

A TIME TO LISTEN

The Synod on Synodality

HOW DO I GET INVOLVED? The process of synodality is ongoing. Please join us for a Zoom meeting on **March 2nd at 7PM**. In order to receive the link, please send your name and email address to synodinfo@glastonburyabbey.org

BACKGROUND

In October, Pope Francis called the Church to join in a “Synod on Synodality,” a three year process for the Church, concluding in 2023. The synod, from the two Greek words meaning “walking together” is an ecclesial gathering with the goal of discerning what the Holy Spirit is asking of the Church at this time. Synodality describes the way the entire Church, all of the baptized, seeks to discern together where the Holy Spirit is leading us right now. So, the Synod on Synodality is a meeting of all the church to pray, listen to each other and to walk together as we move forward in the life of the Church.

The call is to the *entire* Church....the active, the marginalized, and those who have left. For the first time EVER we...the laity are invited to the table. By virtue of our individual baptisms we are called to be heard and to add our voices. In that spirit, we are joining with lay groups from all over the world in meeting for listening sessions. These are to be meetings where we listen to

each other and listen to the Holy Spirit so that we may discern the best ways to move forward in these challenging times.

The Synod's three key words are COMMUNION, PARTICIPATION and MISSION and we ask that you join us in this meaningful journey as we encounter each other, discern wisdom from the Holy Spirit, and contribute our voices to the Synod. Canon Law encourages us to submit our findings to the *General Secretariat for Synod of Bishops* in Rome. We will, of course, also send a copy to the Archdiocese.

At an introductory meeting in November, a small group of lay people met and through discussion formulated four general areas of consideration. They are as follows:

1. *Role of the Laity* (ex: parish life, women,)
2. *Hierarchy/Clericalism* (ex: transparency, seminary training, celibacy, decision making,)
3. *Moral Theology* (ex: ethics, dogma vs doctrine, diversity, social justice, climate change)
4. *Sacramental* (ex: liturgical reform, eligibility for Eucharist, Baptism)

We need YOUR voice, YOUR spirit, and YOUR wisdom!

Yours in the Spirit,
The Lay Synod Initiative
at Glastonbury Abbey