



# The Synod Process

## What is a Synod? What is the purpose?

Quotes below are from Archbishop Hebda's June 6 column in The Catholic Spirit. Find the full column at [www.archspm.org/synod](http://www.archspm.org/synod).

- "A Synod is a formal representative assembly designed to help a bishop in his shepherding of the local Church."
- The purpose is "to discern and establish clear pastoral priorities in a way that will both promote greater unity and lead us to a more vigorous proclamation of Jesus' good news."

**Year 1 (2019-2020):  
The Church Listens**

### Prayer & Listening Events

- 30 Prayer & Listening events (19 open and 11 focus) held and attended by Archbishop Hebda.
- Over 8,000 faithful attended providing over 35,000 comments on what is working well in the Archdiocese and challenges and opportunities as we move forward together.
- Based on this feedback, along with other consultations and discernment, Archbishop Hebda determined these broad Focus Areas that will shape the 2021 Deanery and Parish Consultation process.
  1. Forming parishes that are 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.

## What is a Listening Church?

- The pre-Synod process has been designed to engage in a "sincere and respectful 'mutual listening' in which everyone has something to learn."
- "Moreover, it is not just listening to one another but to the Holy Spirit, the 'Spirit of Truth' (Jn 14:17), to know what the Spirit is 'saying to the Churches' (Rev. 2:7)."

**Year 2 (2020-2021):  
The Church Prepares**

**Fall Prayer and Study**

- Online talks and tools for praying with scripture and growing in holiness. (5 sessions)
- Virtual retreat focused on healing and hope. (5 sessions)

**Winter/Spring Prayer and Study**

- Presentations on key topics of faith and culture. (4 sessions)
- Lent: "Synod at Home - Growing in Faith Together."
- Spring: Live events on the Focus Areas.

**Join virtually with  
Archbishop Hebda,  
Bishop Cozzens and  
Catholics from across  
the Archdiocese this fall!**

## What is the Synod process?

- The pre-Synod process began fall 2019 engaging the People of God — laity, clergy, consecrated men and women, and bishops — all walking together at the personal, deanery, parish, and Archdiocesan levels.
- The process culminates in the Archdiocesan Synod Assembly which will be held Pentecost weekend, June 3-5, 2022, followed by a Pastoral Letter, leading to a Pastoral Plan.

**Year 3 (2021-2022):  
The Church Engages**

### Fall 2021: Parish Consultation Process with Small Groups

- Small groups meet in every parish to learn, pray, and discuss the Focus Areas.
- Parish feedback on the Focus Areas will help determine the Synod Topics.

### January/February 2022: Deanery Consultation Process

- Pastors and parish representatives gather to learn, pray, and discuss the Focus Areas.
- Deanery feedback informs the Parish Consultation Process.

### June 2022: Archdiocesan Synod Assembly (Pentecost Weekend)

- Approximately 500 appointed delegates (including two from each parish) gather to learn, pray, and discuss the Synod Topics and recommend pastoral priorities to Archbishop Hebda.
- After considering the Synod recommendations, Archbishop writes a Pastoral Letter (November - Feast of Christ the King), leading to a Pastoral Plan to move our Archdiocese into the future.



**See back side for more details.**



# YEAR 2 (2020-2021): THE CHURCH PREPARES

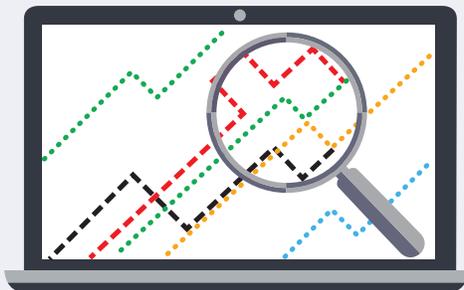


## PRAYING WITH SCRIPTURE SERIES

This five-part virtual series on praying with Scripture offers practical tools for growing in holiness, drawing upon the rich tradition of the Catholic Church. Archbishop Hebda and Bishop Cozzens will teach the fundamentals of praying with Scripture and explain how to use a Prayer Companion resource to enrich your prayer experience. This series begins September 13. Watch at your convenience with family, friends or on your own.

## HEALING AND HOPE SERIES

This five-part virtual retreat grounds each person in his or her fundamental identity as a beloved child of God. Yet each person has experienced wounds that bind. This retreat explores how to unbind these knots through the intercession of Our Lady, Un-doer of Knots, and open these wounds to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Encountering Jesus' love and mercy brings healing and hope. This series begins October 18.



## FAITH AND CULTURE SERIES

Inspired by the thousands of participants at the Prayer & Listening Events, this series connects their stories to the story of the Church. It explores:

- The sources of Catholic teaching (Scripture, tradition and magisterium);
- The Church's teaching on sexual morality and the family;
- The Church's understanding on the dignity of women; and
- The priesthood (both the baptized and ordained).

These sessions are scheduled for January and February 2021.

## SYNOD AT HOME— GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER

In the Synod process, the Church is taking time to listen to one another, pray, and discuss in order to determine priorities. These steps are important for every home too. The Synod at Home will give local Catholics the structure and tools for walking through this process together. Individuals, couples and families will find their faith and relationships strengthened by this Synod at Home.

