



Synod Preparatory Commission: Discerning the Consultation Questions

Encourage Experiential Framing: Shape the question to draw out personal experiences rather than theoretical debates.

Different Approaches

- I. Focus your Scope: Identify a particular area of focus and tailor one question to it:
 - Parish renewal
 - Discipleship
 - Missionary
 - Future-oriented

- II. Time/Perspective approach-using three questions that build upon each other.
 - The Past (Remembering): *"What concrete experiences of journeying together in our diocese have brought you the most joy or energy?"*
 - The Present (Reflecting): *"What difficulties, obstacles, or wounds have these same experiences revealed?"*
 - The Future (Discerning): *"Where is the Holy Spirit prompting our diocese to change, grow, or take new steps moving forward?"*

- III. Using the Vatican's Synodal framework

Universal Vatican Theme	Diocesan Adaptation Focus	Sample Diocesan Question
Companions on the Journey	Inclusion and marginalization	"Who is missing from our diocesan table, and how can our ministries actively reach out to them?"
Listening	Communication and trust	"When you try to voice your joys or concerns to diocesan leadership, do you feel heard? Why or why not?"
Co-responsible in Mission	Lay leadership and collaboration	"How can the diocese better equip and support lay Catholics to lead ministries and share the Gospel?"
Discerning and Deciding	Transparency and governance	"How can our diocesan decision-making processes become more transparent and inclusive of diverse voices?"



IV. Open discernment

- “Where do you see signs of hope and vitality in our diocese today?”
- “What is the Holy Spirit inviting us to do so that more people encounter Jesus Christ and become missionary disciples?”