

Pastoral Reflection
Third Sunday of Lent
March 20, 2022

As the Archdiocese embarks upon its Strategic Plan called All Things New, the Pope is inviting every Catholic in the world to participate in the "Synod on Synodality". The word Synod is from the Greek and it means "walking together". Through this Synodal process the Pope is inviting every Catholic to prayerfully reflect and learn together about how God is calling us to be the Church in the third millennium. He wants the Church to be more "grassroots". He wants to hear from the people and not just the bishops. The Synod on Synodality will take place in Rome, in October of 2023.

Here is how you can participate. Go to the Archdiocesan website and click on the "Synod" link. You can read about the Synod and then click on the link "Answer Synod Questions". There are three questions.

1. Based on your personal experience, what about the Catholic Church fills your heart?
2. Based on your personal experience, what about the Catholic Church breaks your heart?
3. How can the Church better listen to people who are marginalized or socially excluded, but not limited to, cultural-ethnic groups, women, those living with disabilities, those experiencing poverty, and those identifying as LGBTQIA+?

I encourage your involvement in the synodal process. The Pope is for real! He wants the institutional church to be of the people and for the people and not "religion for religion's sake.

"True reform comes from spiritual outbursts" (Rohr). Let's help change our church with our outburst.

Be safe and be blessed,

Fr. Jack (he/him)