

# Conference of Catholic Bishops of India

Diocesan Consultation for the Second Session of the Synod in 2024

## WORKSHEET

[To be filled in by the Diocesan Contact Person, endorsed by the Local Ordinary and mailed as a PDF file to [synodindia@gmail.com](mailto:synodindia@gmail.com), latest by **25 March 2024**]

<b>Diocese</b>	
<b>Local Ordinary</b>	
<b>No. of Persons Consulted</b>	
<b>Diocesan Contact Person</b>	

1. Steps taken in your Diocese (a) to convey the experience of the October 2023 Assembly; (b) to work on the Synthesis Report, and (c) to disseminate the Synod's Letter to the People of God.
2. What can we do locally at parish, diocesan, national and continental levels to continue learning synodality? [Choose 3 priorities – one from each part – from the 20 Chapters of the Synthesis Report; and Choose 3 concrete initiatives to implement from the various proposals in the Synthesis Report that can be applied immediately at the local level].
3. What proposals can be made to concretely experiment with the synodal method of Conversation in the Spirit in the various meetings and assemblies (in parishes, movements, communities, dioceses, etc.), and participatory bodies?
4. How can we involve all the baptised more closely in the synodal process, and how to listen more to those on the peripheries? [e.g., the poor (4 and 16), migrants (5 and 6), young people and women (6), priests (11)].
5. From among the 'Matters for Consideration', choose 1 or 2 topics to be explored in relation to local issues and have them drawn up by a commission of theologians, canonists and pastoral leaders.
6. Identify and share 2 or 3 local resources and initiatives or good practices of synodality in your Diocese.
7. How can we deepen the definition and understanding of synodality in our cultural context? [Use Chapter 1 as the starting point; propose images of synodality that can make sense in the local culture].
8. How can we implement and deepen the spiritual dimension of synodality at the local level (cf. 3 k., l., m.)? [proposals for spiritual exercises related to the theme of synodality; approaches to synodality in places of popular piety].

9. Reread the way synodality is concretely lived (especially the dimension of participation and authority) in the participatory bodies such as Parish Pastoral Councils, Diocesan Pastoral Councils, Bishops' Councils.

10. Propose to formation centres and theological faculties concrete initiatives for formation in synodality for the lay faithful, priests and religious.

### **The Highlights of the Synthesis Report**

The '41-page Synthesis', which was voted at the First Session of the General Assembly, is divided into three parts, which correspond to the three tags of the Synod: 'Communion, Mission, Participation.'

Part One (Chapters 1-7), titled 'The Face of the Synodal Church,' defines the identity of the synodal church. Being part of the synodal church is an experience and to understand it one must live it. It has its communion in the Trinity and is being sent towards the poor, all the people, Eastern Churches and other Christians.

In Part Two (Chapters 8-13), 'All Disciples, All Missionaries,' all the baptised are called disciples and missionaries. This section underscores the mission of all the faithful, deacons, priests, women, bishops of the Local Churches and the Bishop of Rome.

Part Three (Chapters 14-20), 'Weaving Bonds, Building Communities,' focuses on the joint formation of all the people of God, mission in digital environment, strengthening the structures of participation.

Each Chapter is divided into three sections, viz., (a) Convergences (areas of thought and practice that are agreed upon by all); (b) Matters for Consideration (areas that need further clarification and understanding), and (c) Proposals (the prospective points for implementation at the Local Churches, Episcopal Conferences, Intercontinental Assemblies and the Universal Church). The Matters for Consideration and the Proposals open space for further discussion and discernment.

The expressions that draw our attention are: 'synodal culture,' 'formation for synodality,' 'joint formation of the clergy, the religious and the lay faithful,' 'conversation in the spirit at all levels,' 'pastoral structures to be re-organised,' 'canonical and theological revisit to the structures,' 'missionary dynamism,' 'charismatic sign,' 'women as partners in mission,' 'regular audit of priests and deacons,' 'review of the selection of the candidates for the episcopate,' 'reviewing the performance of the bishops,' 'grouping of churches' and 'evangelical solidarity.'

The only word that revolves around synodality is mission: mission as evangelisation of the joy of the gospel.