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November 9, 2025
Dedication of St. John Lateran

The Implementation Phase of the SYNOD on SYNODALITY

**Dedication of the St. John Lateran Basilica:
The Celebration of Our Participation in the
Life, Passion, Death, & Resurrection of the Lordship of Jesus Christ.**

Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?
(I Corinthians 3:16)

Dear Sisters and Brother of the Diocese of Saskatoon:

This year of the *Jubilee Pilgrimage of Hope* has seen the death of Pope Francis and the election of Pope Leo XIV. One pope started us on this pilgrimage journey of hope – which also features the call to be a more *synodal church*. And now Pope Leo has confirmed this call and work. At a recent Jubilee of Synodal Teams, Pope Leo said that synodality will “*help the church fulfill its primary role in the world, which is to be missionary, to announce the Gospel, to give witness to the person of Jesus Christ in every part of the world, to the ends of the earth.*”

This is, of course the mission of the Church at every level, and in every setting! Synodality is indeed a way of walking our journey of missionary discipleship in unity with Jesus Christ, inspired and led by the Holy Spirit. In this walk, we are inspired by the Synod on Synodality that has listened in the Spirit to the voices of people from around the world over a multi-year process of discernment. The Final Document released by the Synod of Bishops calls for intentional focus and an ongoing journey of conversion to become a more synodal church of *communion, participation and mission* – and the Holy Father is now asking dioceses around the world to implement this synodal vision.

Thus, I am pleased as your bishop to announced the “implementation phase” of the synodal process for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon. Our implementation phase will feature the following:

Firstly, we will continue the conversations in the Spirit that have happened to date at the local and diocesan levels about the meaning and practical features of synodality.

Secondly, we will link the implementation features of synodality to our Diocesan Pastoral Plan. We have put a lot of prayer, discernment, and work into this plan – which has been a source of renewal and focus for all of our diocese. However, the pastoral plan can be greatly improved by being *infused* with the *spirit of synodality* – just as the Beatitudes (see Mathew 5: 1-16) bring life and character to living out of the Gospel.

Thirdly, as we conclude the Jubilee Year of Hope, we also look to another coming great event: The 2000th anniversary in 2033 of the Resurrection of Christ and the Great Commission. What a remarkable and unprecedented opportunity for the celebration of the very reason for our *hope*, and the basis for *mission*. I pray this upcoming time will be a real time of deepening conversion for all of us called to the mission of Jesus Christ to save and bless His people.

Fourthly, this *implementation phase* is being announced for our diocese on the Feast of the Dedication of St. John Lateran Basilica – a day when the Church celebrates the great temple and Pope's cathedral church as the mother church for all the world. It is also a day when we are reminded - as *missionary disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ* - of His call to us all to be *His temples in and for the world*. As St. Caesarius of Arles, bishop, states,

“...we are to be the true and living temple of God... let the light of good works shine in us ... God wishes to enter in to our souls, for He promised: I shall live in them, and I shall walk the corridors of their hearts.”

May our synod implementation plan help each of us to be better temples of the life of God – within ourselves - and for our parishes, diocese and larger communities. May we approach the synod implementation phase not as another task or plan to be accomplished, but as a real time of patient listening to the Holy Spirit, who calls us to a new and greater awareness of not only the goal and destination, but also *the journey along the way*.

I conclude with this inspiration from St. Mother Teresa – who is a great teacher about the synodal features of empathy and attentive listening:

We are called to be contemplatives in the heart of the world by seeking the face of God in everything, everyone, everywhere, all the time, and His hand in every happening.” (St Teresa of Calcutta)

Sincerely, in Christ,



✠ Most Reverend Mark A. Hagemoen
Bishop of Saskatoon