



Office of the Archbishop

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington

Post Office Box 29260, Washington, DC 20017-0260

Thursday, 7 October 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I am pleased to share with you The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington's pastoral plan for the 2021-2023 Synod. It is my hope that you will join me in the archdiocesan response to the Holy Father's call for a Universal Synod entitled, "*For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission.*"

The Holy Father has asked that bishops, priests and deacons follow Christ's example through this Synod process by engaging with our people, and those who have left our communities, through prayer, listening, dialogue and discernment. I would ask that you join me and the clergy of this Archdiocese in this Synod process. I believe this Synod is an opportunity to re-engage with each other as we emerge from this global pandemic. This Synod offers us the opportunity to be with each other, to invite our family and friends back to the faith, to listen to each other's joys and sorrows, and share our hopes and dreams for our parishes.

In just a few weeks, the Archdiocesan Synod process will open at The Cathedral of Saint Matthew the Apostle with an Opening Mass on October 17, 2021 at 7:00 pm. You are invited to join me at this Mass! Our Opening Mass will be followed in the coming weeks by parish listening sessions as well as Archdiocesan listening sessions.

Additional information about the Synod, as well as a timeline, can be found on our Archdiocesan website at www.adw.org/synod. Resources will be added throughout our Synod process so that you may learn more about this process.

Thank you for your prayers for me. Be assured of my constant prayers for you.

Devotedly yours in Christ,

✠ Wilton Cardinal Gregory,
Archbishop of Washington