



# FACILITATOR GUIDE

Listening Session #2

*Walking together, inspired by the Holy Spirit*



Thank you for serving as Facilitator for the second listening session in your community in this first phase of the 2021-2023 Synod of Bishops! The theme for this synod is “For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission.” Synodality expresses the nature of the Church as the People of God journeying together on the same path.

Pope Francis has called the entire People of God to journey together! This is an unprecedented moment in our Church. The Holy Father has called for listening on a scale we have never before seen. All the baptized in every diocese, in every country, on every continent are asked to participate in the synod process. As the Church, we will pray together, listen to one another and seek the Holy Spirit’s guidance in discerning where the Holy Spirit is leading us as a parish, a diocese, and a universal Church.

In this Facilitator Guide you will find a script for you to follow for the second listening session. Please take the time in advance of the listening session to become very familiar with the contents of this Guide. A Sign-In Sheet and Note Taker Form may be found in the Parish Toolkit. You’ll also find a Checklist in the Parish Toolkit. Please review the Checklist to insure that everything is taken care of before the Listening Session so that all will go as smoothly as possible.

## BEFORE THE SESSION

- **Facilitator:** The Facilitator will use the following script to lead the session. If the participants speak more than one language appoint a bilingual facilitator or a facilitator for each language. The main responsibilities of the facilitator are to:
  - Help everyone feel welcome. Ensure a safe space by reminding everyone to be respectful and kind.
  - Gently invite everyone to participate, without forcing people to speak if they choose not to do so. Respect confidentiality.
  - Avoid dominating the conversation or allowing anyone else to dominate.
  - Stress that sessions are about listening to one another and discerning the movement of the Holy Spirit. The objective is not advocacy or convincing anyone of anything.
- **Hospitality:** To help in creating a space that is comfortable and conducive to listening and sharing, you might consider providing some appetizers, snacks, beverages or even a shared meal before the start of the session. Alternatively, you could provide some coffee, apple cider or other warm beverage as an act of hospitality. Invite people to come a bit early to enjoy some fellowship. As always, be sure to follow proper Covid protocols.
- **Arrangement of chairs:** Provide a physical set up that allows for people to be arranged in small groups with a maximum of 5-6 people per group.

- **Participant Guide:** Each participant should receive a Participant Guide for Session #2 and a pen as they enter. Alternatively, these items can be set at each place.
- **Sign-in Sheet:** Please ask everyone to sign-in using the Sign-In Sheet in the Parish Toolkit. (A copy of the Sign-In Sheet should be submitted to the Diocese after the listening session.)
- **Small Group Moderator:** One person from each small group will be asked to serve as the moderator. Their role is to review with their group the Respectful Communication Guidelines on page 1 of the Participant Guide as well as insuring that each small group member has a chance to share if desired.
- **Note Taker Form & Note Cards:** One person from each small group will be asked to take notes on the sharing that happens in their group. Place a Note Taker Form, pen and some note cards on each table. (Note Taker Forms may be found in the Parish Toolkit.) These Note Taker Forms will be collected by the parish and submitted to the diocese by mail or via the online portal at: <https://owensborodiocese.org/synod> . The role of the note taker is to:
  - Using the Note Taker Form, capture the consensus of the group and any themes that come up through the discussion.
  - Record significant moments and breakthrough ideas.
  - Keep notes brief, but include enough information so that people not present in the group will understand the essence of what occurred and what was shared.
  - Individuals may write their comments on note cards if they feel uncomfortable or do not have a chance to share everything with their small group.
  - Individuals may also submit feedback directly to the Diocese via the online portal at: <https://owensborodiocese.org/synod>

## AFTER THE SESSION

- **Note Taker Forms, Note Cards & Sign-In-Sheet:** Please collect all Note Taker Forms and note cards from every small group and the Sign-In Sheet and submit to the Diocese of Owensboro. Submission instructions are on the last page of this Facilitator Guide.

## WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

*The pastor or facilitator welcomes the participants. Introduce yourself and invite the participants to introduce themselves to the others in their small group.*

## OVERVIEW OF THE PURPOSE OF THIS SESSION

*The facilitator offers an overview in these or other words.*

### **Facilitator:**

In our gathering today (tonight), we continue our participation in a practice that dates back to the earliest Church. Throughout our history, the Church has gathered in councils or synods to open our hearts to the voice of the Holy Spirit. If you were not able to participate in our first listening session a few weeks ago, welcome! We are so happy that you are with us. We need your voice.

What sets this synod apart from any other synod that has happened in the history of the Church is the unprecedented level of listening that Pope Francis has called for. The Holy Father wants to hear the voice of every baptized person and has asked diocesan bishops everywhere to consult with the people of God in their diocese. This is the first time that the entire people of God have been invited to speak to their bishops of their hopes and dreams for their parish, their diocese, and the world in such a formal manner.

Pope Francis has called this Synod for the purpose of focusing on synodality. “Synodality” refers to the way that decisions are made. It is a model that includes listening to one another in order to hear what God is saying to all of us. It is realizing that the Holy Spirit can and does speak through anyone to move us forward together on our journey as the People of God.

Synodality, walking together, is at the heart of what the Church is all about. Saint John Chrysostom said that for him “Church” and “synod” were synonymous, since the Church is all about walking together. In this sense, synodality is about recalling our deepest roots as a pilgrim people, journeying together, united with one another to carry out our mission in the world.

Concretely, being a “synodal” Church means taking a more collaborative approach, discerning together the path forward. It highlights the fact that we all have something precious to contribute to the Body of Christ. A “synodal” Church is a Church that listens.

The Holy Father is calling on every bishop in every diocese on every continent of the world to conduct in-depth listening with the faithful in their dioceses. Pope Francis wants to hear from everyone!

In the Diocese of Owensboro, there will be two phases of listening. The first and current phase consists of listening in parishes and other Catholic organizations and groups during the months of January and February. A second phase of listening will occur in March when Bishop Medley will host regional listening sessions in various locations across the Diocese. Everyone is invited to attend one of the regional sessions where Bishop Medley will be there to listen to the people that God has called him to serve. The date for the listening session in our region is: \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_. (See table on next page.)

## REGIONAL LISTENING SESSIONS WITH BISHOP MEDLEY

Day	Date	Time	Location	Language
<b>Tuesday</b>	March 8, 2022	6:00 – 8:00 PM	Holy Name, Henderson	English
<b>Thursday</b>	March 10, 2022	6:00 – 8:00 PM	Holy Spirit, Bowling Green	English
<b>Monday</b>	March 14, 2022	6:00 – 8:00 PM	Sts. Peter & Paul, Hopkinsville	English
<b>Saturday</b>	March 19, 2022	10 AM – Noon	Sts. Peter & Paul, Hopkinsville	Spanish
<b>Monday</b>	March 21, 2022	6:00 – 8:00 PM	Blessed Mother, Owensboro	English
<b>Tuesday</b>	March 22, 2022	6:00 – 8:00 PM	St. Thomas More, Paducah	English
<b>Sunday</b>	March 27, 2022	2:00 – 4:00 PM	Holy Spirit, Bowling Green	Burmese

At the conclusion of all the listening in the Diocese of Owensboro, Bishop Medley, with the help of the Diocesan Synod Team, will review what has been heard and prayerfully discern the movement of the Holy Spirit, culminating in a report which he will submit to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. This same process of listening is being undertaken by every bishop in every diocese of the world. From there, the Church will undertake additional listening on a continental level and then the universal level of the Church. The final step of this process will be a meeting in Rome with the Holy Father and bishops in October 2023, the agenda for which will come from the grassroots – from all of us who have participated, listened, prayed together, and discerned.

And so, that is why we are gathered here. Our purpose tonight (today) is to listen to one another, to speak what the Holy Spirit places on our hearts, and to pray for discernment in where the Holy Spirit is leading us as a parish, a diocese and a universal Church.

Discerning the movement of the Holy Spirit is always rooted in prayer. So, we are inviting you this evening (morning / afternoon) into a place of prayer, reflection, listening and sharing. We will follow a guided Examen followed by some sharing in your small group. Don't be concerned if you're not familiar with the Examen or have never prayed with it. I will give you all the instruction you need as we go along.

The Examen is the great prayer of St. Ignatius of Loyola from his Spiritual Exercises. It is an ancient practice in the Church that can help us see God's hand at work.

Typically, this prayer is used to reflect back over the events of the day to detect God's presence and discern his direction for us. For our purposes here, we will be reflecting back over the weeks since we were together at our first listening session. Or, if you were not at the first session, consider the time period since you first heard of the Synod on Synodality.

I am going to walk you through the reflection, pausing at moments for each person to reflect in silence. If you brought notes from your reflections or conversations since our first listening session, feel free to take those out to remind yourself of what you wrote. If you would like to write down your thoughts during this prayer time, there is space provided in your Participant Guide.

**EXAMEN: PERIOD OF PRAYER AND REFLECTION**

*(20 MINUTES)*

*Facilitator or another reader:*

I invite you now into a moment of silence as we begin our prayerful reflection. Take some time and find a place of comfort

and peace. Relax—simply be here in this moment. Remind yourself that you are in the presence of the Holy. You may feel distracted—thoughts often flow into our heads. We want to make God the centerpiece of our attention right now. Take a moment to become more focused on our God who is present here and waiting for you.

*(Pause 10 seconds)*

We begin by expressing gratitude for the abundant blessings God has given us. Reflect on the many ways you encounter God's love each day and spend a moment giving God thanks.

*(Pause 30 seconds)*

In Baptism, we received God's greatest gift – the Holy Spirit. The same Spirit works and speaks through each one of us. Ask God now to allow the Holy Spirit to be stirred up in each of us during this session.

*(Pause 30 seconds)*

We are a pilgrim people, journeying together as God's family, the Church. God walks with us every step of the way. He sent his Holy Spirit as our counselor and our guide so that we wouldn't walk alone. Take a moment to ask God for insight and understanding to recognize the movement of the Holy Spirit. Ask for the grace to be open to the Spirit and for the courage to go where the Spirit leads.

*(Pause 30 seconds)*

For those who attended the first listening session, did you feel like part of a community journeying together? Were there obstacles in



the way? Did you have an experience of truly being listened to? Did you allow yourself to be changed by truly listening to another? If not, what could that have looked like? Recall how it felt or imagine how it could feel.

*(Pause 60 seconds)*

During this synodal process we are all invited by Pope Francis to go out to the periphery – to seek out those who may feel alienated, marginalized, or ignored by the Church. If, after our first listening session, you had the opportunity to encounter someone in the periphery, call to mind that experience. Observe that moment in your imagination. How did you feel? Could you sense the Holy Spirit in the conversation? What needs to be shared from that conversation? Pray for the person you encountered and ask God to place on your heart what an appropriate next step may be to continue to nurture that relationship.

*(Pause 60 seconds)*

If you have not yet had a chance to encounter someone in the periphery, consider who you know who is least likely to participate in this synodal process. Ask God in this moment to put someone on your heart and pray for an opportunity to have an encounter with that person. Pray for them and for the Holy Spirit to accompany you during the encounter.

*(Pause 60 seconds)*

Jesus prayed that we all may be one -- to be in communion with one another. When have you truly felt connected to the Church? When have you most felt like you were a member of the Body of

Christ? Who helped you feel most connected to the Church? In what ways have the Sacraments nurtured you?

*(Pause 30 seconds)*

Being part of the Church is a human experience, which means it can sometimes be messy or even painful. Is there any hurt in your experience of Church? When did you not feel welcome in our Church community? Who in the Church may have wounded or disappointed you with their actions or their failures to act?

*(Pause 30 seconds)*

Christ calls us to participate in Church and society: to be His hands, His feet, to go where God needs us to be. Where in your life has God called you to be most present, to be most alive, to be your best self? Where have you participated in bringing Christ's life and love to the world - maybe as a child, a teen, a young adult, today? Perhaps when you serve those less fortunate; maybe when you care for your family, teach them to love God and live as faithful Christians; maybe when you find ways to engage in your community and advocate for the voiceless; perhaps when you work to make others feel comfortable, appreciated, and welcomed. Take a moment to reflect on these experiences.

*(Pause 60 seconds)*

Now, look at the truth of your life and allow yourself to see the times you regret. The times when you failed to live as Christ called you to live. The times you didn't make a welcoming space for others—when you failed to step up when you were needed—when your sin led you away from being the person you were called to be.

*(Pause 60 seconds)*

Allow yourself now to be grateful to Jesus for always having time to listen to you and for his boundless love and mercy. Express to Him your gratitude for all that has been given to you. Ask for what you need most right now and what you feel the Church most needs at this moment. Where does God most need you in his Church today? What one action might you want to move towards tomorrow? Make a firm, but gentle resolution to do so.

*(Pause 60 seconds)*

And as we bring our time of Examen to a close, we end with our prayer to our loving God. *Our Father...*

**SHARE AND LISTEN IN SMALL GROUPS**

*(30 MINUTES)*

We will now move to a time of sharing in our small groups.

As those who participated in the first listening session will remember, the Synod process involves active listening. Listening continues to be at the heart of our conversation today. In your Participant Guide on page 3 you will find the Respectful Communication Guidelines. Remember to give your full attention to each other and listen to the voice of God in your hearts. Listen for understanding by taking to heart what other people share. As we share, individuals will speak, one at a time, without interruption, while others listen. Everyone will have a chance to speak and, of course, if you like, you may always choose to pass.

For our small group sharing, each small group will need a **note taker** to record the highlights of the sharing that happens in your small group using the Note Taker Form. The goal is not to record verbatim what is said in your group, but rather to capture the spirit of the conversation. Take a moment to identify the note taker for your group and to locate the Note Taker Form provided for you.

*Allow a moment for this to happen in each group.*

Small group members should also note that in addition to the official Note Taker Form, each small group member may also record comments on the note cards at your table and submit those at the end of the listening session as well.

Each small group will also need a **moderator**. The role of the moderator is to review with their small group the Respectful Communication Guidelines on page 2 of the Participant Guide. Your role will also be to ensure that each person in your group has the opportunity to share if they so desire. Please take a moment now to name your small group moderator and to review the Respectful Communication Guidelines on page 2.

*Allow a couple of moments for this to happen.*

I invite you now to look at page 6 of the Participant Guide where you will see the first of two rounds of questions to share in small groups. We will have about 15 minutes to share for each round. I will let you know when the first 15 minutes are up so you can wrap up your sharing and move to the next section.

## ROUND 1 SMALL GROUP SHARING:

### FRUIT OF PERSONAL REFLECTION

*(15 minutes)*

Take a couple of minutes to reflect in silence on these questions. The aim is not to address all the questions, but only those that the Holy Spirit leads you to. Read through all of them first and see where you are drawn to share.

- What are some of the things that were stirred up in your heart during the Examen Prayer?
- How have you seen the Holy Spirit moving in and through you during the weeks since the first listening session?
- The following are some questions that were considered at our first listening session. As you've continued to ponder them, what are some insights you've gained?
  - What do you most treasure about our faith and your membership in the Church?
  - What are your dreams for the Church?
  - What breaks your heart?
  - To what is the Holy Spirit calling us as a church in the 21<sup>st</sup> century?

After a time of silence, allow each person 2-3 minutes to speak. Anyone in the group can begin, and the person on their left is the next person to share. If that person is not ready to share, move on to the next person, but remember to come back around. Continue clockwise around the circle, until each person in the group who wishes to share has had their turn. As a reminder, when others are speaking, everyone else should listen with an open and humble heart.

If there is extra time after everyone has had a chance to share, you can move on to the next round or go around the circle again until the time is finished.

*After 15 minutes have passed:*

***Facilitator:***

If you have not already done so, please move on now to Round 2 Small Group Sharing on page 7 of your Participant Guide recalling the fruit of your encounters with individuals in the periphery. You will have 15 minutes to continue your sharing.

## ROUND 2 SMALL GROUP SHARING

### FRUIT OF ENCOUNTERS IN THE PERIPHERY

*(15 minutes)*

Take a couple of minutes to reflect in silence on these questions. Again, you do not need to share on all the questions, but only those to which the Holy Spirit leads you. Read through all of them first and see where you are drawn to share.

- What is important to share from your encounter in the periphery? Please remember to respect the privacy of the person you encountered – share key takeaways without revealing their identity or private information.
- How did you feel reaching out to listen to someone who feels disconnected to the Church? Did you feel the Spirit moving in the conversation?
- If you have not had an encounter yet, who do you feel God has placed on your heart to encounter? What are your hopes for that conversation?
- Which are the spiritual, social, economic, political, geographical or existential peripheries of our local community that still need to be heard? Whose voices are missing?

After a time of silence, allow each person 2-3 minutes to speak. Anyone in the group can begin, then continue in the same manner as the first round.

Once everyone has had a chance to share, discuss which one or two points could be shared with the larger group from these two rounds.

### LARGE GROUP SHARING

*(15 MINUTES)*

#### ***Facilitator:***

So that we can all benefit from the sharing that has been happening, I invite a representative from each small group to share briefly with the larger group some of what you've heard tonight / today.

*Allow a few moments for each group to share some of what was talked about in their small group. If this is a large assembly, it may be necessary to provide a microphone. If there are so many small groups that it would take more than 15 minutes to share, maybe invite people from different groups to share one word or phrase that stuck with them from the conversation.*

**BREAK**

*(10 MINUTES)*

**TIME FOR DISCERNMENT**

*(30 MINUTES)*

***Facilitator:***

At this point in the session, we are invited to begin discerning what God is inviting us to do in response to what we have heard so far in this synodal process. Discernment is a time-honored practice in the Christian tradition. In essence, discernment is a decision-making process that honors the place of God's will in our lives. It is an interior search that seeks to align our own will with the will of God in order to learn what God is calling us to. For the purposes of this Synod on Synodality, we are seeking to discern where the Holy Spirit is calling the Church in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Pope Francis has spoken often of discernment, most recently in his book *Let Us Dream: The Path to a Better Future* in which he lays out his vision for a synodal Church. To help us in our discernment tonight (today), we are going to hear excerpts from his book and then share in our small groups about some steps we feel the Spirit is prompting us to take in our local faith community.

***Reader 1:***

Pope Francis says:

“Between the first step, which is to come close and allow yourself to be struck by what you see, and the third step, which is to act

concretely to heal and repair, there is an essential intermediate stage: to discern, and to choose...

“For this second step, we need not just openness to reality but a robust set of criteria to guide us: knowing we are loved by God, called to be a people in service and solidarity. We need, too, a healthy capacity for silent reflection, places of refuge from the tyranny of the urgent. Most of all, we need prayer, to hear the prompts of the Spirit and cultivate dialogue in a community that can hold us and allow us to dream. Thus armed, we can read right the signs of the times and opt for a way that does all good...”

***Reader 2:***

“How do we apply these noble but abstract criteria to the large and small choices we make? This calls for the kind of reflection and prayer known as *discernment of spirits*. Discernment means to think through our decisions and actions, not just by rational calculation but by listening for His Spirit, recognizing in prayer God’s motives, invitations and will. There is a principle worth remembering in these times: ideas are debated, but reality is *discerned*.

“This is a difficult thing for those of a more impatient disposition, who believe that to every problem there must be a technical solution, as if it were merely a question of finding the right switch...But discernment is vital if we want to create a better future...”



“Discernment...allows us to navigate changing contexts and specific situations as we seek the truth. Truth reveals itself to the one who opens herself to it... If you don’t open up, you can’t discern...

“The Spirit shows us new things through what the Church calls ‘signs of the times.’ Discerning the signs of the times allows us to make sense of change. In interpreting and praying over events or trends in light of the Gospel, we can detect movements that reflect the values of God’s Kingdom or their opposite.”

***Reader 3:***

“The discernment step allows us to ask: What is the Spirit telling us? ...

Discerning what is and what is not of God, we begin to see where and how to act...How do we distinguish the spirits? They speak different languages; they use different ways to reach our hearts. The voice of God never imposes but proposes, whereas the enemy is strident, insistent, and even monotonous. The voice of God might correct us, but gently, always encouraging, consoling, giving us hope. The bad spirit on the other hand offers us dazzling illusions and tempting sensations, but they are fleeting. It exploits our fears and suspicions, and seduces us with wealth and prestige. If we ignore it, it responds with contempt and accusation, telling us: You’re worthless...

“The voice of God opens your horizons, whereas the enemy pins you against a wall. Where the good spirit gives you hope, the bad

spirit sows suspicion, anxiety, and finger-pointing. The good spirit appeals to my desire to do good, to help and to serve, and gives me strength to go forward on the right path. The bad spirit, conversely, closes me in on myself, and makes me rigid and intolerant. It is the spirit of fear and grievance. It makes me sad, fearful and irritable. Rather than freeing me, it enslaves me. Rather than opening me up to the present and the future, it encloses me in fear and resignation.

“Learning to distinguish these two kinds of ‘voice’ allows us to choose the right path forward, which is not always the most obvious, and to avoid making decisions while trapped in past hurts or in fears of the future that risk immobilizing us.”

***Facilitator:***

Let’s take a moment in silence and allow Pope Francis’ words to soak in.

We do not have to figure everything out tonight (today). As Pope Francis says in Part One of the book we just heard from, “Important things take time.” These two listening sessions are only one part of the synodal journey. But we do not want to leave here without spending *some* time considering how we are called to respond to what we have seen and heard.

So I invite you now to return to sharing in your small groups. The questions for this sharing are on page 10 of the Participant Guide. You have about 20 minutes to share and discern.

## ROUND 3 SMALL GROUP SHARING

### WHAT IS THE SPIRIT CALLING US TO DO?

*(20 minutes)*

Take a couple of minutes to reflect in silence on these questions. Again, you do not need to share about all the questions, but only those to which the Holy Spirit leads you. Read through all of them first and see where you are drawn to share.

- What actions do you feel the Spirit is calling the Church to take – in your personal life, in our community, as a diocese, as a universal Church?
- What concrete, practical steps could be taken to move forward together as Church?
- How are you personally feeling called to put your gifts and talents at the service of these actions? (If you'd like, you may write your contact information on a notecard along with the area of ministry you'd like to be involved and submit that to the moderator at the end of this session.)

After a time of silence, allow each person 2-3 minutes to speak. Anyone in the group can begin, then continue in the same manner as the first round. Remember that participants may also write their comments on note cards if they feel uncomfortable or do not have a chance to share everything in this small group.

Once everyone has had a chance to share, discuss which one or two ideas could be shared with the larger group.

## LARGE GROUP SHARING

*(10 MINUTES)*

*Allow one minute for each group to share briefly one or two ideas that emerged in their small group. If this is a large assembly, it may be necessary to provide a microphone.*

### ***Facilitator:***

To get a taste for the ideas that have emerged, I invite a representative from each small group to share briefly one or two of their ideas with the larger group.

*After the last group has shared:*

## CONCLUSION

Thank you. The Spirit is definitely moving!

Everything that was shared here tonight and written down will be shared with the Diocesan Synod Team. Note takers please bring me your notes before you leave. Remember that you can also use the note cards to turn in additional comments or use the online form on the diocesan synod website. For those who will go out to encounter people in the periphery or who have additional thoughts after leaving here, you can turn in your comments [to a person/in the collection basket, etc.] by [date about two weeks out] for us to send for you to the diocese.

Bishop Medley will hold regional listening sessions coming up soon. The one for our region is scheduled for [date/time/location]. You are all invited and encouraged to attend. We are asked to send at least one or two delegates who have participated in the local listening sessions. If you feel called to serve as a delegate, please let me or the pastor know.

Each local faith community is encouraged to continue this process of discernment and implement some of the concrete steps to help us journey together. Bishop Medley and the Diocesan Synod Team will also be compiling all of the comments from the listening sessions, encounters in the peripheries and online submissions. This will serve Bishop Medley in preparing his report to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops for the next phase of listening on the continental level and then on the universal level

culminating in the Synod of Bishops in Rome in October 2023. Thank you for your participation in this very important process in our Church. You have responded to Pope Francis' call to participate and your voice has been heard.

## CLOSING PRAYER

At this time, I ask anyone who had an encounter in the periphery to please bring forward the form they filled out after the conversation which includes any specific petitions that they asked us to pray for. Please place them in the basket.

*Allow a moment for this to happen.*

Let us close this session in prayer, asking for the Holy Spirit to continue to be with us as we go forth. You'll find the closing prayer on page 11 of your Participant Guide.

**Leader:** As we await with longing the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, let us seek his mercy and pray for all those in need:

**Reader:** For the Church, gathered in Synod: that by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit this journey will be marked by humble listening, courageous speech, and lively hope. Let us pray to the Lord.

All: R.\ Lord, hear our prayer.

**For ourselves, gathered here and for the People of God in the Diocese of Owensboro: That this Synodal Process may lead us ever deeper into the communion of the Church, foster our participation in it, and equip us to go out on mission. Let us pray to the Lord: R.\**

All: R.\ Lord, hear our prayer.

**For all civil and public authorities: That they may always seek the common good, acting with justice and integrity. Let us pray to the Lord:**

All: R.\ Lord, hear our prayer.

**For the sick, the lonely, the oppressed, and the suffering, especially in this time of pandemic: That they may never be discarded, but rather treasured and cared for as the face of Christ in a suffering world. Let us pray to the Lord:**

All: R.\ Lord, hear our prayer.

**For those we have encountered on the periphery of the Church and for their specific intentions. Let us pray to the Lord:**

All: R.\ Lord, hear our prayer.

*Include any other timely or relevant petitions at this point.*

***Leader:* Come Holy Spirit, we ask you, that by your inspiration, may all of our prayer and actions always begin from you and inspire others to know you more deeply. We ask this through Christ our Lord.**

All: Amen.

### **CONCLUDING RITE**

*While making the sign of the cross:*

***Leader:* May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.**

All: Amen.

***Leader:* Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord. [OR Go in peace.]**

All: Thanks be to God.

*Dear Facilitator:*

*Please collect the **Note Taker Forms** and **note cards** from each small group and submit them along with a copy of the **sign-in sheet** to the Diocese of Owensboro by one of these means:*

- *Take a picture of each and email to [synod@pastoral.org](mailto:synod@pastoral.org)*
- *Submit information via the online portal at <https://owensborodiocese.org/synod>*
- *Submit by mail to:*

Synod on Synodality  
McRaith Catholic Center  
600 Locust Street  
Owensboro, KY 42301

