



BISHOP OF STEUBENVILLE
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Letter Read at Last Weekend Sunday Masses

The Synod on Synodality: Communion, Participation, and Mission

We hear you! I hear you! As the Body of Christ, we are invited to listen to one another as we share our common Christian pilgrimage.

Our Holy Father Pope Francis has invited us to journey together in a Universal Synod that begins at the grassroots of our Church, namely, you. For our part, as the members of the Diocese of Steubenville, I ask that all Parishes and Catholic Institutions be represented during this consultation, which begins next Sunday, October 17, at which there will be a virtual meeting at 1:30 in the afternoon. I will be present at the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption in Marietta to conduct the meeting. I expect the meeting not to last more than one hour.

I ask all of our pastors, religious superiors, principals, and directors of Catholic organizations within our Diocesan boundaries to select one person who will be their lead facilitator as well as at least one note taker for the local meetings. It is my hope that the pastor, lead facilitator, and note taker will attend the October 17th meeting either virtually or in person.

More information will be forthcoming to your local communities, thereby providing more direction for the local meetings. We hope to give constructive directions so that your meetings will be brief. All parish members and community members are welcome to the meetings, for the very reason for this local Synodal way is for all to be heard.

Thank you for your time and may the Holy Spirit speak through each of us in how we can better journey together as the Body of Christ. I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Jeffrey M. Monforton
Bishop of Steubenville