

# Synod Meetings in Montreal

Adaptation of the Diocesan Guide  
to the Spiritual Conversation method

Proposal of 2 meetings, with 1 meeting for each fundamental question.

2 hours for each meeting

Participants are divided into small groups of 6 people maximum,  
including a facilitator and a reporter



Version 1 – February 8, 2022

## First Meeting

### Reviewing how we "walk together" as a Church in Montreal

In our diocesan Church, what is the current state of health of our "walking together" and what steps is the Spirit inviting us to take in order to grow towards this goal?

*The suggested schedule below can be adapted according to your situation*

Time	Step
	Assembly
20'	Welcome, opening prayer, presentation of the objective and the course of the meeting : to bring up proposals for the Church in Montreal to progress in a more synodal way of being and acting. Presentation of the 7 themes
	In small groups
5'	Check-in round : How do I feel as I enter this meeting ?
5'	Small groups agree on the theme they want to select for their conversation
15'	Personal time of prayer and review – preparation of a small sharing in writing
50'	Spiritual conversation in 3 rounds of sharing 18'- first round (3' per person x 6 persons) 3' – all reflect on what touched me most in what I heard from the others 12' – second round (2' per person x 6 persons) 3' – all reflect on what seems to be emerging or converging at this stage 6' – third round (1' per person x 6 persons) 8'- The participants of the group agree on what they wish to bring up during the time in assembly - one person is in charge of making a report of half a page maximum on what the group wishes to share and send it to the parish by email afterwards
	Assembly
25'	Assembly: small groups share the chosen theme and the fruits of their conversation: what converged in the rounds of sharing Announcement about the second meeting Closing prayer

**Prayer paths— reviewing our practices - Each small group selects one of the following themes**

Vision of Hope for the Archdiocese of Montreal  
*In Jesus Christ, let us build a life-giving Church, one that is open to  
being evangelized, and that is welcoming and close to people.*

**A- In Jesus Christ (Rooted in Jesus Christ)**

I place myself in the presence of the Lord, among us and of the assembly gathered for this meeting.

I spend some time contemplating Christ and his "synodal" way of being, of walking with his disciples, of listening to the men and women of his time, of carrying out the will of the Father, in word and deed, How am I touched?

I consider our way (parish, diocesan, community) of listening to the Word of God and sharing it, of praying, of living the sacraments, of making our decisions based on the prayer and discernment of all members of the community, and I ask the Lord to show me:

- An energizing diocesan church experience where I felt we were walking together in Jesus Christ and why that was the case
- A discouraging diocesan church experience where I felt we were NOT walking together in Jesus Christ and why this was the case

Fill in the chart at the end of the prayer paths to prepare for the time of sharing

**B- Let's Build (Together)**

I place myself in the presence of the Lord, among us and of the assembly gathered for this meeting.

I spend some time contemplating Christ and his "synodal" way of being, of walking with his disciples, of listening to the men and women of his time, of carrying out the will of the Father, in word and deed. How am I touched?

I consider how people are included in the consultation and decision-making processes in "synodal structures", meetings and dialogues (e.g parish meetings, diocesan councils; work teams, committees), instances of discernment together listening to the Spirit, and I ask the Lord to show me:

- An energizing diocesan church experience where I felt part of a common construction of our Church and why this was the case
- A discouraging experience of diocesan church where I felt I was not part of a common construction of our Church and why this was the case

Fill in the chart at the end of the prayer paths to prepare for the time of sharing

### **C- A Church (people on the move)**

I place myself in the presence of the Lord, among us and of the assembly gathered for this meeting.

I spend some time contemplating Christ and his way of listening, welcoming and being in relationship with the men and women of his time. How am I touched?

While thinking of the different ways in which the baptized belong to and participate in the life of our Church; of the richness of the different Catholic, Roman and Eastern Churches present in Montreal, and of the various Christian confessions; of the fruitfulness of a common witness; of the need to listen, to encourage the voices of the greatest number of people, and to integrate the contribution of a great variety of people; I ask the Lord to show me:

- An energizing experience of the diocesan Church where I felt that the Church was able to combine "unity" and "diversity" (of people, of viewpoints, of cultures, of multiple traditions and confessions) and why this was the case
- A discouraging diocesan church experience where I felt that the church did NOT show itself capable of combining "unity" and "diversity" (of people, viewpoints, cultures, multiple traditions and denominations) and why this was the case

Fill in the chart at the end of the prayer paths to prepare for the time of sharing

### **D- Life-giving (Committed to the "abundant life" of the people here)**

I place myself in the presence of the Lord, among us and of the assembly gathered for this meeting.

I spend some time contemplating Jesus, who came so that we might have "life in abundance" (cf. Jn 10:10) and so that God's reign might be realized in deed and word: "Heal the sick" and say to them, "The kingdom of God has come near you." (Luke 10:9)

How am I touched?

While thinking about the interests and currents of thought that currently prevail in our society; the quests for meaning and aspirations for happiness that we see around us; the causes in which people invest themselves, but also the dependencies and servitudes that hinder the lives of the people we come into contact with, I ask the Lord to show me:

- An energizing diocesan church experience where I felt that the work of the church was a source of "abundant life" for the people here and why this was the case
- A disheartening experience of a diocesan church where I felt that the work of the church was NOT a source of "abundant life" for the people here and why this was the case

Fill in the chart at the end of the prayer paths to prepare for the time of sharing

### **E- Open to being evangelized (Worked by the Gospel and its call to conversion)**

I place myself in the presence of the Lord, among us and of the assembly gathered for this meeting.

I spend some time contemplating Jesus, who calls people to conversion and to adopt the logic of the Kingdom where "the last shall be first",  
How am I touched?

While contemplating the Church that is "both holy and always called to purify herself, constantly pursuing hereeffort of penance and renewal" (Lumen Gentium, no. 8), called to share the Good News but unable to give anything that she has not herself received and integrated,  
Thinking also that we are evangelized in the encounter with the other: the poorest, those with opinions different from ours etc., I ask the Lord to show me:

- An energizing experience of the diocesan Church where I had the feeling that the Church allowed itself to be taught and converted, especially by the experience and the voice of minorities, the marginalized, the excluded, the deprived and why this was the case
- A disheartening experience in the diocesan church where I felt that the church was NOT allowing herself to be taught and converted, especially by the experience and voice of the minorities, the marginalized, the excluded, the destitute and why this was the case

Fill in the chart at the end of the prayer paths to prepare for the time of sharing

### **F- "Welcoming" (Where everyone can find their place)**

I place myself in the presence of the Lord, among us and of the assembly gathered for this meeting.

I spend some time contemplating Jesus and his way of reaching out and welcoming all people,  
How am I touched?

Thinking about the way our contemporaries perceive the Church and its capacity to open up, to welcome widely or not the aspirations of our fellow citizens, about the prejudices and stereotypes that hinder our listening; about the concrete aspects of our way of living in the Church that hinder people from coming closer to us; about the persons and groups towards whom we lack welcome and listening, who are left on the fringe, expressly or in fact, I ask the Lord to show me:

- An energizing experience of the diocesan Church where I felt that the Church has shown itself capable of welcoming widely the people who come to it, whatever their motives - and why this was the case
- A discouraging diocesan church experience where I felt that the church has NOT shown itself capable of broadly welcoming people who come to it, regardless of their motives - and why that was the case

Fill in the chart at the end of the prayer paths to prepare for the time of sharing

**G- "Close to people" (In solidarity with the joys, hopes, sorrows and anxieties of people)**

I place myself in the presence of the Lord, among us and of the assembly gathered for this meeting.

I spend some time contemplating Jesus and his way of reaching out to people wherever they are, sharing their joys, their sorrows, their hopes and fears,  
How am I touched?

While considering the social and cultural context in which we live, the way in which the Church enters into dialogue with the various instances of society: the world of politics, the economy, culture, civil society, the poor, believers and non-believers from different backgrounds in view of the common good Considering the commitment of Christians in our communities to service in society (Social, political commitment; teaching, research; justice, peace, environment), I ask the Lord to show me :

- An energizing experience of diocesan Church where I felt that the Church has shown itself capable of being close and attentive to the joys, hopes, anxieties and sadness of our contemporaries and why this was the case,
- A discouraging experience of diocesan church where I felt that the church was NOT able to be close and attentive to the joys, hopes, anxieties and sorrows of our contemporaries and why this was the case

Fill in the chart at the end of the prayer paths to prepare for the time of sharing

**Use the table below to take notes and prepare for the sharing in small groups for the first meeting  
(It is possible to mention only one event)**

	Event : what happened ?	What feelings did this trigger ?	Why do I feel this way? Which needs have been satisfied or ignored?	Is this understanding / interpretation valid ?	And so...? What do I feel invited to propose so that the Church progresses in this theme?
Energizing experience					
Disheartening experience					

## Second Meeting

### Discerning the calls to orient our missionary action

As we listen to the world around us, what calls does the Spirit give us to orient our missionary action?

**Suggested schedule: the schedule can be adapted according to your situation**

Time	Step
	Assembly
20'	Welcome, opening prayer, presentation of the objective and the course of the meeting : to bring up the calls that we hear for the Church in Montreal to progress in its missionary action. Presentation of the 7 themes
	In small groups
5'	Check-in round : How do I feel as I enter this meeting ?
5'	Small groups agree on the theme they want to select for their conversation
15'	Personal time of prayer and review – preparation of a small sharing in writing
50'	Spiritual conversation in 3 rounds of sharing 18'- first round (3' per person x 6 persons) 3' – all reflect on what touched me most in what I heard from the others 12' – second round (2' per person x 6 persons) 3' – all reflect on what seems to be emerging or converging at this stage 6' – third round (1' per person x 6 persons) 8'- The participants of the group agree on what they wish to bring up during the time in assembly - one person is in charge of making a report of half a page maximum on what the group wishes to share and send it to the parish by email afterwards
	Assembly
25'	Small groups share the chosen theme and the fruits of their conversation: what converged in the rounds of sharing Closing prayer

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*In Jesus Christ, let us build a life-giving Church, one that is open to being evangelized, and that is welcoming and close to people.*



## Prayer proposals – discerning the calls

### Each sub-group chooses a single theme

#### A- In Jesus Christ (Rooted in Jesus Christ)

I place myself in the presence of the Lord, who is present among us and of the assembly gathered for this meeting.

I consider my life, my relationships, the people I meet, that I see in Montreal....

I consider what is life-giving and good in the city, in the Church of Montreal, what makes people happy.

I consider what is painful in the city, in the Church of Montreal, what is a source of hurt or suffering for people.

Considering our way (parish, diocesan, community) of listening to the Word of God and sharing it, of praying, of living the sacraments, of making our decisions based on the prayer and discernment of all the members of the community, I ask the Lord to show me:

- What are the most urgent cries that go up to Him?
- What are the calls that the Church of Montreal must consider in its missionary action in order to be more firmly rooted in Jesus Christ?

Prepare a short sharing in writing for the first round of the small group

#### B- Let us build (Together)

I place myself in the presence of the Lord, who is present among us and of the assembly gathered for this meeting.

I consider my life, my relationships, the people I meet, that I see in Montreal....

I consider what is life-giving and good in the city, in the Church of Montreal, what makes people happy.

I consider what is painful in the city, in the Church of Montreal, what is a source of hurt or suffering for people.

Considering how we include people in the consultation and decision-making processes in "synodal bodies", meeting and dialogue (e.g. Community Assemblies, Parish Councils, etc.)

Community; parish, diocesan councils; work teams, committees), of discerning together in listening to the Spirit...I ask the Lord to show me:

- What are the most urgent cries that go up to Him?
- What are the calls that the Church of Montreal must consider in its missionary action in order to be more of a common construction?

Prepare a short sharing in writing for the first round of the small group

### **C- A Church (a people on the move)**

I place myself in the presence of the Lord, who is present among us and of the assembly gathered for this meeting.

I consider my life, my relationships, the people I meet, that I see in Montreal....

I consider what is life-giving and good in the city, in the Church of Montreal, what makes people happy.

I consider what is painful in the city, in the Church of Montreal, what is a source of hurt or suffering for people.

Considering the different ways in which the baptized belong to and participate in the life of our Church; the richness of the different Catholic, Roman and Oriental Churches present in Montreal, and that of the various Christian confessions; the fruitfulness of a common witness; the need to listen, to encourage the voice of the greatest number and to integrate the contribution of a great variety of people; I ask the Lord to show me:

- What are the most urgent cries that go up to Him?
- What are the calls that the Church of Montreal must consider in its missionary action in order to be more inclusive in holding together "unity" and "diversity"?

Prepare a short sharing in writing for the first round of the small group

### **D- Life-giving (Committed to the "abundant life" of the people here)**

I place myself in the presence of the Lord, who is present among us and of the assembly gathered for this meeting.

I consider my life, my relationships, the people I meet, that I see in Montreal....

I consider what is life-giving and good in the city, in the Church of Montreal, what makes people happy.

I consider what is painful in the city, in the Church of Montreal, what is a source of hurt or suffering for people.

Considering the interests and currents of thought that currently prevail in our society; the search for meaning and the aspirations for happiness that we see around us; the causes in which people invest themselves but also the dependencies and servitudes that hinder the lives of the people we meet; I ask the Lord to show me:

- What are the most urgent cries that go up to Him?
- What are the calls that the Church of Montreal must consider in its missionary action to be more of a source of abundant life?

Prepare a short sharing in writing for the first round of the small group

### **E- Open to being evangelized (by the Gospel and its call to conversion)**

I place myself in the presence of the Lord, who is present among us and of the assembly gathered for this meeting.

I consider my life, my relationships, the people I meet, that I see in Montreal....

I consider what is life-giving and good in the city, in the Church of Montreal, what makes people happy.

I consider what is painful in the city, in the Church of Montreal, what is a source of hurt or suffering for people.

Considering the Church which is "both holy and always called to purify itself, constantly pursuing its efforts of penance and renewal." (Lumen gentium, no. 8), called to share Good News but unable to give anything that she has not herself received and integrated,

Thinking also that we are evangelized in the encounter with the poorest, with opinions different from our own, etc.,

I ask the Lord to show me:

- What are the most urgent cries that go up to Him?
- What are the calls that the Church of Montreal must consider in its missionary action in order to be more capable of being converted to the radicality of the Gospel?

Prepare a short sharing in writing for the first round of the small group

### **F- "Welcoming" (Where everyone can find their place)**

I place myself in the presence of the Lord, who is present among us and of the assembly gathered for this meeting.

I consider my life, my relationships, the people I meet, that I see in Montreal....

I consider what is life-giving and good in the city, in the Church of Montreal, what makes people happy.

I consider what is painful in the city, in the Church of Montreal, what is a source of hurt or suffering for people.

Considering the way our contemporaries perceive the Church and its capacity to open up, to welcome widely or not the aspirations of our fellow citizens; the prejudices and stereotypes that hinder our listening; the concrete aspects of our way of living in Church that hinder people from coming closer to us; the persons and groups towards whom we lack welcome and listening, who are left on the margin, expressly or in fact,

Ask the Lord to show me:

- What are the most urgent cries that go up to Him?
- What are the calls that the Church of Montreal must consider in its missionary action in order to be more capable of welcoming and where everyone can find their place?

Prepare a short sharing in writing for the first round of the small group

**G- "Close to people" (In solidarity with the joys, hopes, sorrows and anxieties of people)**

I place myself in the presence of the Lord, who is present among us and of the assembly gathered for this meeting.

I consider my life, my relationships, the people I meet, that I see in Montreal....

I consider what is life-giving and good in the city, in the Church of Montreal, what makes people happy.

I consider what is painful in the city, in the Church of Montreal, what is a source of hurt or suffering for people.

By considering the social and cultural context in which we live, the way in which the Church enters into dialogue with the various instances of society: the world of politics, the economy, culture, civil society, the poor, believers and non-believers from different backgrounds in view of the common good

By considering the commitment of Christians in our communities in a service within society (Social and political commitment; teaching, research; justice, peace, environment);

I ask the Lord to show me:

- What are the most urgent cries that go up to Him?
- What are the calls that the Church of Montreal must consider in its missionary action to be closer to the hopes, sorrows and aspirations of people?

Prepare a short sharing in writing for the first round of the small group