

SCRIPT FOR PASTORS AND PARISH COORDINATORS

Synod Sessions — FALL 2023



Diocese of San Diego

SYNOD | SÍNODO
2021- 2024



Building Eucharistic Communities

PARISH DIALOGUE SESSION
SCRIPT FOR PASTORS AND PARISH
COORDINATORS

SDCATHOLIC.ORG/SYNOD

A. Pastor Welcomes Parishioners (approx. 5 min.)

Opening Remarks Example (to provide context):

We gather today as a continuation of our diocesan synodal journey. The “synod on synodality” is Pope Francis’ invitation to participate in a worldwide consultation with the faithful to discern how the Church journeys with its people, listens to their concerns and promotes their participation in the full life of the Church. This synod began in October 2021, and it will conclude in October 2024 in Rome. This month and again in October 2024 there will be a gathering of bishops, other clergy, consecrated religious, and laity in Rome as part of the synodal process. Cardinal McElroy, the Bishop of San Diego, is one of the participants in the universal gathering in Rome this October as well as in October 2024.

In the Spring of 2022, our diocese held a diocesan-wide series of small group dialogues reflecting on the joys, sorrows, and hopes that we have personally encountered in our Church. More than 11,000 people participated in these small group dialogues in 2022. This Fall (2023) diocesan-wide series of small group dialogues will reflect on the Eucharist centered on both the meaningful and challenging experiences with the Eucharist as well as reflecting on how we can be the living presence of Jesus in our parish and community. This synodal process is centered on the Eucharist because our Catholic Church in the United States is in the midst of a Eucharistic revival which is contemplating the “transforming power and mercy of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist.”

Our journey continues today for us as we hold this parish session and provide an opportunity to listen to one another. The insights that surface from this consultation will be used to renew our parishes, schools and the diocese itself by strengthening a culture that listens to its faithful, makes them co-responsible for the life of the Church and reflects their wisdom.

The Church is a “field hospital,” as Pope Francis tells, encountering people along our journey, some with lots of disappointments, even wounds, while others with joyful experiences and hopes for the future.

Therefore, as we prepare for this pivotal moment, let us place ourselves before the presence of Christ...**Pastor leads with brief prayer.**

B. Pastor Introduces Synod Coordinator

Pastor introduces Synod Coordinator, his or her role in the planning of the parish process.

C. Synod Coordinator

Prefaces the welcome video from Cardinal Robert McElroy (or Bishops Bejarano or Pham) and the diocesan synod coordinators to all participants explaining why the Church and our Cardinal has called us here today and how the process will work. There are two videos: (1) Cardinal McElroy Video, and (2) Demonstration of Circle Video

D. Play Both Videos

All synod videos are available to download at: www.sdcatholic.org/communicationresources

E. Prayer (dedication) in Large Group

After the videos finish, cantors/musician lead the congregation in chanting the Taizé hymn...

“Veni Sancte Spiritus”.

F. Synod Coordinator Provides Instructions

Synod Coordinator provides instructions and guides participants to move into their small group circles.

MENTION:

- **60-75 minutes have been allotted for the small group sessions.**
- **There will be one facilitator and one note-taker in each group.**
- **Please follow the prompts from your facilitator as you move into your small group circles.**
- **All that is shared in your small groups is confidential. No recording is permitted.**
- **As we have heard, we are here to listen to each other’s experiences in the Church. We are not here to debate or judge one another, rather to listen from the heart.**

G. Small Group Sessions Take Place (approx. 60-75 min.)

(During this time, synod coordinator may walk the room to see if any assistance is needed. You are also responsible for keeping overall time).

Once small group circles come to a close, transition to large group.

H. Large Group Closing (approx. 15 min.)

Coordinator will thank everyone for participating and announce next steps. Coordinator should mention the following:

- All information gathered will be compiled into a parish report that will be submitted to the diocese. Again, all information gathered will remain anonymous.
- The diocese will receive all the reports from the parish and issue a diocesan report in 2024.
- Now we welcome back our Pastor, who will lead us in a closing prayer.

I. Pastor's Final Remarks and Blessing

Pastor thanks synod coordinator, facilitators, note-takers and all participants. Pastor leads closing prayer, possibly "Our Father," followed by dismissal.

J. Synod Coordinator Meets with Facilitators and Note Takes

Instruct facilitators and note-takers to remain for a debrief session after the group circles. Review with them the highlights from their experience and remind them to submit the data sheets for each circle within 48 hours.

Communication Resources Page

Visit the communication resources page: www.sdcatholic.org/communicationresources

for a supplemental guide on how to navigate difficult situations that may arise within the small circle.

****Parish coordinators need to submit ALL data sheets along with the cover sheet to the Diocesan Synod team (synod@sdccatholic.org) by November 22, 2023.****