



## DIOCESE of GAYLORD

### What is the aim of this Synod?

The Church recognizes that synodality is an integral part of her very nature. Being a synodal Church finds expression in ecumenical councils, Synods of Bishops, diocesan synods and diocesan and parish councils. There are many ways by which we experience forms of "synodality" already across the church. Yet being a synodal church is not limited to these existing institutions. Indeed, synodality is not so much an event or a slogan as a style and a way of being by which the Church lives out her mission in the world. The mission of the Church requires the entire People of God to be on a journey together, with each member playing her or his crucial role, united with each other. A synodal church walks forward in communion to pursue a common mission through the participation of each and every one of her members. The objective of this synodal process is not to provide a temporary or one-time experience of synodality, but rather to provide an opportunity for the entire people of God to discern together how to move forward on the path towards being a more synodal church in the long-term

### Synodal Church

The objective of the current Synod is to listen, as the entire People of God, to what the Holy Spirit is saying to the church. We do so by listening together to the Word of God in scripture and the living Tradition of the Church, and then by listening to one another. In fact, the whole Synodal Process aims at fostering a lived experience of discernment, participation, and co-responsibility, where a diversity of gifts is brought together for the Church's mission in the world. In this sense, it is clear that the purpose of this synod is not to produce more documents. Rather, it is intended to inspire people to dream about the church we are called to be, to make people's hopes flourish, to stimulate trust, to bind up wounds, to weave new and deeper relationships, to learn from one another, to build bridges, to enlighten minds, warm hearts, and restore strength to our hands for our common mission. The objective is a journey of growing authentically towards the communion and mission that God calls the church to live out in the third millennium. Listening to the entire People of God will help the church to make pastoral decisions that correspond as closely as possible to the will of God. In the end, this synodal process seeks to move towards a church that is more fruitfully at the service of the coming of the kingdom of heaven.

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## The Main Question for Consultation

This Synod poses the following fundamental question: A synodal Church, in announcing the Gospel, "journeys together." How is this "journeying together" happening today in your local Church? What steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our "journeying together"?