



## RESOURCES FOR PRAYER AND LITURGY

### **October 9-10: The Synod Opens in Rome**

On this weekend, our Holy Father will inaugurate the synodal journey in Rome. Some ways to mark this occasion at weekend liturgies would be:

Speak to the synodal journey in homilies. The first reading (Wis 7:7-11) is a reinterpretation of Solomon's prayer for Wisdom; it ought to be our prayer, too, as we enter into this journey together. What lies at the root of all wisdom? If we listen to Psalm 90, the answer is love. This wisdom, borne of love, is more precious than anything we might possess (Mark). As such, we are called to be deeply rooted in God's "living and effective" word (Hebrews), a word that cuts through our hardened hearts and opens us to the working of the Spirit. Prosper the work of our hand, the "good work" (see the Collect) of this synodal journey we are undertaking together, and we will sing for joy (Ps 90)!

Pray for the Holy Father and for the Church in the intercessions. For example:

- For Francis, our Pope, as we journey together in synod. Let us pray to the Lord.
- For Francis, our Pope, Thomas our Bishop, and all Bishops; that they might have the grace to listen humbly and speak boldly as the Church gathers in synod. Let us pray to the Lord.
- That the Church, convoked in Synod, would be open and responsive to the movement of the Spirit. Let us pray to the Lord.

### **The Week of October 11-15**

Use the Votive Mass of the Holy Spirit on those days when it is possible (11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>):

- Votive Mass #9 (A, B, and C options); either Preface may be used with any of the options.
- Readings are taken from Pentecost (#63-63 in Volume I of the Lectionary) or from Confirmation (Readings #764-768 in Volume IV of the Lectionary).
- Red vestments are worn.

## **October 16-17: The Synod Opens in Every Diocese**

Bishop Zinkula is asking that the following prayers and texts be used at every Mass for Sunday:

- Mass: “For a Council or a Synod” (Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions, #5)
  - Preface II of the Holy Spirit is used [or you may use the Eucharistic Prayer for Various Needs and Occasions I: The Church on the Path of Unity]
  - Red vestments are worn
- Readings: from the Lectionary #838-842 (Volume IV)
  - Deut 30:10-14
  - Psalm 19:8-11 (“Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.”)
  - Phil 2:1-4
  - John 14:23-29 (in the Book of the Gospels, 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter, 57C)

After the proclamation of the word, consider enthroning the Book of the Gospels in some manner in the sanctuary. A stand adorned with candles and flowers would be appropriate.

The homily ought to focus on the synodal journey we are undertaking. Deuteronomy reminds us that the word (law) of God dwells in our hearts; it isn’t something esoteric for a select few. Therefore, we are all equally called to listen humbly and speak boldly as we enter this synodal process together; no one is to be excluded as we discern what that word is calling us to in this place and time. This “law” or word written on our hearts is not burdensome, but a source of refreshment (Psalm 19). The reading from Philipians lays out the attitudes necessary to journey together in synod: “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.” If we do that, then what Paul prays for, and what we celebrate at every Eucharist, will come to be: unity and peace, the gifts of the Holy Spirit (John). It is this same Spirit who accompanies us on this synodal journey.

Please include an intercession for the Synod as part of the Prayer of the Faithful; for example (see also below for a complete set of prayers from the Vatican):

- For an outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Church as we undertake this synodal journey; let us pray to the Lord.  
OR
- That the Holy Spirit may fill the hearts and minds of all the faithful, and accompany us on this synodal journey; let us pray to the Lord.  
OR
- For the Church, gathered in Synod; that by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit this journey will be marked by humble listening, courageous speech, and lively hope. Let us pray to the Lord.

The Solemn Blessing invoking the Holy Spirit (#8) is recommended.

The cantor might chant the *Veni Sancte Spiritus* for the opening, closing, or communion processions.

Pastors may want to invite their parish pastoral council members to attend a single liturgy and sit together.

In addition, parishes ought to make available the prayer invoking the Holy Spirit on the synod (“*Adsumus*”) available to the faithful. This prayer would be appropriate to use at home, in classrooms, and at the opening of all parish meetings. The text of the prayer in different languages is being provided for parishes to format in a manner that works best for them.

***Universal Prayer Supplied by the Vatican:***

**Priest's Introduction**

As we await with longing  
The coming of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
dear brothers and sisters,  
let us with renewed devotion beseech his mercy,  
that, as he came into the world  
to bring the Good News to the poor  
and to heal the contrite of heart,  
so in our own time, also,  
he may bring salvation to all in need.

**Prayers of the Faithful**

1. For God's holy Church:

That it may be a light to the nations and the universal sacrament of salvation,  
walking with all peoples to the Kingdom of God.

2. For Francis our Pope, Thomas our Bishop, and the holy, faithful People of God in the  
Diocese of Davenport:

That the celebration of this Synod may help us to discern God's will and to boldly carry it out.

3. For all civil and public authorities:

That they may always seek the common good, acting with justice and integrity.

4. For the sick, the lonely, the oppressed, and the suffering:

That they may never be discarded, but rather treasured and cared for as the face of  
Christ in a suffering world.

5. For ourselves, gathered here:

That this Synodal Process may lead us ever deeper into the communion of the Church,  
foster our participation in it, and equip us to go out on mission.

**Priest's prayer**

O God, our refuge and our strength,  
hear the prayers of your Church,  
for you yourself are the source of all devotion,  
and grant, we pray, that what we ask in faith  
we may truly obtain.

Through Christ our Lord.

### **November 2021 – February 2022: A Listening Church**

Over the coming months, parishes, schools, and other communities will begin to host listening sessions, that will culminate in a diocesan synthesis that will be sent to the USCCB. The *Adsumus* prayer should be used to open these sessions.

In addition, the whole synodal process ought to be surrounded in prayer. What we are entering into is not a parliamentary (political) process, where various ideologies and special interest groups vie for power and control. We are being asked, as the Body of Christ, as those Baptized and gifted with the Holy Spirit, to pause and discern, to listen together to that still small voice hidden in the driving wind.

Here are some suggestions (we'll post resources to the diocesan webpage on the synod):

- Continue to include reference to the synodal journey in homilies and intercessions, as appropriate
- Open every parish and school meeting (councils, committees, staff) with the *Adsumus* prayer.
- Pray the Liturgy of the Hours for the Synod
- Celebrate a Holy Hour for the Synod
- Pray the Rosary for the Synod (especially the Mysteries of Light or the Glorious Mysteries)
- A Liturgy of the Word and Enthronment of the Book of the Gospels

### **Journeying Together into an Undiscovered Country...**

The synodal journey doesn't end with the writing and submission of our diocesan report. Continental/Regional Conferences will take place between September 2022 and March 2023. The US and Canadian Bishops make up one group. Then in October 2023, the World Synod of Bishops will meet in Rome.

More importantly, the synodal process that we undertake this year is not a "one and done" sort of event; it is meant to enliven and encourage us to become more and more a synodal church. And, in order to journey together, we need to pray together.

## ***Adsumus, Sancte Spiritus***

We stand before You, Holy Spirit,  
as we gather together in Your name.

With You alone to guide us,  
make Yourself at home in our hearts;

Teach us the way we must go  
and how we are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful;  
do not let us promote disorder.

Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path  
nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity  
so that we may journey together to eternal life  
and not stray from the way of truth  
and what is right.

All this we ask of You,  
who are at work in every place and time,  
in the communion of the Father and the Son,  
forever and ever. Amen.

## ***Adsumus, Sancte Spiritus***

Estamos ante ti, Espíritu Santo,  
reunidos en tu nombre.

Tú que eres nuestro verdadero consejero:  
ven a nosotros,  
apóyanos,  
entra en nuestros corazones.

Enséñanos el camino,  
muéstranos cómo alcanzar la meta.

Impide que perdamos  
el rumbo como personas  
débiles y pecadoras.

No permitas que  
la ignorancia nos lleve por falsos caminos.

Concédenos el don del discernimiento,  
para que no dejemos que nuestras acciones se guíen  
por prejuicios y falsas consideraciones.

Condúcenos a la unidad en ti,  
para que no nos desviemos del camino de la verdad  
y la justicia,  
sino que en nuestro peregrinaje terrenal  
nos esforcemos por alcanzar la vida eterna.

Esto te lo pedimos a ti,  
que obras en todo tiempo y lugar,  
en comunión con el Padre y el Hijo  
por los siglos de los siglos. Amén

## ***Adsumus, Sancte Spiritus***

### **Chúng Con Đứng Trước Nhan Ngài, Lạy Chúa Thánh Thần**

Chúng con đứng trước nhan Ngài, Lạy Chúa Thánh Thần,  
khi chúng con cùng nhau hội họp trong Danh Thánh Ngài.

Chỉ mình Chúa có thể hướng dẫn chúng con,  
xin hãy đến cư ngụ trong tâm hồn chúng con.

Xin dạy chúng con đường nào phải đi  
và cách thế để tiến bước trên con đường đó.

Chúng con yếu đuối và tội lỗi;  
xin đừng để chúng con cố vũ sự lầm lạc.

Xin đừng để sự mù quáng dẫn chúng con vào sự lầm lạc  
và đừng để thiên kiến ảnh hưởng hành động chúng con.

Xin cho chúng con gặp được Chúa trong sự hiệp nhất  
để chúng con có thể đồng hành về cuộc sống vĩnh cửu  
và không bị lạc xa con đường chân lý  
và những gì đúng đắn.

Chúng con cầu xin Chúa những ơn này,  
Chúa là Đấng đang hoạt động mọi nơi mọi lúc,  
trong sự hiệp nhất với Chúa Cha và Chúa Con  
đến muôn thuở muôn đời. Amen.