



Fundamental to our Synod Journey is the bold assertion that we--you and me--are the Church. In recent decades, the Church, and therefore all of us, have faced crises and scandals. Now, in our Journey, it is time for a difficult question and for us to open our minds and hearts so the Spirit can work in all of us to hear those who choose to raise the abuses by the Church. As we consider the direction the Church needs to go, we do need to acknowledge the pain those abusers and coverups by Church leaders caused, admit that they happened, recognize that they had a severe negative impact on individuals, families, faith communities, talk about how a synodal Church might help prevent them happening again and look forward to a renewed Church where such things cannot happen.