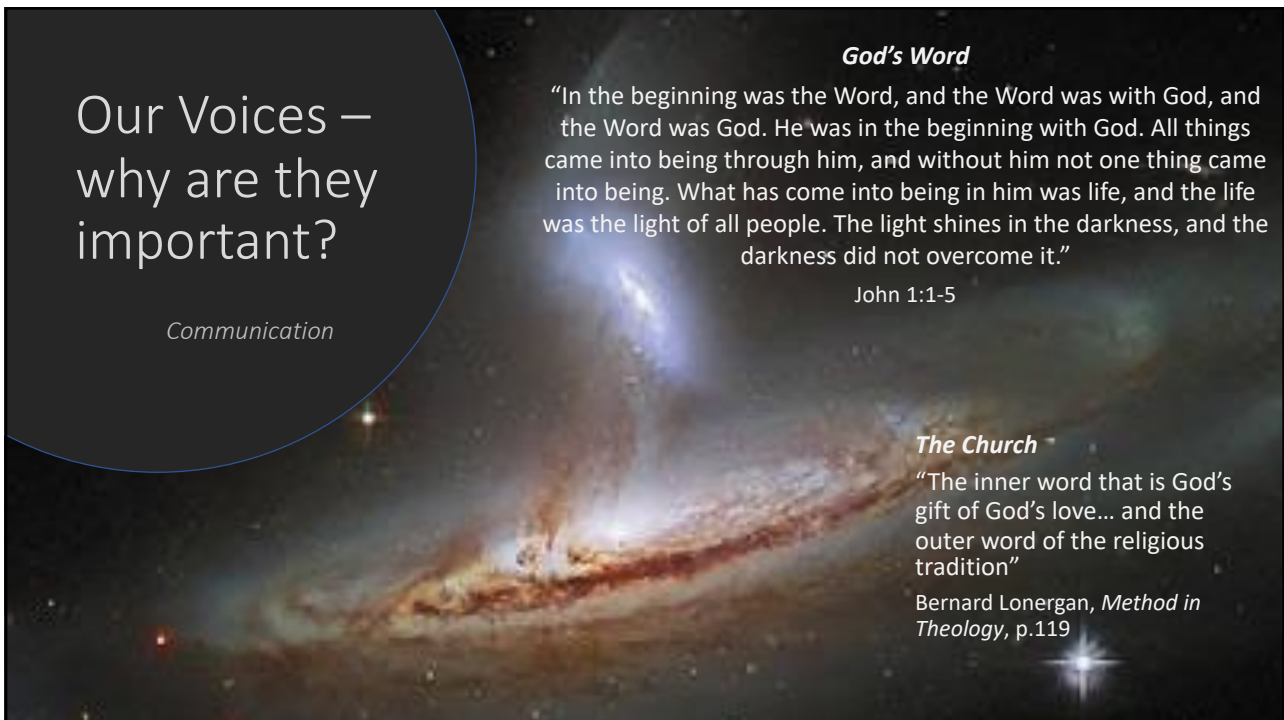




1



2

Dialogue

Participatory
Communion
Missionary

“This relationship, this dialogue, which God the Father initiated and established with us through Christ in the Holy Spirit, is a very real one, even though it is difficult to express in words.

We must examine it closely if we want to understand the relationship which we, the Church, should establish and foster with the human race.

God took the initiative in the dialogue of salvation. ‘[God] hath first loved us’ (1 Jn 4:10).

We, therefore, must be the first to ask for a dialogue with [all people], without waiting to be summoned to it by others”

Pope Paul VI, *Ecclesiam Suam* n.71-2

3

3 Principles of Paul VI

1. DIALOGUE

➤ “a responsibility, a stimulus, an inner urge about which We cannot remain silent”

2. DEEPER SELF-KNOWLEDGE

➤ maturity & formation, building a “sense of the Church” – the *sensus ecclesiae*

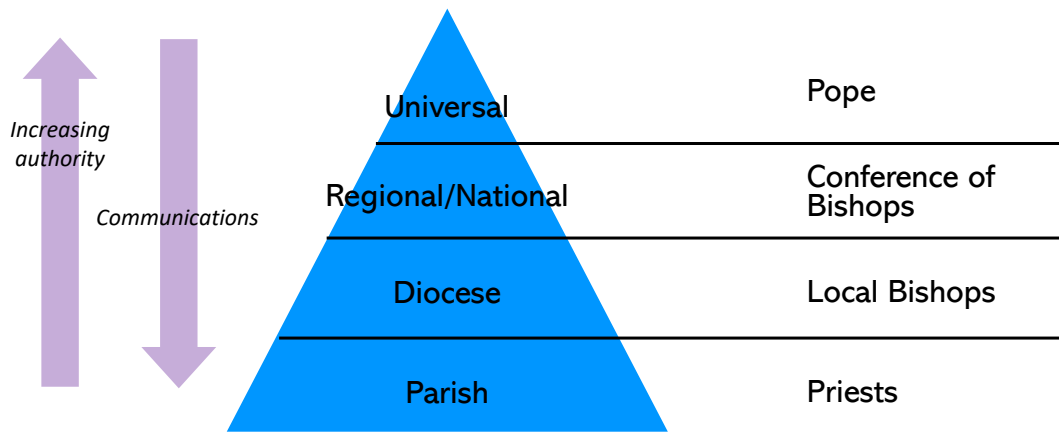
3. RENEWAL

➤ a “heroic and impatient struggle”

from *Ecclesiam Suam* nn.9-15
60 years ago!

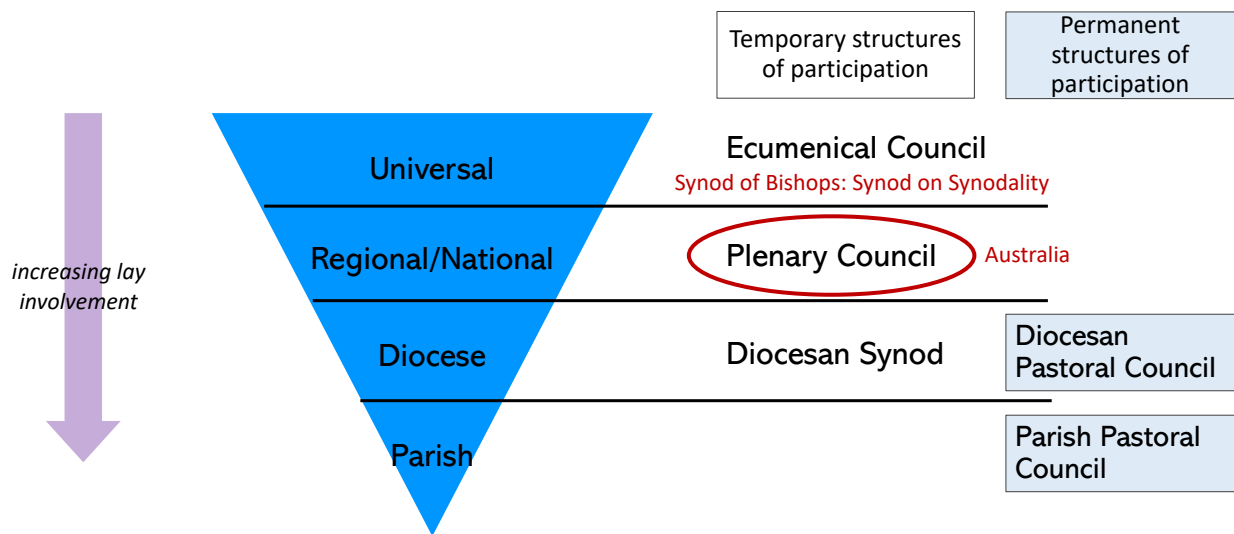
4

Imagining the Church: Decision-takers



5

Imagining the Church: Decision-makers



6

A Clerical Imagination

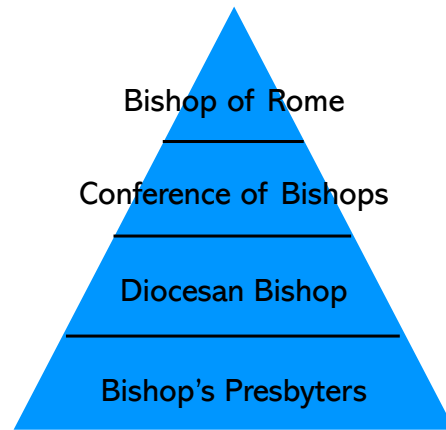
Authority:

“the Church is essentially an unequal society, that is, a society comprising two categories of persons, the Pastors and the flock, those who occupy a rank in the different degrees of the hierarchy and the multitude of the faithful...”

Participation:

“...the one duty of the multitude is to allow themselves to be led, and, like a docile flock, to follow the Pastors”

Pope Pius X, *Vehementer Nos* (1906), n.8



A Synodal Imagination

Authority:

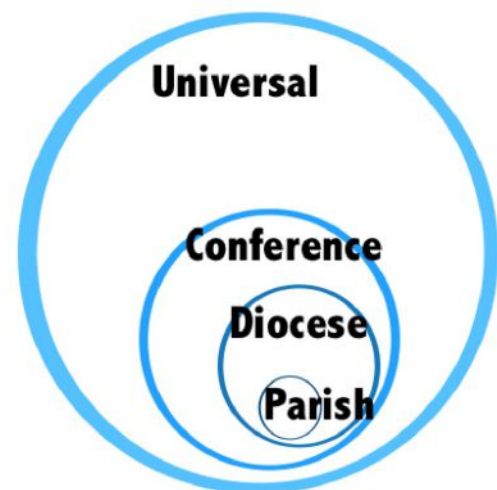
“In a synodal Church, the Synod of Bishops is only the most evident manifestation of a **dynamism of communion** which inspires all ecclesial decisions.”

Pope Francis, *50th Anniversary of the Synod of Bishops* (2015)

Participation:

“Each Christian and every community must discern the path that the Lord points out, but all of us are asked to obey his call to go forth from our own comfort zone in order to reach all the “peripheries” in need of the light of the Gospel.”

Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*, n.20

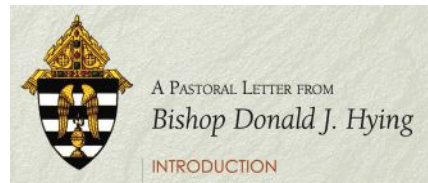
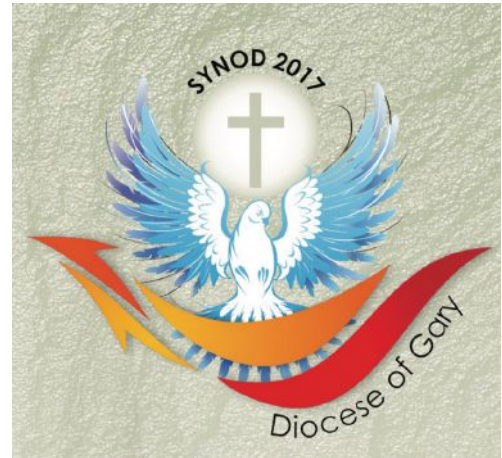


Why Synods?

“Our diocese has never had a synod; the Archdiocese of Chicago last held one over 100 years ago. Synods are a lot of work and are a significant moment in the life of the Church. Why are we having one now?”

...In my travels around the diocese, meeting thousands of people, listening to your dreams and hopes, your frustrations and sufferings, witnessing your deep faith and joyous generosity, celebrating together at the table of the Eucharist and so many other tables of fellowship, I have served the Lord alongside you. I have prayed for and with you.

I can honestly say that I have fallen in love with you and this diocese.”



9

Synod on Synodality Themes

1. *Participation*
2. *Communion*
3. *Mission*



Enlightened by:

- Hospitality
- Encounter
- Dialogue
- Inclusive & Diverse
- “Revolution of tenderness” (mercy)
- Building bridges

10

1. Participation



What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?

11

What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?

Consistently the people of this parish have the same answer: "love and prayer".

ATTITUDE: Listening and Prayer

Listen to each other. Especially those "on the outside": those divorced and remarried, those who are angry for being deemed irrelevant or inconvenient, refugees, those angry about the protection of clergy who betrayed us, those who exercise their conscience.

Love each other. Stay with each other and have compassion through the bad times.

Pray. Persist in prayer and in faith.

Deal with clericalism. Share the power appropriately.

Be more open and understanding. Be virtuous when encountering others. See God in all people. Continue to reach out to the wider community with love and confidence.

Balance a love of our precious tradition with words that are from our own hearts.

MERCY

FORMATION & INCLUSIVITY

12

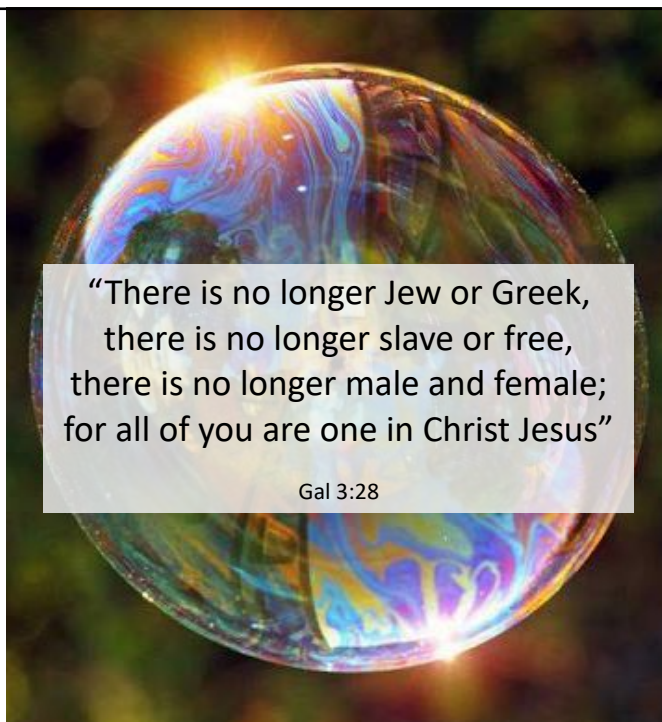
Synodal Participation

“For in the one Spirit we were all
baptized into one body
—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—
and we were all made to drink of
one Spirit”

1 Cor 12:13

Clericalism:

*“...the one duty of the multitude is to allow
themselves to be led (by the hierarchy)...”*



“There is no longer Jew or Greek,
there is no longer slave or free,
there is no longer male and female;
for all of you are one in Christ Jesus”

Gal 3:28

13

The Foundation of Synodality is Baptism (not Ordination)



“A synodal Church is a Church of participation and co-responsibility... according
to each one’s calling

... based on the fact that all the faithful are qualified and called to serve each
other through the gifts they have all received from the Holy Spirit”

(International Theological Commission, *Synodality in the Life and Mission of the Church*, n.67).

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SYNODS ARE NOT TO BE

- Talkfests
- Exclusive
- Pre-determined
- Focussed on boundaries & limits

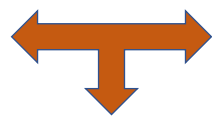


SYNODS SHOULD PROMOTE

- Participation
- Encounter
- Communal prayer
- Authentic dialogue
- Open minds & hearts
- Identifying problems & solutions
- Listening (to each other & the Spirit)
- Renewal
- Conversion & transformation

15

Synodal Participation



Community/
Communion

Mission

Building "a sense of" ...
Belonging
Commitment
Responsibility
Trust
Friendship
Love
...the *sensus fidei*



16

2. Communion

“I give you a new commandment, that you **love** one another.

Just as I have **loved** you, you also should **love** one another.

By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have **love** for one another”

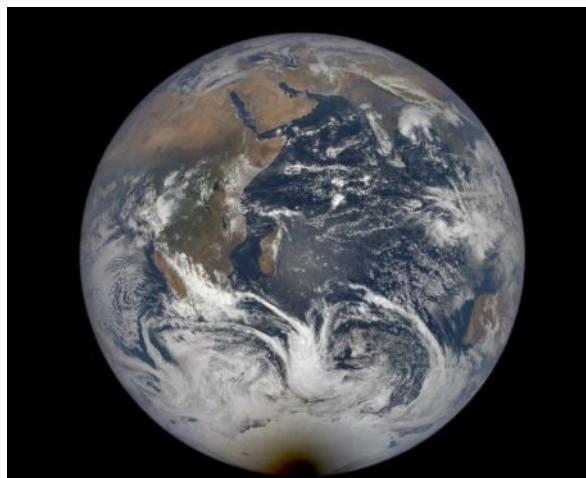
(John 13:34-35)



17

3. Mission

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.



“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him”

(John 3:16-17)

18

Synod on Synodality: How to Participate

<https://www.catholic.org.au/synodalchurch>

<https://parracatholic.org/synod-of-bishops/>

<https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/life/synod-2021-23/>

<https://www.cdsale.org.au/synod-of-bishops>

<https://www.dow.org.au/bishop-brian-encourages-synod-submissions/>



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Aus Catholic Bishops' Conference website: <https://www.catholic.org.au/synodalchurch>



Introduction
Diocesan Consultation
Contributing as a
Group
Reflecting as an
Individual
Submit Your Response
Other Resources
Synod of Bishops & the
Plenary Council
News

SUBMIT YOUR RESPONSE HERE

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Submissions are...

- Important!
- On the 3 themes with a total of 10 subheadings
- Open to everyone (U16s need an adult to submit)
- Anonymous if you wish
- Limited to 250 words (if larger then submit directly to your diocese)

Closing on Sunday 13th March 2022 !!

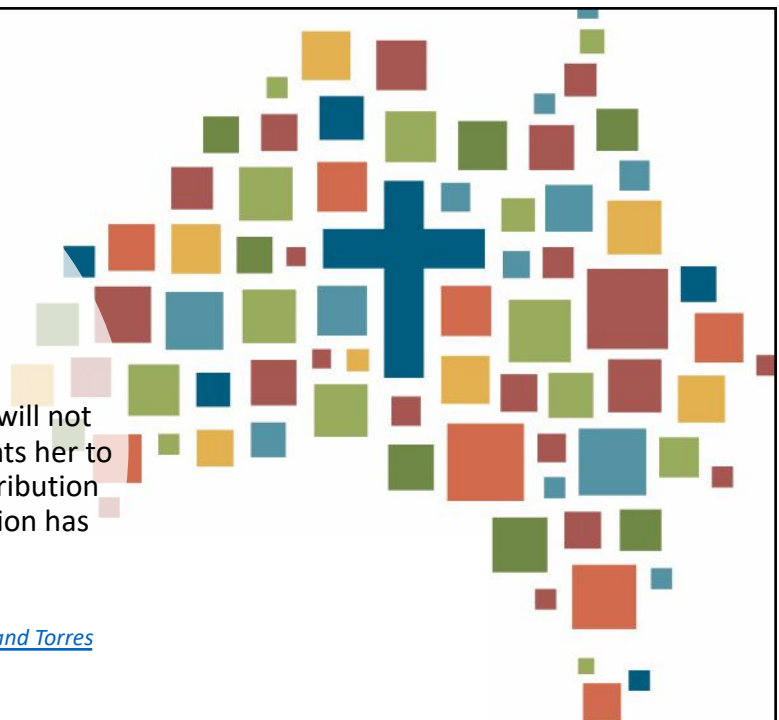


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In Conclusion

“...the Church herself in Australia will not be fully the Church that Jesus wants her to be until you have made your contribution to her life and until that contribution has been joyfully received by others.”

Pope John Paul II, [Address to the Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders](#), 29 Nov 1986



22



23

Elissa is available to present to your group.

Contact: elissaroper@hotmail.com

Being a synodal Church: what can you do?

Educate yourselves.

Have an open heart and mind.

Read, listen, learn.

Explore and challenge yourself.

Pray, read the Gospel, and talk together.

Discuss social justice issues. Invite everyone to speak and don't correct each other. You don't need to agree.

Some of the Catholic Renewal Groups in Australia

Australian Catholic Coalition for Church Renewal <http://accr.com.au>

Resources including books, podcasts, "Plenary Tracker", Convocations of Catholics

Australian Catholics Exploring the Diaconate <https://liturgyonthemargins.org>

Australian Reforming Catholics <https://www.e-arc.org>

Australian Women Preach <https://australianwomenpreach.com.au>

Cardijn Community, www.cardijncommunityaustralia.org

Catholics For Renewal <https://www.catholicsforrenewal.org>

Catholics Speak Out <http://www.catholicsspeakout.com.au>

Communities of the Way

Concerned Catholics in [Canberra-Goulburn](#), [Tasmania](#), [Wagga Wagga](#), and Wollongong
For the Innocents

The Grail in Australia <https://www.grailaustralia.org.au/who-we-are/>

Inclusive Catholics Australia <https://inclusive-catholics.com>

Rainbow Catholics InterAgency for Ministry

<https://rainbowcatholicsin.wixsite.com/website>

SA Catholics for an Evolving Church

VOCAL (Voices of Australian Catholic Laity): a small group located in NSW.

Women and the Australian Church <https://watac.net.au>

WWITCH (Women's Wisdom in the Church),

<https://overcomingsilence.com/stories/wwitch-womens-wisdom-in-the-church/>,

Twitter: @wwitchaus

Australian Examples of Synodality in Governance and Leadership

The Light From the Southern Cross: Promoting co-responsible governance in the Catholic Church in Australia, <https://www.catholicreligious.org.au/light-from-the-southern-cross>

Health and Integrity in Church and Ministry Conference, 27-29 Aug 2018,

<https://www.healthandintegrity.org.au>

Association of Ministerial Public Juridic Persons (PJPs), <https://ampjp.org.au>

Plenary Council, <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au>

The National Catholic Safeguarding Standards, <https://www.cpsltd.org.au/safe-church/national-catholic-safeguarding-standards/>

Provoking statements for group discussion

1. For too long the laity have been considered spectators or docile children, instead of being built up as mature Christians - priestly, prophetic and royal - in their responsibility for the mission of the Church.
2. Synodality revives the central meaning of *transformation* for today's Church. Synodality is preparation for, and participation in, transformation of oneself, one's community, and the world through love.
3. It is a journey, Spirit-led, and a path of commitment to conversion. Hence the importance of the promotion and development of synodality amongst the entire People of God.

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Twitter: [elissa_rop](#)

Blog: onwiththesynod.wordpress.com