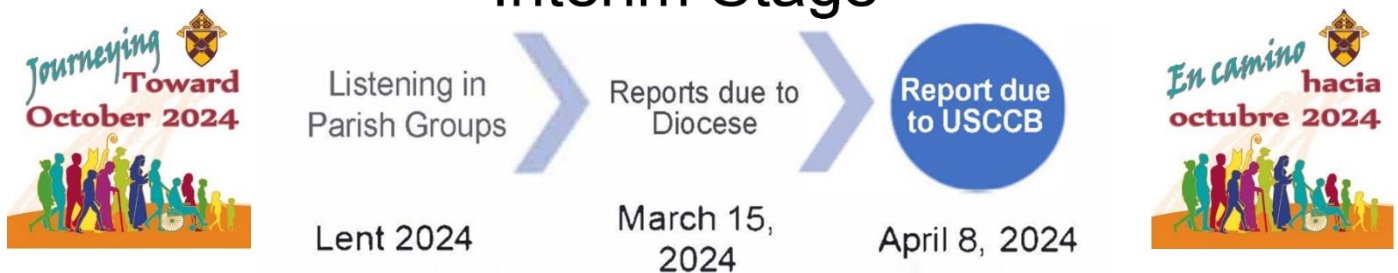


DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

SYNOD INTERIM STAGE 2024 GUIDELINES



Interim Stage



OBJECTIVE

“The objective of these new reflections is to identify the paths we can follow and the tools we might adopt in our different contexts and circumstances in order to enhance the unique contribution of each baptized person and each Church in the one mission of proclaiming the Risen Lord and His Gospel to [our Diocese] today.” (Taken from the General Secretariat document ***Towards October 2024 pg. 2 #1***)

GUIDELINES

PREPARE DIOCESE TO ENTER NEW STAGE AND ONGOING PRAYER (Beginning February)

- Invite all to enter into prayer for a deeper understanding of synods in the history of the Church, the present Synod now taking place and how these synods have strengthened the faith of God’s people. (*Without prayer there will be no Synod. ~Pope Francis*)
 - To share prayers resources via the Synod Diocesan Webpage (www.dor.org/synod-2024), social media, Diocesan Updates, etc
 - Prayer resources that connect with the Eucharistic Revival
 - Mass Intercessory Prayers for parishes use
 - Prayer and scriptural bulletin/social media posting
- Provide educational resources to understand *Synodality*. Sample themed conversation sessions are available on the DOR webpage to guide parishes in synodal style listening.

DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER SYNODAL PROCESS

- Reengagement of groups for listening, deeper understanding and synodal reflection. ***Due to DOR: Mar 15th***
Understanding the Mission of the Synod and with the Synthesis Report these two questions are proposed:
 1. **Personal and parish/community engagement**: How can we encourage and enhance stronger relationships between the Church’s structure(s)/organization/leadership/life and each baptized person that moves us towards greater unity as one Body of Christ in proclaiming the Risen Lord and His Gospel for our Diocese today?
 2. **Engaging with the Diocesan Church**: How can the structures and organization of the Church help all the baptized to respond to the call to proclaim the Gospel and to live as a community of truth, love and mercy in Christ?

- Reconvene the **Facilitation Subcommittee** to engage its constituency for two listening sessions (revisiting those engaged in the first phase) using the provided Diocesan guideline resources.
 - The focus of these gatherings is to know if participation in the first phase has given fruit in the life of the community. An online form will be available to share the responses that will be compiled for the DOR report.
- **Parishes** may engage in listening conversations on the two DOR synodal questions, not to repeat the first phase but to further develop how the Synod process strengthens parish life and the faith community.
 - Also keeping in mind... are people in the peripheries of the community engaging in parish life (Sacraments, Mass participation, Family Formation, social ministry/responsibility)? If so, how? If not, what can we as a community do differently?
 - Parishes will be encouraged to use these sessions for their own enrichment and practice using a synodal style conversation. An online form will be available for parishes who wish to share the outcomes of the parish conversations.
 - If a parish/community holds several gatherings and would like to share the outcome with the DOR, all the responses need to be synthesized into one report that will be then shared to the DOR via the online form.
- **OPTIONAL:** Each Diocese is welcomed to submit to the USCCB a 2-page testimony of best practices of synodality throughout the Diocese. (These experiences will be collected by the Synod team to compile and send.)
- Submit Diocesan 3-5-page report to the USCCB before April 8th.

Contact information for the Diocesan Co-Leaders:

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Diocesan Synod Webpage: www.dor.org/synod-2024