

The synod that has just begun is an exercise in reflection that concerns everyone. Indeed, Pope Francis is asking us to look at our environment to see how we are able to walk together. This process will be divided into three phases: diocesan, continental and universal. The first phase concerns us directly as we are all encouraged to contribute. Small group meetings will be organized in the communities and you will be invited to share your observations through questions that will be published in the parish leaflets as well as on the website and the Facebook page of the diocese. Ten thematic clusters are proposed to address the different facets of synodality and one of them will be developed each week. The themes and questions will be presented in the parish bulletin, but you can find more information on our online platforms.

The official Vatican document is available at

<https://www.synod.va/en/documents/english-version-of-the-preparatory-document.html>

## **Theme 1: Our fellow travelers**

*In the Church and in society, we are on the same road, side by side.*

- ∞ Who is part of our Church?
- ∞ With whom do we walk?
- ∞ Have we left people behind along the way?
- ∞ With whom are we partners?
- ∞ With whom are we in solidarity?
- ∞ How are we called to grow as companions?



If you are interested in these questions, please send your answers by email to [synode@diocesevalleyfield.org](mailto:synode@diocesevalleyfield.org) or give them to a responsible person in your parish who can forward them to me.

Thank you for your participation!

Mélanie Pilon, responsible for the synod for the diocese of Valleyfield

## Week 2: Listening – November 7, 2021

### Theme 2: Listening

*Listening is the first step, but it requires an open mind and heart, without prejudice.*

- ∞ Do we have an open mind and heart?
- ∞ What kind of listening do we offer to young people, to women, to people who are different?
- ∞ What hinders us from listening?
- ∞ How do we integrate the contribution of consecrated men and women?
- ∞ What room do we make for the voices of minorities, especially those who experience poverty, marginalization or social exclusion?



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## Week 3: Speaking Out - November 14, 2021

### 3rd theme: Speaking out

*Everyone is invited to express themselves with courage and compassion, that is, freely, in truth and charity.*

- ∞ What promotes or hinders courageous, frank and responsible speech in our local Church and in society?
- ∞ When and how do we manage to say what we think is important?
- ∞ What relationships do we have with the local media (not just the Catholic press)?
- ∞ Do we speak out in our communities?
- ∞ Who speaks for the Christian community? And how do we choose them?



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