



2021-2023 Synod Next Steps

The publication of the National Synthesis is an invitation for the People of God to prayer, discernment, and dialogue about what the Holy Spirit is saying to the churches.

How was the National Synthesis produced?

- All one hundred seventy-eight (178) Latin (arch)dioceses contributed syntheses. Due to the size of the country, these contributions were gathered regionally, to produce fourteen intermediate syntheses which aided in the development of this national synthesis. Due to their long history of synodal practice, the Eastern Catholic Churches shared their reports directly with the Holy See, to be incorporated along with the U.S. Latin Church national synthesis into the Document for the Continental Stage, which represents the next step in the 2021-2023 Synod.
- Catholic associations, organizations, and national ministries in the United States were also invited to participate in the Synod by submitting a summary report from their listening sessions. In all, one hundred twelve (112) submissions were received from organizations to create the “Region XVI” synthesis.
- In total, two hundred ninety (290) documents were submitted to the U.S. Synod Team.
- These contributions represent over 22,000 reports from individual parishes and other groups. There were over 30,000 opportunities to participate in the Synod through in-person and virtual listening sessions as well as online surveys. An estimated 700,000 people participated in the diocesan phase of the Synod in the United States.

The next phase of the [Synod](#) is the “[Continental Phase](#).”

- The United States Synod Team will be collaborating with the Canadian Synod Team for the Continental Phase.
- We expect the *Document for the Continental Stage* (DCS) from the Synod Secretariat in late autumn 2022. The DCS will be written by the Synod Secretariat after discernment of all the National Syntheses submitted to the Secretariat.
- The US and Canadian Synod Teams will be holding regional listening sessions regarding the DCS during the winter 2022 and early 2023.
- The US and Canadian Synod Teams will gather in late winter 2023 to compose the Continental Synthesis.
- The Continental Synthesis is due to the Synod Secretariat on March 31, 2023.
- The Continental Syntheses will form the foundation of the *Instrumentum Laboris* (expected in June 2023) for the Universal Phase of the Synod to be held in Rome in October 2023.

Further Information

- For more information on the global process please see: <https://www.synod.va/en.html>
- For more information on the national process please see: <https://www.usccb.org/synod>
- For media inquiries regarding the US process please reach out to synod@usccb.org or media-relations@usccb.org

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