



Archdiocese of New Orleans

Office of the Archbishop

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TO: Pastors and Parish Synod Implementation Coordinators

FROM: Archbishop Gregory Aymond *GJA*

Thank you for your support of the Ninth General Synod over these past years. Through the guidance and inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and your efforts in realizing the priorities and achieving the goals, we together have invigorated the life of this local Church, enhanced ministries and services, and strengthened the Body of Christ. With five years having passed since the consultative sessions, and four years since implementation began, I conducted consultation among clergy leaders, archdiocesan staff, and other lay leaders to examine how to conclude implementation. With much having been accomplished both in our archdiocesan offices and agencies, and in our parishes and institutions, the consensus was that implementation should draw to a close and that the culture of pastoral planning that the synod fostered should become part of the ordinary life of the archdiocese and our parishes.

To that end, in September the Office of Pastoral Planning and Ministries will ask all pastors to provide contact information on the president/chairperson of their parish Pastoral Council. The Pastoral Councils, in collaboration with pastors, will be invited annually to set one to three goals and share these with the Office of Pastoral Planning and Ministries, who will in turn recommend resources and support to address these. The Pastoral Council presidents will serve as a point of contact with this office, and the office will be available to help the councils with goal-setting and other training as requested. The synod priorities and goals should remain an important reference point for annual goal-setting in all parishes. I also envision having an annual gathering with me of parish Pastoral Council presidents and Pastors for the purpose of discussing the life of our local Church and how the archdiocese may remain responsive to parish life needs.

Finally, to mark a formal conclusion of the synod implementation process and to thank you for your service, I would like to invite you to a final meeting of parish synod implementation coordinators at Notre Dame Seminary, Schulte Auditorium, followed by a reception at my residence next door. This will take place on Tuesday, August 27, 2019, at 6:00 PM. So that we may prepare, please RSVP to Debbie Curole at planningandministries@arch-no.org or 504-861-6295 by August 20. Questions about the conclusion of synod implementation and the future of pastoral planning can be directed to John Smestad, Jr. at jsmestad@arch-no.org or 504-861-6295.