



# Synod Weekend Ends on High Note

PHOTO BY AARON JOSEPH



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**FATHER JEFFREY V. ROMANS** is serving as secretary of the synod in addition to his duties as pastor of St. Bridget of Sweden Parish in Cheshire.

**T**he Archdiocesan Synod 2020: Grow and Go meeting of delegates in October was an amazing experience. It was a non-stop weekend of presentations, small group discussions and prayer. As the secretary of the synod, it was a very powerful experience to see so many faithful and committed Catholics, young and old, come together to discern a path forward for our local Church.

Shawn Simpson and Jill Hale, delegates from St. Bridget of Sweden Parish in Cheshire, wrote about their experience at the synod meeting of delegates for the parish bulletin the following weekend. They said:

“Prior to each of the small group discussions, there was a dynamic speaker who gave an impassioned and inspiring talk about the meaning of each theme ... the breakout sessions allowed each member to discuss the ways in which we can live our Catholic faith in a dynamic and an evangelical way as they relate to the individual, family, parish and archdiocese.”

It has been noted to me through many

emails and personal encounters with delegates that the small group discussions were very powerful and meaningful for the delegates. It is evident that the synod meeting of delegates has breathed new life into those who attended and sent them forth to seek ways in which to “grow” as disciples of Jesus Christ, and “go” make disciples.

It was in Archbishop Leonard P. Blair’s opening remarks to the synod delegates that we received an inspiring challenge. “Disrupt the decline!” he said. The statistics are staggering. Declines can be seen in those practicing the faith, those identifying as Catholics and those answering the call to priesthood and reli-

gious life. Archbishop Blair challenged the delegates to not look at this synod process as a way to figure out how to manage the decline, but to look for a path forward to “disrupt the decline.” Disrupting the decline opens up new paths to grow and go.

The work now continues as the synod office is charged with collating all the materials from the many small groups, synthesizing it, removing duplications and then presenting the material to the synod preparatory committee, the members of the archbishop’s cabinet and, of course, Archbishop Blair.

After hearing the various members’ thoughts on the material, it will then be in the hands of the archbishop to write a pastoral letter outlining his thoughts and a path forward for our archdiocesan family of faith.

So keep those prayers coming! They are powerful and they work! 



**VIDEO EXTRA:** Hear what speakers at the synod weekend had to say by visiting [youtube.com/archdioceseofhartfordct](https://www.youtube.com/archdioceseofhartfordct).