



# SYNODALITY



## Knights of the Southern Cross Formation Program 2022

### Session 1

### Our Journey Towards Synodality

**Synodality** is a rich concept with a long history in the Church. Synodality as a concept just means collegiality. It is the way in which different parts of the Church come together as the mystical body of Christ. Pope Francis regards synodality as ‘the way of being the Church today according to the will of God, in a dynamic of discerning and listening together to the voice of the Holy Spirit.’”

The International Theological Commission (ITC) describes synodality this way:

*‘Synod’ is an ancient and venerable word in the Tradition of the Church, whose meaning draws on the deepest themes of Revelation [...] It indicates the path along which the People of God walk together. Equally, it refers to the Lord Jesus, who presents Himself as ‘the way, the truth and the life’ (Jn 14,6), and to the fact that Christians, His followers, were originally called ‘followers of the Way’ (cf. Acts 9,2; 19,9.23; 22,4; 24,14.22).*

The journey towards the celebration of the Synod opened in October 2021 in dioceses around the world and Pope Francis has invited the entire Church to reflect on this theme that is decisive for life and mission of the entire Church. All Catholics are invited to take part in the diocesan consultation process to promote a sense of communion and **journeying together**.

The concept of “the journey” is so central to Scripture and that makes sense because we human beings are journeying people. We make sense of our lives by understanding them as journeys, as the unfolding story of who we are and what we do in the world. We think and talk and worry about our careers, or our families, or our finances, or our estate plans. In our better moments we think and talk and pray about our spiritual journeys – all ways of thinking about our lives, our stories, about the journey that has been, and the journey that will be. In some deep way, journeying is an elemental part of who we are as human beings and is relevant to Knights of the Southern Cross, in their aim to promote the Christian way of life in that journeying.

One of the great metaphors of the Bible is “the journey.” The Bible is filled with journey upon journey. From Genesis to Revelation, Scripture is full of people on the move. In the New Testament, Jesus himself journeys through Palestine, preaching the Good News of the Kingdom of God. By his love and deeds as he journeys, Jesus shows people what that Kingdom looks like. After the Resurrection, Paul and the apostles’ journey all over the Roman Empire, and their message reaches to the ends of the earth – and here we are, millennia later, with our journeys touching theirs. And as Knights of the Southern Cross taking stock of our journeying in our community.

As we journey, the way forward is not always clear. The late Wisdom writer Sirach reminds the poor and humble of a way that God’s preferences and assumptions can differ from ours. Sirach revealed that society was polarized: rich vs. poor; Jew vs. Gentile. Sirach tried to adjust the view of the rich. He instructed his reader to look at worship through the eyes of God. What sort of sacrifice would please God? A humble heart would undoubtedly please Him, for humility allows one to treat others the way God treats them: without partiality.



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A synodal Church, in announcing the Gospel, “journeys together:” Our “journeying together” is, in fact, what most effectively enacts and manifests the nature of the Church as the pilgrim and missionary People of God.

First and foremost, synodality denotes the style that qualifies the life and mission of the Church, expressing her nature as the People of God journeying together and gathering in assembly, summoned by the Lord Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit to proclaim the Gospel. Synodality ought to be expressed in the Church’s ordinary way of living and working.

Having reflected in 2021 on *Fratelli Tutti*, KSC members have heightened awareness and commitment to working together. Continuing after this initial consideration, the following questions point up some areas of important focus for us as KSC members.

### Reflection and Discussion

- 1 How is this “journeying together” happening today in your KSC group?  
What steps does the Spirit invite us to take to grow in our journeying together?**
- 2 Our “journeying together” is, in fact, what most effectively enacts and manifests the nature of the Church as the pilgrim and missionary People of God. **And so, what steps does the Spirit invite us as KSC members to take to grow as a synodal Church?****
- 3 In our Church and in society we are side by side on the same road, who are those who ‘walk together’? Who are those who seem further apart? How are we called to be companions on the journey?**

Addressing these questions together requires listening to the Holy Spirit, who like the wind “*blows where it will; you can hear the sound it makes, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes*” (Jn 3:8), remaining open to the surprises that the Spirit will certainly prepare for us along the way.

### Prayer:

**So then, together, listening to the Holy Spirit, let us be led by God, as we pray:**

**We stand before You, Holy Spirit,  
as we gather in Your name.  
With You alone to guide us,  
make Yourself at home in our hearts.  
Teach us the way we must go  
and how we are to pursue it.**

**We are weak and sinful.  
Do not let us promote disorder.  
Do not let ignorance  
lead us down the wrong path  
nor partiality influence our actions.**

**Let us find in You our unity  
so that we may journey together  
to eternal life and not stray  
from the way of truth and what is right.**

**All this we ask of You, who are at work in  
every place and time, in the communion of  
the Father and the Son, forever and ever.  
Amen**