


A large, stylized graphic in the background features a sun on the left and a tree with thick, textured branches extending across the top and right. The sun and tree are rendered in a light orange or tan color. The text is overlaid on this graphic.

For a Synodal Church:

Communion, Participation, & Mission

A row of colorful silhouettes representing a diverse group of people, including a person in a wheelchair, a person with a cane, and a child, walking towards the right.

Diocesan Synodal Network
19 May 2022

Opening Prayer

“The synod is a process of spiritual **discernment**, of ecclesial discernment, that unfolds in adoration, in **prayer** and in **dialogue** with the word of God.”

Pope Francis

Homily from Opening of the Synodal Path
10 October 2021



Adsumus Sancte Spiritus

We stand before You, Holy Spirit,
as we gather together in Your name.

With You alone to guide us,
make Yourself at home in our hearts;
Teach us the way we must go
and how we are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful;
do not let us promote disorder.
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path
nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity
so that we may journey together to eternal life
and not stray from the way of truth
and what is right.

All this we ask of You,
who are at work in every place and time,
in the communion of the Father and the Son,
forever and ever. Amen.

Agenda

- **First Reflection**
- Small Groups
- Large Group Sharing
- **Second Reflection**
- Large Group Q & A
- Closing

John 17:24

***Father, they are your gift to me.
I wish that where I am they also may
be with me, that they may see my glory
that you gave me, because you loved
me before the foundation of the world.***

Reflection Questions

- ❖ *What are your hopes for the Diocesan Synthesis?*
- ❖ *What most worries you about preparing the Synthesis?*
- ❖ *How will you prepare in advance to integrate prayer into this labor?*

2 Corinthians 8:9

For you know the gracious act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that for your sake he became poor although he was rich, so that by his poverty you might become rich.

Silence



"Savior"

Henry Ossawa Tanner
ca. 1900-1905.

Photo of painting from Vanderbilt University Library.

Q & A

- ❖ Please put your name in the chat
- OR
- ❖ Please put a question in the chat

Important Information & Dates

- **“Region XVI” Registration:** www.usccb.org/synod *Deadline to register is Tuesday, May 31st.*
- **Individual Contributions:** www.usccb.org/synod
- **Regional Synthesis Writing Teams** are being formed now. If you are interested in volunteering, please speak with your bishop, who can notify the regional rep of your interest.
- **Tuesday, June 21st:** Beyond the Consultation Phase. If your diocese has plans for synodality beyond the synthesis, please reach out to the Synod Team.
- **Thursday, June 30th:** Diocesan Syntheses Due. Links to the forms have been sent out.