



On Pentecost 2019, the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, following the call of Pope Francis to be a “listening Church,” began a yearlong process of prayer, listening, and discernment in preparation for an Archdiocesan Synod, the first this local Church has convened in more than eighty years.

More than 8,000 members of the Christian faithful participated in 30 Prayer and Listening Events in which they prayed together and listened to one another and to the Holy Spirit, the “Spirit of Truth” (John 14:17). Participants provided over 35,000 comments identifying many indicators of vibrancy in our Archdiocese, as well as areas that could be strengthened and enriched by a Synod process. A team of lay, religious, and ordained leaders organized the feedback and presented to me a compendium of the responses and summaries of the categories.

Three broad themes emerged as priorities, indicating the Holy Spirit is leading us to address these topics. Based on that, I have identified the following three focus areas to guide our consultations in the upcoming year: 1) Forming parishes in the service of evangelization; 2) Forming missionary disciples who know Jesus’s love and respond to his call; and 3) Forming youth and young adults in and for a Church that is always young.

Having listened to the Holy Spirit speaking through the faithful, discerned these primary areas of importance, and consulted the Presbyteral Council, which affirmed this Synod process, I hereby

CONVOKE THE SECOND SYNOD
OF THE
ARCHDIOCESE OF SAINT PAUL AND MINNEAPOLIS

commencing on the Vigil of the Solemnity of Pentecost, May 22, 2021, and culminating in the Archdiocesan Synod Assembly that will occur Pentecost weekend, June 3 – 5, 2022.

Throughout this next year, every parish and deanery is to participate in the consultation process, discerning together how we can grow in unity and more vigorously proclaim the Gospel, guided by these focus areas.

As part of this synodal process, I call for the constitution of a Preparatory Commission, the members of which are to be chosen from amongst the clergy and other faithful who are distinguished by their pastoral prudence and by their professional competence and who, in so far as possible, reflect the various charisms and ministries of the People of God present in this Archdiocese. It will be the duty of the Preparatory Commission to prepare the Synodal Directory, which will govern the process to be followed in the 2022 Archdiocesan Synod Assembly.

Given at Saint Paul, Minnesota, on this 22nd day of May, the vigil of the Solemnity of Pentecost, in the Year Dedicated to Saint Joseph, model of discernment and protector of the holy Church, 2021.

Susan Mulheron
Chancellor for Canonical Affairs

Most Reverend Bernard A. Hebda
Archbishop of Saint Paul and Minneapolis

L.S.