



An aerial view of St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City (NCR screenshot/YouTube)



by John Grosso

[View Author Profile](#)

[Join the Conversation](#)

September 22, 2023

[Share on Bluesky](#)[Share on Facebook](#)[Share on Twitter](#)[Email to a friend](#)[Print](#)

In just over a week, nearly 450 people from around the world will gather in Rome for a month-long assembly, a Synod of Bishops on synodality, which is expected to discuss a range of important issues including women's ordination, LGBTQ inclusion

and ministry, and priestly celibacy.

While synods are not new for the church, the October meeting will feature a lot of firsts, including starting with an ecumenical vigil on Sept. 30, followed by a four-day spiritual retreat. Another first for a synod — not all of the voting members are bishops — religious sisters and lay men and women will be voting for the first time.

As we prepare for this momentous and historic gathering, NCR commissioned this video explainer — so that you are informed as deliberations begin. The video was produced by Chaz Muth.

Stay informed during the synod:

- [Subscribe to Michael Sean Winters' newsletter to hear his perspective and context on the synod from here at home.](#)
- NCR will produce a weekly podcast from Rome — "The Vatican Briefing."
- Follow NCR and our reporters and editors on social media.
 - [Facebook](#)
 - [X \(formerly Twitter\)](#)
 - [Instagram](#)

This story appears in the **Synod on Synodality** feature series. [View the full series.](#)