

Prayers

*At the conclusion of the First Assembly
of the Synod of Bishops, October 2023*



Prayers of Intercession

For all in the Church, that in unity with Pope Francis and the recently concluded First Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, we may listen humbly to each other and be attentive to what the Holy Spirit is asking of us.

We pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all who participated in the First Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, that all members, clergy, religious and lay faithful, continue to be inspired by the Holy Spirit as agents of the Gospel, as they return to their communities and dioceses.

We pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For ourselves and our brothers and sisters in the Church throughout the world: that we may continue this Synodal journey, leading us ever deeper into the **communion** of the Church, fostering our **participation** in it, and equipping us to go out on **mission** to spread the Good News of the Gospel.

We pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all the members of the Church, that, inspired by the vision of living more synodally, we have the courage to authentically accompany each other on our Christian pilgrimage.

We pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all the baptised, that as brothers and sisters in Christ, we may celebrate the richness of our diversity, bound in close communion with each other and with Christ, whose mission we are sent to serve.

We pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For our wounded and traumatised world, that those who are suffering through war, persecution, hunger and poverty may experience our care and compassion through prayer and practical action.

We pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

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Prayers for personal use and communal gatherings

Risen Christ, you join the disciples on the road to Emmaus,
you walk at their pace,
you listen to them,
you help them to find in the resources
to recognise the gift you have offered them
through your passion and your death on the cross.
Enlighten us today,
open our hearts and minds to the gift of your peace,
to the joy of a communion with you,
and to your presence in our most vulnerable neighbour.
Grant us to welcome all those that you entrust to us
and with whom we walk together as we continue to serve you.

Adapted from Together- Gathering of the People of God (Rome 2023)
[Together 2023](#)

Lord, help us to enlarge the space of our tent,
so that those who are on the margins of our societies
or on the margins of the Church may be listened to and valued.
As we walk together, we want to join in prayer.
You, Lord, invite us to welcome in our hearts those left by the roadside,
to an inner conversion to welcome those whom you have invited.
May we leave no one behind on this synodal journey,
may no one be excluded, but be part, brother, sister, friends. Amen.

Adapted from Prayer for the Synod
<https://www.prayforthesynod.va/en/prayer-for-the-synod-2/>

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Adsumus Prayer:

Prayer of invocation to the Holy Spirit for a group or liturgical gathering

Every session of the Second Vatican Council began with the prayer Adsumus Sancte Spiritus, the first word of the Latin original meaning, “We stand before You, Holy Spirit,” which has been historically used at Councils, Synods and other Church gatherings for hundreds of years, being attributed to Saint Isidore of Seville (c. 560 - 4 April 636). As we are called to embrace this synodal path of Synod 2021-2023, this prayer invites the Holy Spirit to work within us so that we may be a community and a people of grace. For Synod 2021-2023, we propose to use this simplified version, so that any group or liturgical assembly can pray more easily.

We stand before You, Holy Spirit,
as we gather together 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.

<https://www.usccb.org/prayers/prayer-synod-synodality>