



SYNODALITY



Knights of the Southern Cross Formation Program 2022

Session 8 Synodality: The Way Forward

The KSC Mission:

Since its inception in Sydney in 1919, the Knights of the Southern Cross have committed to their Mission to Witness to Jesus Christ by advocating Christian values and beliefs throughout Australia and leading the laity in a spirit of service inspired by the Gospel.

Now in 2022 our baptism entitles us and calls us to become involved in this Synodal process. In our Church nobody is to be a passive recipient.

In the preparatory document for this Synod, we have been given "*the ability to imagine a different future for the Church and her institutions in keeping with the Mission she has received*". A very simple link [synod.va](https://www.synod.va) will connect you with the *Vademecum*, the handbook for the Synod on Synodality, offered as a guide to support all our efforts. We are encouraged to be sensitive to our own culture and context, resources, and constraints, and to discern how to implement this diocesan synodal phase, guided by our diocesan Bishops. New and creative pathways may be found for working together. It is an opportunity to foster the synodal and pastoral conversion of each local Church so as to be more fruitful in mission.

For our final session, taken from the preparatory document, the following checklist is a useful summary of the focus areas on which our Formation Program has touched.:

- 1. companions on the journey:** in the church and in society, we are side by side on the same road.
- 2. listening:** listening is the first step, but it requires having an open mind and heart, without prejudice.
- 3. speaking out:** all are invited to speak with courage and parrhesia, that is, integrating freedom, truth, and charity.
- 4. celebration:** "journeying together" is only possible if it is based on communal listening to the word and the celebration of the eucharist.
- 5. sharing responsibility for our common mission:** synodality is at the service of the mission of the church, in which all members are called to participate.
- 6. dialogue in church and society:** dialogue is a path of perseverance that also includes silences and sufferings, but which can gather the experience of persons and peoples.
- 7. ecumenism:** the dialogue between Christians of different confessions, united by one baptism, has a special place in the synodal journey.
- 8. authority and participation:** a synodal church is a participatory and co-responsible church.
- 9. discerning and deciding** in a synodal style, decisions are made through discernment, based on a consensus that flows from the common obedience to the Spirit.
- 10 forming ourselves in synodality:** the spirituality of journeying together is called to become an educational principle for the formation of the human person and of the Christian, of the families, and of the communities.

Therefore, this session is devoted to focus and clarification and reflection, on synodal priorities for us as KSC members of our local parish communities and also as members of KSC.



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Reflection and Discussion

- 1 A synodal Church, in announcing the Gospel, "journeys together:"
How is this happening today in your particular Church?
What steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our journey together"?
- 2 Reflecting on your own experience of the Church, can you recall instances of the community "journeying together?" If so, what did those experiences look like? If not, what do you imagine that might look like?
- 3 As you reflect on these experiences of your local community, what joys did they provoke? What difficulties and obstacles have they illuminated? What wounds have they brought to light? What insights have they called forth?
- 4 As you listen to these experiences, where do you hear the voice of the Spirit? What is the Spirit asking of us? What are the points to be confirmed, the prospects for change, the steps to be taken? Where do we hear consensus? What paths are opening up for our particular Church and for the Knights of the southern Cross?
- 5 How well has this consultation allowed you the opportunity to listen and share your own experience of Church?
- 6 What are your hopes for the Church as we "journey together" in terms of communion, participation and mission?
- 7 What practical suggestions do you have for your faith community to continue the synodal journey and be a more listening, discerning, and participatory Church?

Archbishop Coleridge has emerged as one of the bishops who has embraced and has best articulated the Pope's hopes of a synodal Church.

As reported in Catholic Outlook (May 211) He acknowledged that synodality is 'messy', is marked by tensions and requires "holy patience". But he said he was absolutely convinced that this "is the way forward... is what the Spirit is saying to the Church today". The Archbishop said the "call to synodality is profoundly biblical", showing us that we are not part of a "static, but an on-the-way Church" that is continually in process.

Thank you for your contribution and 'walking together' in this program. There are many voices and many resources available to KSC- but the one resource we now pray to conclude the 2022 formation program

Deliberately, this program was not referenced as an academic exercise. Many paragraphs were sourced from the Preparatory Document PD and the Handbook, both available on the Vatican website, synod.va, along with other useful resources, which members are encouraged to read.