



FROM THE DESK OF FR. MIKE

Members of the Parish Council participated in a Zoom® meeting about the Synod Process initiated by Pope Francis for the universal Church. A number of parishioners were able to participate in the ZOOM meeting as well.

I have asked Fr. Radley to share his hopes and prayers for the Synod as well as an invitation to the parishioners this weekend. Here are his words:

This past October, Pope Francis began a two-year process of listening and dialogue. This process is called a synod, a “journeying together.” The purpose of synods is to foster unity in the Church, to share information and experiences, and to study questions concerning the Church around the world.

The objective of this Synod on Synodality entitled “*For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission*” is to listen, as the entire People of God, to what the Holy Spirit is saying to the Church.

Pope Francis has invited the entire Church, everyday people, both those who are actively involved in the life of the Church and those who have found themselves on the margins, to share about their journey with the Lord.

The Church is being invited to renew herself through this process of listening, accompaniment, and discerning what the Spirit is communicating to us. This Synod is for everyone, not just bishops, priests, and religious. The local and universal Church want to hear what you are thinking and feeling about the Church. What makes and breaks your heart about the Church?

For more detailed information about the Synod, please visit:
www.archchicago.org/news-and-events/synod.

Fr. Mike and I encourage you to share your experiences of Church and your walk with the Lord by sharing via a Google® Form by March 6, 2022. The link to the form will be available on St. Mary’s website (www.churchofstmmary.org) and on Facebook, beginning Monday, February 7. You will see that there are many questions to aid you in your discernment but know that they are only there to help. There is no specific question that needs to be answered. May the Holy Spirit continue to renew and inspire the Church!

May God bless you in 2022!

