



INTRODUCTION & SECTION I — WHERE WE HAVE BEEN IN THE SYNOD PROCESS

Read:

1. *Gratitude for the blessings of our Archdiocese*
2. *Gratitude for the Synod*
3. *An experience of unprecedented difficulty meriting an apology*
4. *Why I called a Synod*
5. *Principles that shaped the Synod process*
6. *Consultation grounded in prayer and listening*
7. *The June 2022 Archdiocesan Synod Assembly exceeded my expectations*

Reflect:

- Archbishop begins by listing his reasons for gratitude. In which of these do you most see the Holy Spirit at work? What would you add to his list? (1)
- Have you experienced healing in our Archdiocese in the years following the sexual abuse crisis, and if so, how? In what ways is healing still needed? (3)
- Do you see your parish as your “primary encounter with the Church”? In what way? (5)
- Have you turned to prayer prior to making a big decision? Reflect upon the experience. (6)
- Which one of the three focus areas speaks to you most and why? (6)

SECTION II – WALKING TOGETHER (SYNODOS)

Read:

8. *What then should we do? (Lk 3:10)*
9. *The harvest is abundant*
10. *The laborers are few*
11. *Ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest*
12. *Calling of the twelve to form a parish Synod Evangelization Team*

13. *From Synod to synodality*
14. *Office of Synod Evangelization*
15. *Vicars of Evangelization*
16. *From the how to the what of Synod implementation*
17. *Finding clarity in the Upper Room*

Reflect:

- What gives you hope that indeed the “harvest is abundant” in this Archdiocese? (9)
- Do you see yourself as a “laborer” with Jesus – one of his “co-workers... in the work of salvation?” If so, describe your role. If not, explain how you may be able to grow into such a role. (11)
- Each parish Synod Evangelization Team is intended to “help pastors keep evangelization in the forefront of parish life.” In what ways could such a Team help your pastor in proclaiming the Gospel at your parish (and beyond)? (12)
- Do you see synodality (“walking together”) at work in your parish? How might synodality foster “a way of missionary life and activity” in your parish? (13)
- How alive in your parish, and in your personal life, are each of the three mysteries of the Upper Room: Foot-washing, Eucharist, and Pentecost? (17)
- Monsignor Vaghi says the three mysteries of the Upper Room give us today an “icon of a fruitful Church.” In what ways do you see your parish as fruitful? In what ways does it need to grow? (17)

SECTION III – THE UPPER ROOM

A. THE MYSTERY OF THE WASHING OF THE FEET

Read:

18. *Jesus humbled himself through service and self-gift*
19. *Jesus heals us and purifies us*
20. *The washing of the feet reveals that love must be expressed concretely*
21. *The washing of the feet is hospitality that unites us with the other*
22. *The washing of the feet affirms the other*
23. *As we give ourselves to others, we discover ourselves*
24. *I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do*
25. *Small Groups as an opportunity for the washing of feet*
26. *The primary small group: The family*
27. *Support for the family: Office of Youth and Young Adults*

Reflect:

- In the Incarnation, Jesus descended to serve us – he “humbled himself.” What does Jesus’s humility teach us about the value he sees in each of us? How can we recognize that value in others? (18)
- What “garment” might you need to shed in order to humbly serve others? (21)
- Archbishop offers examples of “foot-washing” he sees in our Archdiocese. What would you add to that list – or, which example of those listed has impacted you most? (24)
- What does St. Teresa of Calcutta say is the greatest hunger of the human person? How might parish life help those who are experiencing this hunger? How might you help those experiencing this hunger? (25)
- What is one way you may participate in the service of “foot-washing” in your household or in your parish? (26)

B. THE MYSTERY OF THE EUCHARIST

Read:

28. *This is my body given for you*
29. *The love is in the food*
30. *From foot-washing to the breaking of the bread: From Incarnation to Paschal Mystery*
31. *Do this in memory of me: The institution of the Holy Eucharist*
32. *The Sunday Eucharist in our parishes*
33. *Do this in memory of me: the institution of Holy Orders*
34. *The beauty of the Mass*
35. *The form of the Mass*
36. *The meaning of the Mass*

Reflect:

- Why does Archbishop say that the phrase “the love is in the food” could be said about the Eucharist? (29)
- How is Christ’s gift of himself in the Eucharist connected not just with the cross, but also his Resurrection? (31)
- Have you sought to deepen your devotion to our Lord in the Eucharist? What is one step you may take during the National Eucharistic Revival? See ideas at archspm.org/eucharisticrevival. (32)
- How have you experienced beauty in the Mass? Or, what can parishes do to make liturgies “dignified and beautiful”? (34)
- What struck you about the story of the woman who called the Eucharist her “most precious daily endeavor”? (36)

C. THE MYSTERY OF PENTECOST

Read:

37. *Waiting for the promise*
38. *The Synod and the mystery of Pentecost*
39. *The Upper Room: What God has joined, we have divided*
40. *The Acts of the Apostles: A Church on fire*
41. *The Acts of the Apostles: A growing Church*
42. *St. John XXIII and the new Pentecost*
43. *The Second Vatican Council: A Council to proclaim the Good News in the modern world*
44. *St. John Paul II: “Be not afraid!”*
45. *The New Evangelization is for all Christians*
46. *Pope Francis and the “all” of missionary discipleship*
47. *Going beyond fear and misconceptions*
48. *Recognizing our gifts: Vicar for Charisms*
49. *The Renewal in the Spirit and the Catholic parish*
50. *Holy Spirit you are welcome here*

Reflect:

- To what is Archbishop referring when he writes, “What God has joined, we have divided”? (39)
- Archbishop writes, “Only a culture of witness can turn the tide of decline that we are seeing in many areas of the Church today.” What might “a culture of witness” look like in today’s world – at your parish, in your family, in your community, or in your own life? (41)
- How do the gifts of the Holy Spirit given to you at Confirmation operate in your life? (42)
- How can you renew your passion for the Second Vatican Council? (43)
- Archbishop writes, “There would never have been a first evangelization without a first Pentecost; neither can there be a new evangelization without a new Pentecost.” Have you seen Pentecost, or do you desire to see Pentecost like the person who attended the Duquesne weekend? (43)
- Who is responsible for evangelization in the Church? (45)
- What is one God-given gift that you may use in service of the Lord, your fellow parishioners, and your family? (47)

- Have you sought to discern your charisms? If so, what are they? How do they operate in your life? (48)
- Is the outpouring of the Holy Spirit an ordinary part of your parish's life? Your life? If yes, how is it manifested? If no, how might it be brought to flame? (49)
- How can you help your parish be "a center of constant missionary outreach"? (50)

SECTION IV – GOING FORTH

Read:

51. Synod Priorities for the next three years

A. Year 1: Small Groups (July 2023-June 2024)

B. Year 2: The Mass (July 2024-June 2025)

C. Year 3: Parents as primary educators (July 2025-June 2026)

52. Archdiocesan actions to support Synod implementation

53. Annual Synod implementation plans

54. Synod Priorities beyond the first three years

55. Other ongoing Archdiocesan priorities

56. Plans for a future of hope

Reflect:

- Which small group goal in Year 1 (e.g., serving the marginalized and the poor, teaching about the Mass, etc.) speaks to you most and why? (51)
- Related to the Synod Priority for Year 2, how do you envision "radical hospitality" at your parish? (51)
- As stated in one goal for Year 3, how might you (as an individual or with your family) "reclaim Sunday"? (51)
- Imagine your parish embracing the three mysteries of the Upper Room. What effect might this have on you personally, on other parishioners, or on those in your community? (56)
- Pray the "Archdiocesan Evangelization Prayer" and reflect upon how you, your family, or your parish may experience "a 'new Pentecost.'" (56)