



Office of the Bishop

Diocese of Brooklyn

310 Prospect Park West
Brooklyn, New York 11215

March 19 - 20, 2022

To the Faithful of Brooklyn and Queens,

Over the past few months, I traveled throughout our diocese, meeting with priests and parishioners who have taken part in the first phase of our diocesan Synod process. I was so thrilled to hear such thoughtful feedback from so many parishioners. I am very grateful for the time and effort that went into this phase of the process. Your work is an outstanding example of stewardship and faithfulness as you contribute your time to strengthen our Church and shape her future.

The Synod allows me to learn about our diocese and hear from as many people as possible. It's a chance for everyone to speak with courage and to be heard. That is why I'm so glad to announce the second phase of our diocesan Synod, our online Synod Survey. This online survey gives each of you who have not yet participated in a listening session an opportunity to share your thoughts and experiences from home.

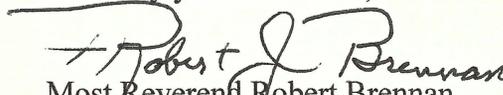
The most difficult part of the Synod is reaching beyond our active parishioners and those who regularly share their thoughts. We want to hear from the silent majority within our parishes and understand how we can better walk with them on their journey of faith. I also believe the Synod is our chance to reach beyond the walls of our church so as to understand why people choose not to become more engaged in parish life, why people who were raised Catholic struggle to see the value of a stronger bond with the Church community, and why some people feel as though our universal message of welcome does not apply to them.

Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, described the synod "As in a choir, [where] unity does not require uniformity, monotony, but the plurality and variety of voices, polyphony. At the same time, each voice in the choir sings while listening to the other voices and in relation to the harmony of the whole. This harmony is conceived by the composer, but its realization *depends on the symphony of each and every voice.*"

I encourage you to visit www.dioceseofbrooklyn.org/SynodSurvey to register to be part of the online Synod Survey today. As part of your Lenten sacrifice this year, consider offering a little time to share your experiences and thoughts about our Church and how we can better journey together in faith. Please also help us extend the number of people we reach by sharing this message and link with your friends and family.

You are all in my prayers as we begin our preparation for a joyous Easter celebration together.

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Most Reverend Robert Brennan
Bishop of Brooklyn