

Our Prayers

Let us pray for Pope Francis and all those who will be gathering soon that their hearts will be sensitive to the promptings of the spirit we pray to the Lord

Let us pray for local churches around the world who are experiencing tensions on this journey that the spirit will help them to find new hope we pray to the Lord

Let us pray for those outside the church that they will see in our journey a new willingness on our part to listen and learn we pray to the Lord

Let us pray for all those communities displaced by fires and storms that we will be prompted to listen to what creation needs from us to be healthy we pray to the Lord

Let us pray for all those who have been displaced by famine and poverty that they will find new homes and warm welcomes we pray to the Lord

Next gathering Monday October 16 at 10:15

A petrified church... how did we get here...

18 September 2023

A warm welcome to everybody!

ENLARGE THE TENT

"Removing our sandals before the Sacred Ground of the Other"

The Art of Accompaniment Part Two with Fr. Tim Boyle. Sessions will be livestreamed at 10:30 am, followed by Mass at 11:15 am. Third Monday of the month.

ST. MARTHA'S, LETBRIDGE

LIVE AT STMARTHASPARISH.CA

**MONDAY,
SEP 18 AT
10:30 AM**

The big four issues the Church will discuss in Rome.. and what does it mean to 'Enlarge the Tent'.

**MONDAY,
OCT 16 AT
10:30 AM**

A petrified Church.. How did we get here?



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Checking in..

What hopes are you carrying as our church gathers this fall? What worries you the most?

Enlarge the tent

“Enlarge the space of your tent, stretch out your hangings, freely, lengthen your ropes, make your pegs firm”. Isaiah 4:2

The image of the tent is deep in our Biblical story.

The tent has not collapsed, but it became rigid and remains rigid. Three elements - the tent cloth - The ropes - Finally, the

pegs
Enlarging the tent requires welcoming others into it, making room for their diversity. It thus entails a willingness to die to self out of love, finding oneself again in and through relationship with Christ and one’s neighbor.

Questions for the synod.. not position papers..

1. How are we building a synodal Church capable of promoting the belonging and participation of the **least** within the Church and in society?

2. What is the attitude with which we approach the **world**? Do we know to recognize what is good and, at the same time, commit ourselves to prophetically denounce all that violates the dignity of persons, human communities and creation?

3. How do we increase awareness that the Church, both one and catholic, is already, and has been from the beginning, the bearer of a rich and multiform **diversity**

4. What can Catholics (re)learn from the synodal experience of **other Christians and the ecumenical movement**?

5. What tools do local Churches use to **read the cultures** in which they are embedded? What opportunities can they create to re-read the teachings of the Church in the light of local cultures?

6. How can preaching, catechesis and pastoral work promote a shared awareness of the mission that is a real and concrete call for **every Baptized** person?

7. How can we discern the **baptismal Ministries** necessary for mission in a local Church, whether instituted or not? What spaces are available for experimentation at the local level?

8. What concrete steps can the Church take to renew its structures to enable greater recognition and participation of **women**?

9. How can we promote in the Church both a culture of **co-responsibility** such that the relationship between baptismal Ministries and ordained Ministry is fruitful?

10. What renewal of the vision and exercise of the bishops ministry is needed for a synodal Church characterised by **co-responsibility**?

11. What renewal of vision, and forms of concrete exercise of authority, responsibility and governance, are needed in order to grow as a missionary synodal Church?

12. How can we imagine decision-making processes that are more participatory, which give space for **listening and community discernment** supported by authority understood as service?

13. How should canonical structures and pastoral procedures change to foster **co-responsibility and transparency**? Are the structures we have adequate to ensure participation or do we need new ones?

14. How can **synodality** find better expression through Synods of Bishops and the Councils of Hierarchs of the Eastern Catholic Churches?

15. How should the **Synod** be developed so that it ensures the full participation of all—the People of God, the College of Bishops and the Bishop of Rome—while respecting their specific functions?

The tensions the synod must balance.

1) listening as openness to welcome: this starts from a desire for radical inclusion – no one is excluded –

2) our drive toward mission requires assuming a style based on the participation of co-responsibility of all the baptized for the one mission of the Church.

3) the construction of concrete possibilities for living communion, participation and mission through structures inhabited by people formed and sustained by a living spirituality;

4) the Eucharistic liturgy, the source and summit of Christian life, which brings the community together, making communion tangible, enables the exercise of participation, and nourishes the momentum toward mission with the Word and the Sacraments.