

Synodality: Enlarge the Space of Your Tent!

The Cranaleith community knows a thing or two about providing spaces of sanctuary where the People of God - weary from our travels in the world, laden with wounds and yet trying to kindle sparks of hope - can encounter the Divine. We know the value of reflection, dialogue and discernment. We have experienced the gifts that come with doing these things *together!*

Remarkably, Pope Francis is asking the entire Catholic Church to live this way on all levels. He calls this synodality. A synodal people is a people on the move, journeying together on The Way. Pope Francis hopes to cultivate synodality through the [Synod on Participation, Communion and Mission](#).

Since last October, people of good will have gathered in listening circles to share with candor and humility the obstacles and joys we experience in the Church. Just weeks ago, reports from hundreds of thousands of listening sessions around the globe indicate that **the People of God have been heard by our Church leadership!** See the [U.S. Bishops' national synthesis report](#), and the Vatican's synthesis report, "[Enlarge the Space in Your Tent](#)".

In a short video, [Maureen O'Connell](#) shares the impact the synod is having on our global, national and local Church! Common concerns of Church members around the world are:

- healing the wounds of sex abuse,
- addressing cultures of clericalism,
- engaging the young,
- tending to those on the peripheries,
- recognizing the contributions of women,
- resisting violence,
- caring for our Common Home and
- collaborating with people of other faith traditions.

Now, in the Continental Stage, it is time to discern with the Holy Spirit's guidance our response. In circles of dialogue we are asked to consider:

- *What resonates for us in "Enlarge the Space in Your Tent?"*
- *Where do we experience resistance?*
- *What might our priorities be?*

We will share our answers with our bishops to prepare them for their first gathering in Rome (October 2023).

Cranaleith will offer a series of discernment sessions with "Enlarge the Space in Your Tent" in early January. We encourage you to facilitate discernment sessions in your own communities and to share your findings with your diocesan synod office/team by February 1. [Ignatian Encounter Ministries](#) provides resources for facilitating discernment sessions, as does [Discerning Deacons](#). You can also reach out to Maureen for support (maureen@discerningdeacons.org).