



**Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon**  
**OFFICE OF THE BISHOP**

123 Nelson Rd  
Saskatoon SK S7S 1H1  
[www.rcdos.ca](http://www.rcdos.ca)

Phone: 306-242-1500  
Fax: 306-244-6010  
Toll free: 877-661-5005



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**Pope Francis re: 16<sup>th</sup> Synod of Bishops:**  
**“For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission”**

**Dear Pastors, Clergy, Religious, and Lay Faithful of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon:**

I am pleased to announce my support of the call by Pope Francis for all dioceses and Catholic communities throughout the world to participate in a special synod, “For a Synodal Church.” Synodality indicates a way for the People of God journey together in a posture of attentive listening to the Holy Spirit, and to one another.

This synod process is to involve all the faithful of the local Churches and is to commit to a posture of listening to all. Thus, this Synod is a two-year process, starting from October 2021, to October 2023. The diocesan listening phase will run until April 2022 and will be followed by a continental phase from September 2022 to March 2023. The final “universal Church phase” will culminate in the traditional assembly of the Synod of Bishops in the Vatican in October 2023.

Pope Francis has highlighted the Synod’s three key words – Communion, Participation, and Mission. As he describes, Communion and Mission describe the mystery of the Church, while Communion expresses the very nature of the Church. In this, Pope Francis builds on the teaching of recent popes. Saint Paul VI stated that, “...communion, that is, cohesion and interior fullness, in grace, truth and collaboration... and mission, that is, apostolic commitment to the world of today.” Saint John Paul II stressed that *koinonia* gives rise to the Church’s mission of serving as a sign of the human family’s intimate union with God.

I will be celebrating the opening of the Synod at the Eucharistic celebration this Sunday, October 17 at the Cathedral of the Holy Family. I ask all pastors and parishes to join with me by also celebrating the beginning of the Synod and praying for its intention.

The Diocesan Pastoral Council has done much work and reflection on “the Synodal Church” over the past year, and shortly reflection and discussion tools will be sent to parishes coming out of its work, along with support materials from the CCCB. In the meantime, let us hold in prayer the Holy Spirit’s blessing on this important event and journey in the life of our Church.

Yours in Christ,  
  
✠ Mark A. Hagemoen

 In all things we are *rooted in Christ*,  
in His desire to bring God’s love to all peoples.