



HOLY MASS FOR BEGINNING THE SYDONAL JOURNEY:
“Synod 2021-2023: For a Synodal Church”



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October 16 & 17, 2021
ST ALPHONSUS CATHOLIC CHURCH
MT. PLEASANT, IOWA
REV. PAUL CONNOLLY, CELEBRANT

RECESSIONAL HYMN

THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
we are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
and we pray that all unity may one day be restored:

*And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.*

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
we will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land:

We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
we will work with each other, we will work side by side,
and we'll guard human's dignity and save human's pride:

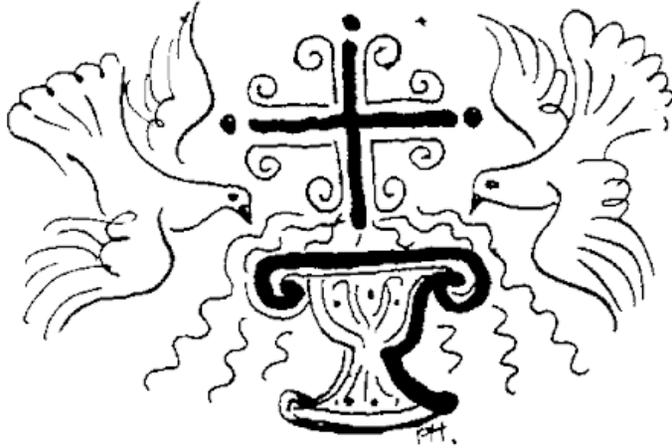
All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,
and all praise to Christ Jesus, his only Son,
and all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one:

Text: Peter Scholtes, b.1938 © 1966, F.E.L. Publications; The Lorenz Corp., 1991

PLEASE NOTE:

The Diocese of Davenport has set the following guidelines
for Masses during this stage of the Pandemic:

- All people are asked to wear a mask.
- Singing by the assembly is temporarily suspended. You are invited to follow the music as it is sung by the Cantor.
- The Sign of Peace may be exchanged in the customary way within your household. Otherwise, bowing is preferred.
- During the Lord's Prayer, hands should not be held except within your household, if that is your custom.



COMMUNION CHANT

VENI, SANCTE SPIRITUS

Veni Sancte Spiritus;

Veni Sancte Spiritus;

Veni, veni Sancte Spiritus;

Veni Sancte Spiritus.

Text, Latin, 12th cent. Based on the Pentecost Sequence, Veni, Sancte Spiritus.
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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

The Pope on Synod: The participation of everyone, guided by the Holy Spirit.

Pope Francis leads a moment of reflection in the Vatican, ahead of the solemn inauguration of the Synod on Sunday with a Holy Mass in St. Peter's Basilica.

As the Universal Church is about to embark on the synodal journey, Pope Francis on Saturday (October 9) invoked the Holy Spirit on the People of God so that they will be able to move forward together, to listen to one another and discern our times, in solidarity with the struggles and aspirations of all humanity.

The Pope prayed as he presided over a moment of reflection in the Vatican's Synod Hall, on the eve the official inauguration of the diocesan phase of the Synod for all the dioceses around the world, marked by a solemn Mass in Rome's St. Peter's Square on Sunday, Oct. 10. Dioceses across the world will inaugurate the synodal journey at the local level on Oct. 17.

A special Synod

The theme of the upcoming 16th Synod of Bishops is: "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission". Synodality indicates walking together and listening to one another but above all to the Holy Spirit. To deepen this essential characteristic of the Church, the upcoming synod is unlike any previous one. It starts with, and involves all the faithful at local Churches across the world, promising to listen to all, especially to laypeople. That is why this Synod is a 2-year process, starting from October 10, 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.

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The protagonist of the Synod – the Spirit

In his discourse at Saturday's moment of prayer and reflection, Pope Francis dwelt on how the synodality of the Church is achieved, namely, through communion, participation, and mission. He also pointed out the dangers it can run into, as well as the opportunities it offers.

"In the one People of God, therefore, let us journey together, in order to experience a Church that receives and lives this gift of unity, and is open to the voice of the Spirit," Pope Francis said, stressing that the Synod is an "ecclesial moment", not a parliament or an investigation into opinions, but "an ecclesial moment" whose protagonist is the Holy Spirit. "Without the Spirit, there is no Synod," he stressed.

Communion, participation, mission

Explaining the Synod's three key words - communion, participation, and mission - he said that communion and mission describe the mystery of the Church. Communion expresses the very nature of the Church, according to the Second Vatican Council. According to Saint Paul VI "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.

For this reason, Pope Francis said, Synods must be well prepared for, especially at the local level with the participation of all.

All are called to participate

He pointed out that 'communion' and 'mission' can risk remaining somewhat abstract, unless synodality is concretely expressed at every step of the synodal journey and activity, encouraging real involvement on the part of each and all". "All the baptized are called to take part in the Church's life and mission." He acknowledged the frustration and impatience felt by many pastoral workers, members of diocesan and

RITE OF PEACE

Priest: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: And with your spirit.

The people exchange a sign of peace.

LAMB OF GOD

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
grant us peace.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Priest: Behold the Lamb of God,
Behold him who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

All: **Lord, I am not worthy
that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION: ST. ALPHONSUS LIGUORI

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there
and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

MYSTERY OF FAITH

After the words of Institution of the Eucharist, the Priest sings or says:

Priest: The mystery of faith.

**People: Save us, save us Savior of the world,
for by your death and resurrection
you have set us free.**

The Eucharistic Prayer culminates and concludes when the Priest sings:

“Through him, and with him, and in him,
O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours, for ever and ever. “

People: Amen

THE LORD’S PRAYER

All: **Our Father, who art in heaven.....
.....but deliver us from evil.**

Priest: Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of
your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from
all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the
coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours
now and forever.**

parish consultative bodies, and women, who frequently remain on the fringes. “Enabling everyone to participate is an essential ecclesial duty!” he stressed, adding, it is an indispensable ecclesial commitment based on the “identity card” of the baptism.

Three risks to avoid

The Pope warned that a Synod can run the risk of being a mere formal external event, instead of being “a process of authentic spiritual discernment that we undertake, not to project a good image of ourselves, but to cooperate more effectively with the work of God in history”. For this, “we need content, means, and structures that can facilitate dialogue and interaction within the People of God, especially between priests and laity”.

He noted that at times there is a type of “elitism” among the clergy that distances them from the laity, which makes them the “lord of the house” and not a shepherd. This, the Pope said, requires changing certain overly vertical, distorted, and partial visions of the Church, the priestly ministry, the role of the laity, ecclesial responsibilities, roles of governance, and so forth.

Another risk that a Synod can run into is becoming intellectual, offering learned but abstract approaches to the problems of the Church and the evils in our world, which are far removed from the reality of the holy People of God and the concrete life of communities around the world.

A third danger that a Synod should avoid, the Pope said, is the temptation to complacency, which says, we have always done it this way” and it is better not to change. The word ‘complacency’ “is a poison in the life of the Church”. People with such an attitude apply old solutions to new problems. The Holy Father stressed that the synodal process should involve the local Churches, in different phases and from the bottom up, in an exciting and engaging effort that can forge a style of communion and participation directed to mission”.

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Three opportunities

Pope Francis pointed out that the synodal process of encounter, listening, and reflection help the People of God, the Church, to recognize at least three opportunities. First, it must move not occasionally but structurally towards a synodal Church, where all can feel at home and participate.

Second, the Synod offers us the opportunity to become a listening Church, to break out of our routine in order to stop and listen, firstly to the Spirit in adoration and prayer, and then to our brothers and sisters, their hopes, the crises of faith around the world, the need for renewed pastoral life.

Keeping in mind that God's style is one of closeness, compassion and tenderness, the Pope said the Synod is also an occasion for the People of God not to be aloof but to become a Church of closeness by her very presence, bandaging wounds and healing broken hearts with the balm of God.

Not another Church but a different Church

For this, the Holy Father said, we need the ever new breath of God, the Spirit, who sets us free from every form of self-absorption, revives what is moribund, loosens shackles, and spreads joy. "There is no need to create another Church, but to create a different Church," the Pope said citing Dominican priest Father Yves Marie-Joseph Congar. "For a 'different Church', the Pope urged all to invoke the Holy Spirit with greater fervour and frequency and humbly listen to Him.

— Robin Gomes
Vatican News



Priest: Pray that my sacrifice and yours
may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father,

People: **May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands
for the praise and glory of his name,
for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

(PREFACE)

The Lord be with you. **And with your spirit.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right and just.**
It is truly right and just
And so, we sing the hymn of your glory,
as without end we acclaim:

HOLY

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of Hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST



PREPARATION OF THE ALTAR AND GIFTS

HYMN OF PREPARATION

Send us your spirit, O Lord.
Evening enfolds us and holds us too hear.
Wake the morning light.
Make our living bright.
Send us your spirit, O Lord.

Hold us with mercy, O Lord.
Sorrow has spoken, has broken our hearts.
Clothe us in your care.
Be the life we bear.
Feed us and fill us, O Lord.

Teach us your wisdom, O Lord.
Shadows have clouded, have crowded our sight.
Give us hearts that see.
Set our loving free.
Hear us and help us, O Lord.

Send us good summer, O Lord.
Winters have chilled us, and stilled us too long.
Give us love's own fire.
Be our true desire.
Send us your spirit, O Lord.

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INTRODUCTORY RITES

OPENING HYMN

Come, Holy Ghost, Creator blest,
And in our hearts take up thy rest;
Come with thy grace and heav'nly aid
To fill the hearts which thou hast made,
To fill the hearts which thou hast made.

O Comforter, to the we cry,
Thou heav'nly gift of God most high;
Thou font of life and fire of love,
And sweet anointing from above,
And sweet anointing from above.

O grant that we through thee may come
To know the Father and the Son,
And hold with firm, unchanging faith,
That thou art Spirit of them both,
That thou art Spirit of them both

Praise be to thee, Father and Son
And Holy Spirit, with them one;
And may the Son on us bestow
The gifts that from the Spirit flow,
The gifts that from the Spirit flow.

Text: LM with repeat; Veni, Creator Spiritus; attr. to Rabanus Maurus, 776–856; tr. by Edward Caswall, 1814–1878, alt. Music: Louis Lambillotte, SJ, 1796–1855.

COME, HOLY GHOST

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

THE PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven:
and by the Holy Spirit (bow)
was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day,
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the Prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.
I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL



GOSPEL

JOHN 14:23-29

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Whoever loves me will keep my word,
and my Father will love him,
and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him.

Whoever does not love me does not keep my words;
yet the word you hear is not mine
but that of the Father who sent me.

“I have told you this while I am with you.

The Advocate, the Holy Spirit
whom the Father will send in my name,
will teach you everything
and remind you of all that I told you.

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.

Not as the world gives do I give it to you.

Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.

You heard me tell you,

‘I am going away and I will come back to you.’

If you loved me,

you would rejoice that I am going to the Father;
for the Father is greater than I.

And now I have told you this before it happens,

so that when it happens you may believe.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

HOMILY

FIRST READING

DEUTERONOMY 30:10-14

Moses said to the people:

“Heed the voice of the LORD, your God,
and keep his commandments and statutes
that are written in this book of the law,
when you return to the LORD, your God,
with all your heart and all your soul.

“For this command which I enjoin on you today
is not too mysterious and remote for you.

It is not up in the sky, that you should say,
“Who will go up in the sky to get it for us
and tell us of it, that we may carry it out?”

Nor is it across the sea, that you should say,
‘Who will cross the sea to get it for us
and tell us of it, that we may carry it out?’

No, it is something very near to you, already in your mouths and in
your hearts; you have only to carry it out.”

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PSALM 19:8-11

Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul;
The decree of the LORD is trustworthy, giving wisdom to the simple.

Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

The precepts of the LORD are right; rejoicing the heart;
The command of the LORD is clear; enlightening the eye.

Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever;
The ordinances of the LORD are true; all of them just..

Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

They are more precious than gold, than a heap of purest gold.
Sweeter also than syrup or honey from the comb.

Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

SECOND READING

PHILIPPIANS 2:1-4

Brothers and sisters:

If there is any encouragement in Christ,
any solace in love,
any participation in the Spirit,
any compassion and mercy,
complete my joy by being of the same mind,
with the same love,
united in heart, thinking one thing.
Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory;
rather, humbly regard others as
more important than yourselves,
each looking out not for his own interests,
but also everyone for those of others.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Psalms 133:1

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Behold, how good it is and how pleasant
where brothers and sisters dwell as one!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.