

Synod Facilitator's Quick Guide

I. Session Structure

- a. Opening Prayer (*Adsumus, Sancte Spiritus* - <https://dioceseofnashville.com/synod/pray-rezar/>)
- b. Optional Scripture Reading and Reflection
 - i. Ex: Acts 2:1-4
 - ii. Ex: Matthew 28:18-20
 - iii. Ex: Acts 19:2-6
 - iv. Ex: John 14:16-20
- c. Listening Session: Questions and Consultation
 - i. Question choices
 1. Adult questions: [Synod-questions-revised.pdf \(dioceseofnashville.com\)](#)
 2. Young-adult questions: [Synod-questions-revised-for-Youth-and-Young-Adults.pdf \(dioceseofnashville.com\)](#)
 3. Religious education questions (K-8): [22_NCEA-Synod-Supplemental-Guide_v3.pdf \(dioceseofnashville.com\)](#)
 - ii. Question modifications
 1. For adult and young-adult questions: feel free to make questions more broad, as appropriate to the group, but please maintain the themes of communion, participation, and mission.
 2. For religious education questions: please use the essential/fundamental questions. If optional questions are added, we suggest using 1, 4, and 6, since they most closely align to the themes addressed in the adult and young-adult questions.

The wording of these questions necessarily needs to be modified to the age group (ex: how does Church make you feel, do you like going to Church, etc.). Pictorial responses are also an option with children.

- d. Closing prayer



II. Practice points

- a. Listening skills, please refer to the Facilitator's guide - https://www.synod.va/content/dam/synod/document/common/resources/external_tools/Process-for-Facilitating-Synodal-Consultations.pdf
- b. Group Formation
 - i. Small groups (5-10) are recommended to allow for all participants to be heard.
 - ii. It may be helpful to form groups based on the personality of the participants to allow all voices to be heard.
 - iii. Providing questions to participants in advance may be helpful for those who benefit from longer time to process their responses.
 - iv. Utilizing already existing groups and ministries in the parish may create more participation, as well as allow for others to facilitate the listening sessions (i.e. Knights of Columbus, youth programs, etc.).
- c. Timing and listening session notes
 - i. For recording the participants' responses, feel free to use whatever note-taking format that is most comfortable. Bullet pointing participants' responses is encouraged.
 - ii. Some groups may want to concentrate on certain questions more than others; please allow for this. It is perfectly fine if not all questions are addressed in the time set by the facilitator.

III. Reporting

- a. Send the notes from your listening sessions to Erin Stracener and Brad Peper either in an electronic version at synod@dioceseofnashville.com or in a written version to Diocese of Nashville, 2800 McGavock Pike, Nashville, TN 37214.
- b. Submissions are needed by April 29th.