



February 21, 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In 1965, Pope Paul VI instituted what is called the *Synod of Bishops*. The word *Synod* means a prayerful gathering of bishops from across the world, during which they pray, listen and discuss matters of importance to the Church and to the world. Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, they then discern the path forward. In recent years, these universal Synods have focused on the concerns of families and young people.

In the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, we have a rich history of dialogue and consultation. All of our parishes have Pastoral Councils and Finance Councils. Our Archdiocese has an archdiocesan pastoral council and finance council. Some of you may remember the 1987 Archdiocesan Synod. Many of you remember our 2014 Synod, during which over 15,000 people from across southeastern Wisconsin came together to discern our priorities for the future. Your input into our local Synod continues to propel our ministry today.

In October of 2020, His Holiness Pope Francis opened the next Synod of Bishops, beginning a two-year process focusing on three concepts: *communion, participation, and mission*. This 2021-2023 Synod will focus on ***Synodality***, meaning how we listen to and dialogue with one another, and how we journey together, being led by the Spirit. The Pope was clear that this is not a change in the doctrine of the Church but an opportunity to listen.

The Holy Father wants to listen to the voices of people from throughout the world. He wants to hear from both those who are in our pews, and those who are on the periphery. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to talk about *communion, participation and mission*, and what this means for us in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

I invite you to participate in helping the Holy Father and the bishops of the Church chart our course for the future. Our local archdiocesan consultation phase will take place through the beginning of May, 2022, under the direction of Susan McNeil, one of our archdiocesan staff members.

As we begin this Synodal consultation process in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, I ask for your prayers. Through the grace of the Holy Spirit, may we enter more fully into dialogue, so that, together, we may grow more fully in the mission of Jesus Christ.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Jerome E. Listecki
Archbishop of Milwaukee

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

3501 South Lake Drive | P.O. Box 070912 | Milwaukee, WI 53207
PHONE: (414) 769-3457 | FAX: (414) 769-3430 | www.archmil.org