

# **Walking the Path of Synodality in the Footsteps of Pope Francis**



**Integration Session – Tuesday, January 13, 2026**

# Welcome & Introductions



# Overview of this Integration Session



Welcome & Introductions

Opening Prayer

Review of Synod Curriculum

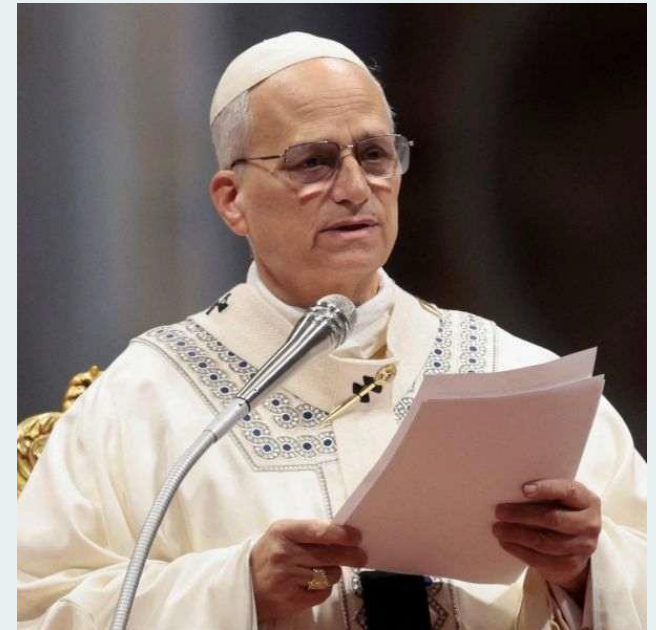
Small Group Sessions

Large Group & Q&A

# Opening Prayer

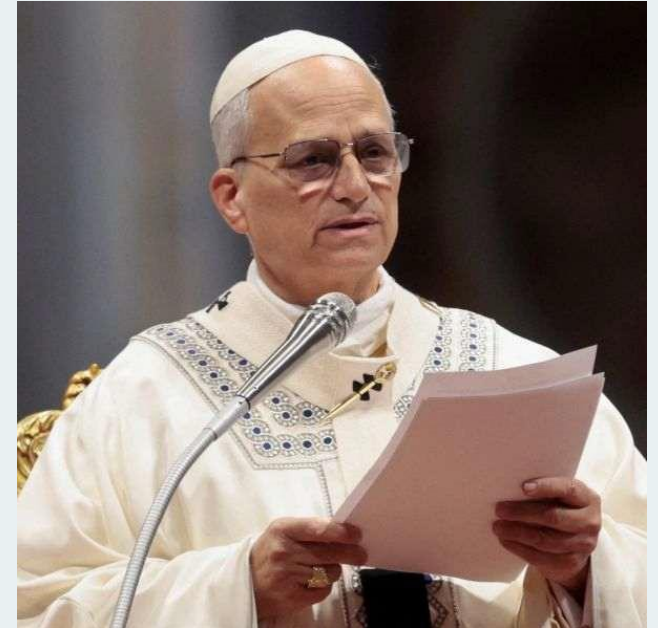


The very word “together” expresses the call to communion in the Church. Pope Francis reminded us ... “Christians are called to walk at the side of others, and never as lone travelers. ... Journeying together means consolidating the unity grounded in our common dignity as children of God.”





Let us commit ourselves to building a Church that is entirely synodal, ministerial and attracted to Christ and therefore committed to serving the world.



A stylized orange sun with long, flowing rays. Below the sun is a group of diverse people in various colors (green, blue, purple, yellow, red) walking together. One person is in a wheelchair, and another is using a cane. The entire graphic is set against a white background with orange brushstroke-like borders on the left and right sides.

# Quiet Reflection

For a synodal Church  
communion | participation | mission



# Bind us Together

Song by The Porter's Gate

(featuring Leslie Jordan & Sandra McCracken)



# Course Overview



For a synodal Church  
communion | participation | mission

1

Introduction to Synodality

2

Active Listening for Synodal Leadership

3

Communal Discernment & Participatory Decision-Making

4

Paths to **Transformation**: Overcoming Biases and Assumptions

5

A Framework for Leading Change: **Adaptive Leadership**

6

Building Bridges in the Church

# Resources Available for Facilitators

Facilitator's Guide

Participant Handouts

Slide Decks (tailored for religious  
life/mission settings)

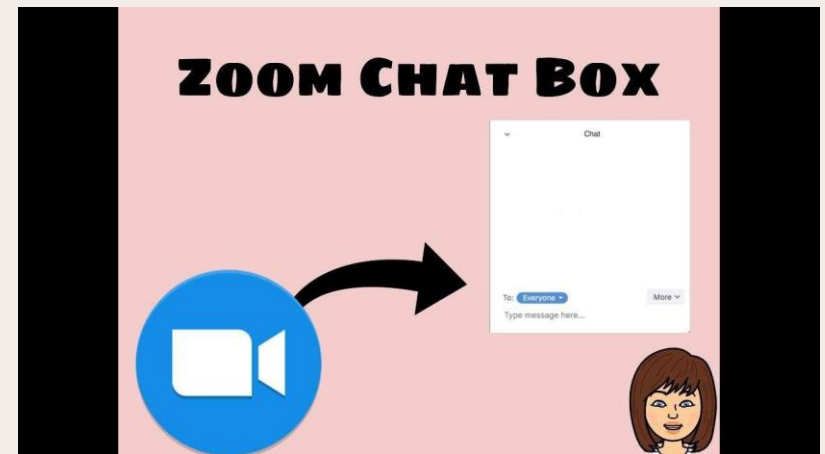
**“Out of the box” design**



# How did you use the curriculum?

**Audience:** parish, religious community, school, ministry, formation class, etc...

**Format:** in person, online, hybrid, retreat, etc...



# Integrating Spiritual Conversation

As you have used the synodal leadership curriculum:

- How did you experience the Holy Spirit present and active?
- What gifts and challenges of the synodal path are becoming clearer?

Synodal Leadership  
Formation Course:  
Facilitator  
Guide  
and Session  
Content





## A Spiritual Conversation



Meaningful conversation rooted in active listening

Relaxed grip on certainty; attention to possibilities

Paying attention to deep meaning

Inviting the Holy Spirit to lead  
Transformative conversation

Be brief... share what matters most

Each person shares once before anyone speaks a second time

Share the time so everyone can speak

Speak slowly and intentionally

Allow pauses; silence is okay

Look at the person speaking

Listen without preparing a response

Seek to build on other people's contributions and not debate

There is no need to convince anyone of anything – only to deepen our understanding

## How did/will you use the curriculum?

- In my parish
- In a retreat format (whole curriculum)
- With high school students who can then share it in their parishes
- With sisters/associates/lay colleagues
- In initial formation to religious life
- Introduction to synodality skills
- Pre-Chapter preparation
- Informal groups
- A “futuring” project
- As a religious community
- Means of facilitating groups

# What might be helpful for the whole group to hear?

- Skills like deep listening and spiritual conversation are widely transferable.
- “Train the trainer” means the materials can potentially keep rippling outward, reaching more and more people.
- Might be useful in a summer leadership program
- One challenge could be if the local pastor or bishop is not been supportive of synodality.
- The curriculum provides agency with solid materials that can be put to use in many settings/groups.



# What might be helpful for the whole group to hear?

- Even if not an experienced facilitator, the materials lend themselves to easy, confident sharing as the people of God.
- With the experience of not being judged by what is synodally shared, I have noticed more comfortable voluntary sharing in informal settings.
- What a profound impact deep listening can have!
- I am noticing that people who have focused on and develop synodal skills use them more frequently and fluidly in all areas of their lives.

# What might be helpful for the whole group to hear?

- It is always wise to consider who are we not hearing from? Is anyone not included? For example, when is the event taking place? How is it being offered? Are younger adults working? Is a lack of technological skills inhibiting participation among certain people?

Any questions, comments, or clarifications can be submitted to [mstachowiak@lcwr.org](mailto:mstachowiak@lcwr.org) and [nlevchenko@relforcon.org](mailto:nlevchenko@relforcon.org) .