



Synod Resource for Children

Have your parents ever asked: *How are you doing?* They want to know what you are feeling. They love you and want to know about the good things in your life. They also want to learn how they can help you.

Pope Francis is the head of the Catholic Church. He lives in Rome. He is the leader for every Catholic around the entire world! He also wants to know how we are doing. Since the Pope cannot email, text or call each of us, he has asked us to join with others in our parish to talk about our lives together. This discussion is called a Synod (sin-ed).

So, your pastor may be talking with your parents to find out how we can love Jesus better. The Pope wants all of us to tell others about Jesus. He wants us to be the best Church that we can be. We will pray to the Holy Spirit to help us take care of all the people of the world.

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Synod Resource for Young People

Have your parents or a friend ever asked: *How are you doing?* They want to know what you are feeling, if you are OK, and how they might help you.

Pope Francis, the head of the Catholic Church around the world, also wants to know how we (the Church) are doing; that is, how we are showing others that we are followers of Jesus Christ. Since the Pope cannot email, text or call each of us, he has asked us to join with others in our parish to discuss our lives as Catholic Christians. This discussion is called a Synod (sin-ed).

Just as you work in groups at school, your parents, and perhaps even YOU, will also work in parish groups sharing thoughts about how you are becoming a disciple of Christ and sharing the Gospel with others. Parishes will summarize their ideas, share them with our bishop who will then share them with a group known as the United States Conference of Bishops. Selected

U. S. bishops will then travel to Rome to share the thoughts and ideas of American Catholics with bishops from all around the world. This “listening” process will take two to three years to complete.

Three themes—communion, participation, and mission—will be the focus of all discussions. In other words, (1) how might we strengthen our *communion* with fellow Catholics in our city and around the world; (2) how are we *participants* in sharing our faith (how involved are we within and beyond our parish); and (3) what more can we do to further the *mission* of the Church (to make others aware of God’s saving grace in order to join him in his everlasting kingdom).

As always, we continue to pray to the Holy Spirit for a successful and heartfelt Synod that will renew our faith in God and the life of our Roman Catholic Church.

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