

## **Diocesan Phase of the International Synod of Bishops – Opening Mass: October 17<sup>th</sup>**

Pope Francis is opening a synod in Rome the weekend of Oct. 10, 2021 entitled: “*For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission.*” Each diocese throughout the world has been asked to open their Diocesan Phase of the International Synod of Bishops on the following Sunday. We are inviting all priests, deacons, religious, and lay faithful to attend the **opening Mass** for the Diocese of Marquette at **St. Peter Cathedral on Sunday, October 17<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m.** (ET). Priests and deacons are asked to dress in alb and diocesan stole.

This Mass is an opportunity to join together in prayer to ask the Holy Spirit to open our hearts and minds to answering the fundamental question posed by this synod: *How does this “journeying together,” which takes place today on different levels (from the local level to the universal one), allow the Church to proclaim the Gospel in accordance with the mission entrusted to her; and what steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow as a synodal Church?*

A synodal Church, in announcing the Gospel, “journeys together:” How is this “journeying together” happening today in your local Church? What steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our “journeying together”?

Pope Francis has asked us to explore this fundamental question, broken down into ten themes, with various groups across our diocese over the next several months. The synthesis of our answers, drawn from listening to the Holy Spirit at work within us, will be reported back.

Please utilize the following prayer for the successful opening of the Diocesan Phase of the International Synod of Bishops. For more information please visit: <https://www.synod.va/en.html>

### **Prayer for the Synod: *Adsumus Sancte Spiritus***

*We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name.  
With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts;  
Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it.*

*We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder.  
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions.  
Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right.*

*All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever.*

*Amen.*