

FROM THE PASTOR...

March 27, 2022

Pope Francis has called the world to give him feedback as the Church prepares for the Synod on Synodality. Cardinal Cupich is asking the people of this Archdiocese to offer their feedback through the Archdiocesan website at: <https://www.archchicago.org/news-and-events/synod>. The theme for the Synod is Communion, Participation, Mission.

Here are some sample questions you could consider answering as you give your own prayerful thoughts:

Communion, participation, mission are all forms of journeying together:

for me *Communion* means....

for me *Participation* means....

for me *Mission* means....

Here are the questions given directly from the Archdiocesan Synod workbook for you to reflect on: “A synodal Church, in announcing the Gospel, “journeys together.” How is this “journeying together” happening today in your local Church? What steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our “journeying together?””

“Communion: In the Church and in society we are side by side on the same road. How are we called to grow as companions? Listening is the first step, but it requires an open mind and heart, without prejudice. All are invited to speak with courage and parrhesia, or bold and forthright speaking; that is, in freedom, truth and charity. Who are those in the margins in our local community? How do we encounter them and listen to their voices? How does what we hear inform how we journey together?”

“Participation: The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy (Vatican II, 1963) called all the faithful to that full, conscious, and active participation in liturgical celebrations. What has that come to mean in our post-pandemic church? Can we maintain participation without people at Sunday worship? Synodality is at the service of the mission of the Church in which all members are called to participate.”

“Mission: Sunday worship is the most visible aspect of our religion. The church’s mission also includes service, evangelization, healing, and teaching. Does our faith steer us when making decisions and weighing values? Does it bring consolation? Does it challenge you to sacrifice? Synodality entails receptivity to change, formation and ongoing learning. Above all the Church works for justice, peace and respect for all human life.”

You can submit your feedback through the Archdiocese at the link above or via email or mail at:

SynodWorkbook@archchicago.org

Please send written reflections to:

Synod Workbook, Cardinal Meyer Center, 3525 South Lake Park Avenue, Chicago, IL 60653-1402

The Holy Father may not read your comments personally but who knows, either way he will receive the general feedback he is asking for. May we listen to each other, but even more importantly may we listen to how Christ is calling us to holiness, fidelity, and love in these times.

With more local news, we have over 50 children being confirmed by Bishop Bartosic this Wednesday evening. Please pray for these candidates, their parents, and sponsors, how much we all need the gifts the Holy Spirit to help us stay faithful to Christ in a scattered world. But the Lord is with us and is always ready to receive us back when we stray.

This Laetare Sunday we heard the beautiful parable of the prodigal son being received by his loving father and the older brother resenting his warm welcome home. Whichever son we identify with more the Lord wants us to know that we are His children not servants, His love for us can’t be earned. And since we are all sinners in need of the Lord’s mercy, we can imagine God the Father saying to us “***Now we must celebrate and rejoice, because you were dead and have come to life again, you were lost and have been found.***”

God bless,

Fr. Mike

