



SYNOD 2021-2023 | February 2023

Update: Our synodal process in the Archdiocese of Montreal



Dear Friends in Christ,

To usher in 2023 and to further our last communication dated December entitled : [Upcoming stages in 2022-2023 for our diocesan work of synodal and missionary transformation](#), we come to you with an overview of our major accomplishments since 2018 to give you a sense of our progress to date:

Fall 2018 → Breaking ground for the [diocesan missionary transformation roadwork project](#) as our response to Pope Francis’s appeal described in [Evangelii Gaudium](#).

We initiated a threefold process: *Seeing & Listening, Discerning*, in order to *Serve* better, and we identified three goals in the roadwork project:

- Goal 1- Draft a diocesan action plan;
- Goal 2- Renew our presence among the people (i.e., throughout the network of parishes);
- Goal 3- Provide the People of God with the resources to foster a missionary spirituality.

October 2021 → Pope Francis’ invitation to the Catholic Church as a whole

Pope Francis invited the Catholic Church as a whole to embark on a process of reflection on “synodality,” meaning the quality of its walking together, of its being and acting as one.

Here in Montreal, we merged this process of reflection concerning *our synodal life* with our missionary transformation project. Essentially, we undertook our Montreal roadwork project with a synodal approach for the *two-part project*:

- Part 1: Synodality. The quality of our “being together,” as one aspect of the life of the Church;
- Part 2: Mission. The calls received from the Holy Spirit to act and to join in missionary activity.

Fall 2021 Winter 2022 Spring 2022 → Mobilization of the diocese on two basic questions

The “synodality” aspect: What is the state of health of our walking together; what steps does the Holy Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in this synodal life?

The “mission” aspect: As we come together listening to the world, what does the Holy Spirit call us to recognize in terms of the direction our missionary life should take?

Despite the modest response, an examination of the contributions with respect to Part 1 (synodality) enabled us to draft the [diocesan summary](#), which was then published June 2022 and incorporated into the Quebec and the Canadian summaries.



Three steps now follow for 2023:

- 1- Our missionary transformation roadwork project carries on, with the focus now turning to the **missionary aspect** (evangelization within our diocesan territory);
- 2- Preparations for the October 2023 session of the Synod on synodality continue. During December and January, seven diocesan delegates participated, with representatives from other Canadian and US dioceses, in virtual assemblies in French, English and Spanish. The fruits of those discussions will contribute both to a **continental synthesis** that will be used by those preparing the working document for the synod, as well as to our **diocesan discussions on synodality and mission**.
- 3- In March 2023, as part of the **Plenary Assembly** of Quebec bishops, there will be a discussion about Quebec's synodal process and about how to encourage Quebec's Catholic dioceses to unite in missionary action.

At the present time, our **diocesan roadwork project steering committee** is working to: 1) identify, from among the contributions received last spring, the missionary insights (made in response to the second basic question), 2) develop an animation program for any groups that want to take part, and 3) prepare a communications plan to provide updates on the committee's projects.

We are currently building a team of **diocesan animators** who will be visiting the various settings (local and parish communities), meeting groups of baptized, accompanying them and helping them give shape to their missionary insights.

At the same time, the **diocesan pastoral council** is resuming its activities, its main goal being to establish guidelines to follow in pastoral and missionary activities. The council will also organize the extended assembly to be held next June.

This synodal assembly, convened to work on the mission, will identify **priority guidelines**, and these will in turn be submitted to the Archbishop. Next year, in 2023-2024, we are looking forward to working on an action plan: **Acting**, in order to **Serve** better.

We will be counting on your support throughout this synodal process and relying on your participation in the initiatives under way throughout the diocese. With your help, the Catholic Church in Montreal will be able to carry on bringing Christ to the people around us.

For further clarification regarding any of the above, please write to us at: synode@diocesemontreal.org

For any information concerning the diocesan synodal and missionary transformation roadwork project, kindly visit our dedicated website at: <https://microsites.diocesemontreal.org/microsites/synode/>

Fraternally yours in Christ,

Erika, Susan, Denis, Fabrice, Alain and Luc
The Steering Committee
Synodal and missionary transformation roadwork project

