

SUMMARY: “PATHWAYS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SYNOD”

“A SYNODAL WAY of Proclaiming Christ and God’s Kingdom Today”

Background about the implementation phase of the Synod on Synodality
in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon – November 2025

In communion with the Holy Father Pope Leo XIV and the universal Catholic Church, Bishop Mark Hagemoen is officially launching the implementation phase of our diocese’s synodal journey on Sunday, Nov. 9, 2025. The guiding document for this phase of the Synod on Synodality is the [*Final Document from the Second Session of the 16th Assembly*](#) (“For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission” - FD) along with the supporting document, [*Pathways for the Implementation Phase of the Synod*](#).

Synodality is **NOT a program or method**, but rather **a way of being Church** ‘*modus vivendi et operandi*’ (FD #30) and part of “...her proper identity” (FD#31), and therefore it **calls us all to conversion** because it entails a change of mindset and a way of being Church together (FD #33)

In deepening synodality in the life of our diocese, our parishes, and among all the baptized, our diocesan pathway will include:

- Continuing to reflect upon – and practice – the Conversations in the Spirit from the synodal listening sessions held throughout our diocese and the whole world during the Synod on Synodality 2021-2024.
- Proceeding with the ongoing implementation of our Diocesan Pastoral Plan to “Proclaim Christ and God’s Kingdom Today” by intentionally focusing on our priorities and goals through the lens and practice of synodality.
- Finding renewed ways to come together to pray, discern, listen to the Holy Spirit and listen to one another as we seek some practical ways to make the existing programs and structures more synodal in practice and in approach.

“The synodal form of the Church is at the service of its mission, and any change in the life of the Church is intended to make it more capable of proclaiming the Kingdom of God and witnessing to the Gospel of the Lord to the men and women of our time.” – Cardinal Mario Grech, [*Pathways for the Implementation Phase of the Synod*](#).

The supporting resource [*Pathways for the Implementation Phase of the Synod*](#) provides a framework for our diocese to reflect on and implement pastoral strategies, that emphasize: exploring the Gospel, ways of sharing our faith, and creating more synodal practices. This would include: exploring decision-making and governance structures that focus on the church's mission; broader sharing of ideas and experiences that emphasize evangelization and mission; pursuing formation in listening and accompaniment; and developing strategies at the parish level that include synodality and listening that enhance and create “communion, participation, and mission.” The process is also supported by a timeline (including an evaluation process) with a view to a larger ecclesial assembly in October 2028.

Key implementation pathways:

- **Discerning ways of Ministry and Service:**
We commit to exploring and developing ways of discernment that contribute to good decision-making, include listening to each other, and working together in parishes and dioceses, grounded in the Word of God and attentive to the Holy Spirit. This includes exploring and developing forms of service and ministry that respond to pastoral needs.
- **The Focus on Mission:**
We will strive to ensure that structural changes help the Church better serve the local context and the world in sharing the Gospel message of hope.
- **Sharing Ideas:**
Parishes will be encouraged to engage with and learn from each other's challenges and accomplishments through the exchange of ideas, resources, and *charisms* (gifts of the Holy Spirit).
- **Impacting and Renewing Personal and Communal Life:**
The goal is to undertake concrete developments and changes that affect people's everyday lives in the parish, rather than only writing theoretical plans. This involves the renewal of parishes in a synodal way, grounded in listening, belonging, and a missionary spirit.

Support and accountability

- **Participatory Bodies:**
Ensuring that the diocesan and parish leadership and ministry bodies are reflecting on their own operating methods, and that these are renewed in a synodal way.
- **Bishop's Role:**
The diocesan bishop is entrusted with the ecclesial leadership responsibility for initiating, guiding, and concluding the implementation phase within the diocese.
- **Related Formation and Skills:**
Forming people in listening, discernment, and facilitation skills to support ongoing listening and conversation.
- **Widely Participatory:**
Engage with a wide range of people, including those on the margins and those who may not have been fully involved.
- **Evaluation:**
The process is structured to include 'evaluation assemblies' at the diocesan level in the first half of 2027, and at the continental level in the first half of 2028.

Timeline for implementation

- **November 2025 - January 2027:** Local parishes and larger ecclesial organizations reflect on and develop implementation paths.
- **First half of 2027:** Diocesan evaluation period.
- **First half of 2028:** Assemblies are held on a 'continental' (regional) level.
- **June 2028:** A working document is published.
- **October 2028:** The Ecclesial Assembly is held to mark the culmination of the synodal process.

NOTE: Materials and updates related to the diocese's implementation phase will be available at:
<https://rcdos.ca/synod>.