

Synod Formation Day (May 13 / May 15)

At two points during the sessions people will be placed into breakout rooms of 4-5 for some small group conversation inspired by a group spiritual discernment model known as “Murmuratio”. This will be explained in the talks. The following questions will serve to focus those small group times. Please have them on hand to refer to in your breakout rooms.

Murmuratio 1

1. How does a bishop best encourage and enable the order of the laity and the orders of the clergy to have their full voices and roles expressed in shaping the vision, decision making, and leadership of the diocese?
2. If you feel comfortable sharing with others, in what ways do you feel you are personally being called upon to uphold the episcopate of the 11th bishop of Edmonton? What do you need to be doing now to prepare for the part you will have in episcopate?
3. What are some other features of this time and place that you hope our church and the 11th bishop of Edmonton would be adaptive to?

Murmuratio 2

1. Which of the descriptions of personified types of the ministry of episcopate resonated most deeply with your own sense of vocation and gifts – a Peter (voice and direction), John (prophetic vision), Mary (prayerful discernment), Mary Magdalene (evangelism and pastoral care), Paul (dialogue and translation), or Stephen (keeping accounts of the excluded and neglected needs). Can you share some specific examples of how and why? Do you see these personal shapes of ministry expressed in other colleagues and people in our local diocesan church? Which ones would you say are some of our overall diocesan strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and needs?
2. Of the six types that were given, what kind of bishop do you think would be most needed in our local church at this time (if you had to pick one), and can you say something about why?
3. What kinds of roles and structures do you see as already existing in our diocese which point to a sharing in the bishop’s ministry of episcopate? In what ways have these been working well, and in what ways would you like to see them refreshed or further enhanced?