



Office of the Archbishop

Archdiocese of Mobile

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September 24, 2021

To: All Pastors

Dear Monsignor/Father,

In 2023 the Church will conduct a Synod entitled "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission." It is scheduled to take place in October 2023 in order to leave time for a two-year consultation at the diocesan, national and continental levels.

The Vatican proposal envisions a six-month process at the diocesan level from October 2021 to April 2022. There is to be a diocesan delegate appointed to coordinate this local consultation. At the end of the diocesan phase all input from the dioceses will be sent to the national episcopal conference, where it will be combined into a national document prior to a continental process from September 2022 to March 2023.

One objective of the synod on synodality, according to the preparatory document, is to examine "how responsibility and power are lived in the Church as well as the structures by which they are managed, bringing to light and trying to convert prejudices and distorted practices that are not rooted in the Gospel." The preparatory document continues: "The purpose of the first phase (the diocesan phase) of the synodal journey is to foster a broad consultation process in order to gather the wealth of the experiences of lived synodality, in its different articulations and facets, involving the pastors and the faithful of the particular Churches at all the different levels."

After consultation with the Presbyteral Council, I have decided that the most effective manner for the Archdiocese of Mobile's participation in the synodal process is for appropriate questions to be reflected upon by the people of the Archdiocese and the responses submitted to our diocesan delegates.

Mr. Patrick Arensberg, Director of the Office for Evangelization and Family Life, and Mrs. Janet Masline, Associate Director of the same office, have been appointed as our Archdiocesan co-delegates.

Attached are the questions which are being offered for consultation. (Beginning October 6, the same questions will be placed on the archdiocesan website so that anyone may participate in this

process.) I urge every pastor to discuss these questions with parishioners and parish leaders in the manner he chooses. The responses from his parish then are to be consolidated into concise answers and sent to:

Office for Evangelization and Family Life
352 Government Street
Mobile, Alabama 36602

Or emailed to oeff@mobarch.org

The deadline for submissions is Monday, January 31, 2022.

May God bless you and your parishioners.

Sincerely in the Lord

+ Thomas J. Rodi

Most Reverend Thomas J. Rodi
Archbishop of Mobile

How do we as an Archdiocese journey together, listening to the Holy Spirit and discerning the Lord's will?

In what ways are people of all backgrounds in this Archdiocese truly welcomed into the life of the Church?

In what ways does your parish foster unity in the Church? What else might your parish do to further unity?

Are there areas of the parish, Archdiocese or universal Church that are in particular need of healing and/or conversion?

In what ways does the Church in this Archdiocese reach out and evangelize those on the margins?

In what ways do your parish and the Archdiocese promote participation of the laity in decision-making?

Have scandals in the Church caused you to think that the Church relies too heavily upon clerical leadership?

In what ways is the voice of the laity respected in the Church?