

ADMIN DAY · SEPTEMBER 17, 2026 · MORNING SESSION

Synod Implementation in the Diocese of Saskatoon

The Parish Reflection Tool and Two Stories of Walking Together

Session Roadmap

1	The Why <i>A brief history of synod and the Diocese, and why we are here</i>	Overview	10 min
2	Training — The Tool Walkthrough <i>What the Parish Reflection Tool is and how it works</i>	Walkthrough	10 min
3	What You Can Expect <i>Your dashboard and the Planning Framework that follows</i>	Overview	2 min
4	The Playbook <i>Walking together in mission</i>	Overview	3 min
5	Two Communities <i>Synodality already at work in our parishes</i>	Listening	20 min
6	Group Discussion and Feedback & Timeline <i>Feedback on the tool and implementation timeline</i>	Discussion	15 min

The Why

A brief history of synod and this Diocese and why we're gathered together this morning.

Three tools carry this work forward:

1

The Diocesan Pastoral Plan

Six pillars every parish reflects against

2

The Parish Reflection Tool

Your listening instrument — a six-pillar benchmark

3

The Planning Framework

Your discernment-to-action process, step by step

Grounding Synodal Themes

1

Communion

We all have a role to play in discerning and living out God's call for his people.

2

Participation

A call for the involvement of all who belong to the People of God – laity, consecrated and ordained – to engage in the exercise of deep and respectful listening to one another.

3

Mission

The Church exists to evangelize. We can never be centred on ourselves. Our mission is to witness the love of God in the midst of the whole human family.

The Parish Reflection Tool

Purpose - Collect feedback and reflection from parishioners to help council to make informed decisions for their parish.

A reflection tool — not an assessment or a report card. This is discernment, not a score.

36 questions are framed around the Diocesan Pastoral Plan's Six Pillars. (10-15 minutes)

- Online-only; names are visible to your coordinator, emails and comments stay private.

THE PARISH REFLECTION TOOL – COMING SOON

SEGMENT 2

Tool Reflection — How it Works

- 1 Open the link on your phone, tablet, or laptop
- 2 Enter your name and your parish — your email stays private
- 3 Answer all 36 questions — go with your first instinct
- 4 When your council has finished, your reflections appear on your parish dashboard

What you're rating against — the six pillars of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan

1

Draw people into a deepening intimacy with the Lord

2

Make every Sunday matter

3

Embrace your priesthood

4

Build and support family and community

5

Promote the healing journey in the Lord

6

Move from maintenance to mission

What You Can Expect

After your council submits its reflection, three things follow:

Your Dashboard

Overall weighted score, per-pillar scores, and two suggested Core Pillars for your parish



Where You Differ

The statements where your council's answers spread widest — a good place to begin the conversation



The Planning Framework - The Now What

Synodal Commitment through to Evidence of Growth and Impact

What the Playbook Is — and Isn't

The Playbook IS

- A living resource — not a finished document
- Real parish stories: the need, the people who gathered, the process, and the fruit
- A shared vocabulary and reflection questions, so parishes can recognize synodality already happening in their midst
- Practical starting points — honest accounts of what helped, what was hard, what shifted along the way

The Playbook ISN'T

- A manual or checklist to follow step-by-step
- A formula — each parish can adopt, adapt, or uniquely design a response to its own identified need
- Written top-down by the diocese
- A one-time publication

How the Playbook Is Intended to Grow

-  **Starts small, grows organically**
Begins with these two examples, and expands as more parishes step into synodal practice — parish by parish, not written top-down.
-  **Parishes contribute their own stories**
New stories gathered through the committee's ongoing community-listening work so upkeep is shared, not owned by one office.
-  **Stewarded, not static**
Kept by the synodality committee as an evolving document, with periodic review — annually, or alongside diocesan planning cycles.

Alignment: this review cycle mirrors the Planning Framework's Annual Reflection Process and stays tied back to the Diocesan Pastoral Plan, so the playbook remains a living expression of the plan rather than a separate initiative.

SEGMENT 5

Two Communities

Synodality already at work

St. Mary's Parish - Saskatoon

*Response to engage members of
community in their outreach*

Little Flower Catholic Parish - Leader

*The synodal process for building
community for parishes*

COMMUNITY ONE

St. Mary's Parish

A response to a community need

THE STARTING POINT

A need in the parish's own neighbourhood

WHAT IT REVEALS

Walking together in a context of real vulnerability and trust-building.

During the presentation, think about:

- *Who was at the table, and how was that decided?*
- *How did leadership share responsibility rather than direct from ahead?*
- *How did the response grow from relationship first, before any program took shape?*

LIVES OUT

Move from maintenance to mission

Promote the healing journey in the Lord

COMMUNITY TWO

Little Flower Catholic Church

Building Parish Community

THE STARTING POINT

A community identified that belonging and engagement would be essential for sustaining a vibrant parish life.

WHAT IT REVEALS

Walking together — listening, shared ownership, and a commitment to journey together.

During the presentation, think about:

- *How was community built in the parish?*
- *What roles did each partner bring and how did that shift over time?*
- *What practices helped people feel heard, valued, and included in the journey?*

LIVES OUT

Make every Sunday matter

Build and support family and community

What These Stories Teach Us, Side by Side

Different context, same posture

Urban vulnerability and building parish community look different — the way of walking together is identical.

Both started with listening

Not a solution already in hand — the need was heard before a response was shaped.

Both required a shift in posture

From “who’s in charge” to “who carries responsibility together” — pastor and people each bringing what they’re entrusted with.

Both point back to the same root

Seeing Christ in the person in front of you.

Group Discussion and Feedback on the Parish Reflection Tool/Planning Framework

At your tables discuss the following questions and record your answers on the sheet provided.

Keep

What do you value most about the Parish Reflection Tool and Planning Framework?

Improve

What would make the tool clearer, stronger, or more useful?

Support Needed

What resources or support would help your parish use this tool effectively?

Timelines & Next Steps

1

Today — Admin Day on September 17

Introduce the tool as a draft reflection resource. Not launching yet.

2

First week of October the tool will go live

Launch to parish councils and finance councils; additional virtual training session available in October.

3

Discernment and Submission of Responses

Submit by November 29.

4

Evaluation Assembly

To discern the narrative of the report from the tool

5

Letter to Other Churches

Sharing what was learned along the journey

CLOSING

Synodality is not a program to complete — it is a way of walking together, in co-responsibility, in the image of God, in continuous companionship.