



## Journeying Together

Diocese of Las Cruces  
2021-2022

### **Diocesan Synod Member Role and Responsibilities**

The Diocese of Las Cruces, like every other diocese in the world, will be participating in the upcoming XVI Synod of Bishops by engaging in our own diocesan synodal process.

Each pastor or parochial administrator is asked to name two (2) parishioners to serve as members, representing their parish.

#### **The Synod membership shall include members of the lay faithful.**

- ◇ A diocesan synod is a group of selected priests and other members of the Christian faithful of a particular church who offer assistance to the diocesan bishop for the good of the whole diocesan community. (Canon 460)
- ◇ In addition to other required members, lay members of the Christian faithful should be invited to serve as members of the diocesan synod. (Canon 463(3))
- ◇ *For the upcoming Diocese of Las Cruces Special Synod, each pastor/parochial administrator shall name two (2) parishioners to serve as members, representing their parish.*

#### **What will the Synod members do?**

- ◇ Members will participate in the Synod of the Diocese of Las Cruces which begins on October 17, 2021 and concludes on the feast of Pentecost, June 5, 2022. Members will be asked to bring their experience of parish life and knowledge of issues facing the local parish and diocese to reflect prayerfully and to participate actively in issues before the Synod.
- ◇ Parish representatives will also assist in the facilitation of their own parish's consultation process. This can include in-person session(s),

online session(s) or other formats for soliciting the feedback from parishioners and community members.

### **What is the Diocesan Synod Process?**

As described more fully in the XVI Synod of Bishops Overview, the Diocese of Las Cruces will be conducting a synodal process as part of the XVI Synod of Bishops. At the same time, the synod process aims to provide consultation to Bishop Baldacchino as he charts the path forward for the Diocese. The synod process includes a parish level of consultation and other consultations, culminating in a synodal assembly in late March, 2022 (tentative date is March 26, 2022, 4-5 hrs) and then the promulgation of new pastoral priorities for the Diocese and the submission of our synodal report to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

### **What is the Parish Consultive Process?**

Between the Synod's opening Mass on October 16 and December 31, 2021, each parish is asked to conduct a consultive process in order to solicit the feedback from as many of the faithful as possible. The parish consultive process can consist of one or more in-person sessions at the parish, online gatherings, or a combination of both. If the circumstances do not allow for either of these options, input can be solicited via other means, such as via email or a telephone campaign.

A Parish Consultive Process Guidebook will be provided by the Diocese in order to assist in your planning, and in addition, a Parish Synod Member Orientation training will be provided (in person and online options) to support the role of the synod members leading the consultation in the parish.

### **Basic qualifications and expectations for parish representatives**

- ◇ 18 years of age or older; willing and able to participate in the Synod events
- ◇ An active parishioner in full communion with the Catholic Church
- ◇ Synod members should be individuals who will:
  - Actively participate in discussions;
  - Always consider issues prayerfully and respectfully;
  - Be punctual;
  - Be strategic and focused;
  - Offer solutions (not just problems);
  - Listen to others attentively;
  - Speak kindly, clearly and succinctly;
  - Discern decisions for the good of the parish/diocese as a whole.

## **Events to be attended by Synod Members**

- ◇ The Synod Opening Mass, celebrated by Bishop Peter Baldacchino on Saturday, October 16, 2021 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, either in person or via live stream (**Cathedral's Facebook link**)
- ◇ A Synod Member Orientation session, either in-person or via Zoom to be scheduled in late October, 2021 to be provided by the Diocesan Synod Coordinator
- ◇ The Synod Assembly in late March (tentative Saturday, March 26, 2022 from 1:00-5:00 pm, preferably in person, but live stream available.
- ◇ The Synod Closing Mass and Celebration on Pentecost, June 5, 2022 from 3:00-6:00 pm at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, either in person or via live stream