



345/2022  
6 May 2022

Dear Pastor, Administrator, or Parish Life Coordinator,

He is Risen! I am writing to you today with an update on the Synod on Synodality. As you know, Pope Francis has invited the Church Universal to participate in the synodal process, and I am very happy to report that the Diocese of Cleveland's response to the Holy Father's invitation has been stellar.

To date, over 150 reports from the listening sessions have been received. During the month of May all the information from those listening sessions will be gathered, processed, and then presented in a working document. That document will be the focus of our pre-synodal gathering at Public Hall on Saturday, June 11, from 10am – 4pm. I will sign-off on the final document and then send it on to the USCCB. The USCCB will review the information it receives from all the dioceses and send a summary document on to the next stage in preparation for the final synodal gathering of the bishops with the Holy Father be held in October 2023 in Rome. We will also continue to study the final synodal document prepared by our diocese to discern with greater clarity where the Holy Spirit has been moving among us and where the Spirit is leading us into the future as the Church of Cleveland.

Our diocesan synod co-directors, Fr. Damian Ference and Lynette Saenz, sent an email to your parish synodal contact person upon receipt of your synthesis report beginning on Holy Thursday, requesting that each parish send five delegates to the gathering on June 11<sup>th</sup>. They emailed you the same letter starting April 22<sup>nd</sup>. **Please work with your parish contact person to identify and invite five delegates to the pre-synodal gathering to represent your local community.** The registration deadline is May 20<sup>th</sup>, or when capacity is reached.

Although it is true that the pre-synodal gathering is limited to invited delegates, I am asking that you and your parish support the pre-synodal gathering through fasting and prayer on June 11<sup>th</sup> from 10am – 4pm. Perhaps you could invite your parishioners to cover the synod in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, or by praying a rosary, or a Divine Mercy chaplet, or through some form of fasting. One of your parish delegates will be charged with delivering to you a specially commissioned candle that will burn for 7 days near your tabernacle in your church leading up to Corpus Christi Sunday.

Our formal diocesan participation in the synodal process concludes with the 4:30pm Vigil Mass at St. John the Evangelist Cathedral on June 11<sup>th</sup>. The Eucharistic Revival begins at the conclusion of that same liturgy with a solemn Eucharistic procession starting at the Cathedral and ending at St. Peter Parish (E. 17<sup>th</sup>) where there will be a XLT for youth and young adults. (See flyer.)

I continue to be grateful for the pastoral leadership that you give to our parishes and other special diocesan ministries. It is a blessing to be your bishop. Please know of my ongoing prayers for you and those you serve. I remain

Your Brother in Christ,

Most Rev. Edward C. Malesic, J.C.L.  
Bishop of Cleveland