



## Summary Report of the Synod in the Diocese of London is Completed

After several weeks of prayerfully gathering, listening and sharing, “*Together on the Road: Conversations in the Diocese of London for a Listening Church*,” the Summary Report of the synodal process in the Diocese is complete. But for the Church as a whole, “being synodal” or “synodality” is an essential process that is beginning anew for the third millennium. *continued on page 8*



## Support for Fugitive Slave Chapel Relocation and Preservation

Helping preserve an historic worship site for future generations. *Story on page 4*



## Papal Visit

*Pope Francis in Canada: Walking Together.* The historic visit of His Holiness Pope Francis to three locations in Canada is to take place this July. This journey is an important step on the road to truth, reconciliation and healing. *continued on page 3*



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## Editor's Note

In this issue we are thrilled to bring some recent good news from across the Diocese, as well as some upcoming good news to help the Church atone for past wrongs and work to heal damages done. Our fellow Canadians and, people around the world will be watching closely as the Holy Father makes a pastoral visit this summer.

Let us pray for a successful week and that the visit has a lasting effect. Let us pray for a bright future for the Catholic Church and the Indigenous Peoples of this land. After the Pope's visit, the burden of this work falls to all of us. Let us take it up with joy and move forward boldly into the future. St. Anne and St. Joachim, pray for us! †

*Poverty is complex. Our plan is simple.*



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## Missio

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# DIOCESE OF LONDON

# Papal Visit - Edmonton, Quebec City and Iqaluit

By Matthew Clarke

After meeting with delegations of Indigenous Peoples in Rome in late March to apologize for the Church’s role in the residential school system and the abuses suffered by Indigenous People, Pope Francis committed to visit Canada this summer. He will make a pastoral visit to Canada from July 24 to 29.

*“The Pope’s visit will provide a unique opportunity for him, once again, to listen and dialogue with Indigenous Peoples, to express his heartfelt closeness and to address the impact of colonization and the participation of the Catholic Church in the operation of residential schools throughout Canada. The papal visit will also provide an opportunity for the shepherd of the world’s 1.2 billion Catholics to connect with the Catholic community in Canada.”*

*“The Catholic Church has a responsibility to take genuine and meaningful steps to journey with Indigenous Peoples of this land on the lengthy path to reconciliation. This journey by Pope Francis is an important step on the road to truth, understanding and healing. We invite you to join us as we reflect, pray and prepare to welcome the Holy Father for these special days among us.”* (from the Papal Visit website)



For, events news, updates, ticketing and volunteer opportunities visit:

[www.papalvisit.ca](http://www.papalvisit.ca) or [www.visitepapale.ca](http://www.visitepapale.ca)

and keep an eye on [www.vaticannews.va/en](http://www.vaticannews.va/en)



Above Photos: Pope Francis with members of the Indigenous Delegation to Rome in March/April 2022

(Source, including picture on the cover: Vatican Media)

# Fugitive Slave Chapel Donation

By Matthew Clarke

On May 12, Bishop Fabbro presented the Fugitive Slave Chapel Project with a cheque for \$5,000. The Project is raising funds to relocate an historic chapel from its temporary location to a permanent home at Fanshawe Pioneer Village in London.

The chapel was built around 1848 and was used by slaves who had escaped to Canada on the Underground Railroad. It was moved to the property of the Beth Emmanuel Church, near downtown, from its original site pending the finalization of a permanent site to help preserve this important piece of history for future generations.

“The fundraising campaign to support the relocation and restoration of the Fugitive Slave Chapel at Fanshawe Pioneer Village is progressing well towards our \$300,000 goal — thanks to this support from the Diocese of London. We are excited to see the community supporting this project, and hope to have more good news to share as the campaign progresses,” said Fanshawe Pioneer Village Board Chair, Tom Peace, in their news release announcing our donation.



ABOVE (L to R) L to R: Steering Committee Members Christina Lord, and Carl Cadogan.; Bishop Fabbro; Tom Peace, Fanshawe Pioneer Village Board Chair

## The full text of the letter Bishop Fabbro sent with our donation is below:

On behalf of the Diocese of London, I am very pleased to offer our financial support for the relocation and restoration of the Fugitive Slave Chapel.

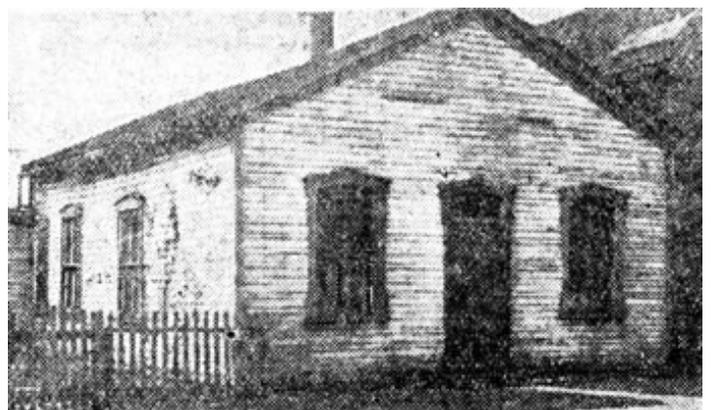
The project to preserve the chapel will enable future generations to learn about this important part of Canadian history, the history of slavery in North America and the role that chapels like this one played in helping fugitive slaves settle after finding freedom in “the north.”

The whole history of the Underground Railroad needs to be known and promoted. We appreciate that our support will help preserve a house of worship that is a notable reminder of the importance of faith in the life of the people of that era as well as today.

The testimonies of escaped slaves often spoke of the strength they drew from their Christian faith, both during their enslavement and on the long journey north. They offered fervent prayers and sang deeply moving hymns seeking God’s protection as they struggled to find freedom. No longer threatened with captivity, they found a faith community in a far-away land which must have been a source of great comfort to them on their arrival here. We can imagine that it brought a sense of peace and hope to those who had endured such a harrowing journey and had experienced generation after generation of persecution and far too much of man’s capability for cruelty.

The Diocese of London is grateful for the opportunity to support this worthy project to help preserve the history of the Black communities that have existed in southwestern Ontario for over two centuries. I, and our people, look forward to visiting the restored chapel at its new home when the project is completed.

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
Most Rev. Ronald Fabbro, CSB  
Bishop of London



**If you would like to support the Fugitive Slave Chapel Project, go to:**  
<https://www.lcf.on.ca/chapel-project> or  
[www.fanshawepioneervillage.ca](http://www.fanshawepioneervillage.ca)

# Congratulations to St. Mary's Parish in Maidstone on 175 Years

By Matthew Clarke

St. Mary's parish in Maidstone celebrates its 175th anniversary. Catholic worship in Maidstone dates back to the late 1820s with an influx of Irish immigrants who began settling the area along the "Talbot Road". They began keeping their own sacramental records in 1848 around the same time their second (and first brick) church building was completed. Prior to the construction of their first church, the faithful travelled to Assumption Parish in Windsor for worship and sacraments. The building of the current magnificent church began in 1874.

Bishop Fabbro celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving with the parish on June 5, Pentecost Sunday.

<https://centralessexatholic.dol.ca/>



Photos: St. Mary's Parish, Maidstone

## A Thank You Letter to the Basilian Fathers of Sandwich in Ontario from our Refugee Ministry

Rev. Paul Rennick  
The Basilian Fathers of Sandwich in Ontario

Dear Fr. Paul, I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank you for the generosity that the Basilian Fathers have shown toward our Refugee Ministry for such a long time.

There is a Buddhist quote that says, “Thousands of candles can be lighted from a single candle, and the life of the candle will not be shortened.”

During the Easter Vigil small candles held by those celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus are lit from the Paschal Candle. After experiencing the darkness of Good Friday, we are given hope by sharing the light from one to another until the light fills the church. The light of Jesus lives and cannot be shortened because, by sharing it with one another, His light grows brighter and with more love.

Each of us experiences times on our own journey that help us to relate to the Paschal Mysteries – times of suffering, healing and renewal. The generosity of your community offers hope from the darkness, “the Good Fridays” in the lives of the refugees we serve. It is the light that gives them hope to keep moving forward.

Through your kindness we are able to provide refurbished laptops through our “Access to Technology Project” to refugee claimants who lack the means to obtain one on their own. More than ever, with the increased use of electronic submissions of applications to Immigration and virtual hearings/meetings and needing access to documents on-line, it is critical for refugees to have the tools to be able to move through the challenging steps of the refugee claim process which is often met with negative decisions and appeals. It also gives them a sense of confidence and motivation to achieve more, to be a good example for their children, and to be able to become self-sufficient. Moreover, it is important for this suffering people to be able to stay in touch with family and loved ones they were forced to leave behind in their countries of origin.

Your donation is so very appreciated. It means so much knowing that you have opened your hearts to the needs of refugees who need help in rebuilding

their lives here in Canada. I truly believe that acts of kindness, like yours, help to create a more welcoming, loving and compassionate world – a world where the light of Jesus is shared and continues to spread.

May God bless you for living as an example of the way Jesus taught us.

On behalf of the refugees whose lives are brightened by your kindness, thank you.

Yours truly,  
Claire Roque  
Ministry Specialist for Inland Protection of Refugees



(We have concealed the identities of the recipients for privacy) Photos: Claire Roque

## Seasonal Parishes Reopen for Worship

By Matthew Clarke

Two of the Diocese's seasonal worship sites were able to reopen for the first time since the summer of 2019. Both St. Anne of the Lakes in Erieau, and St. Gabriel in Rondeau Provincial Park were able to open again for vacationing worshippers who boost the population in these areas in the summer months. "We had a very good turnout at our opening Masses on June 4," commented Father John Juhl, O.F.M., Cap, Pastor of the South Kent Catholic Family of Parishes. To learn more, visit <https://southkenticatholicfamilyofparishes.ca/>



## Synod Update

After several weeks of listening sessions at our parishes and with other groups in the Diocese, the summary report has been completed, reviewed and submitted to the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario.

The Diocese wishes to sincerely thank all those who participated in these sessions and shared their thoughts on the future of the Church. We especially wish to thank those who helped coordinate the sessions and who participated as table leaders or scribes to help get us the data in a timely manner.

This is not the end of the process. Pope Francis has emphasized that synodality is the way forward for the Church in the future, setting us on a path of greater collaboration than in the past, with clergy and laity together. You can read Bishop Fabbro’s letter about the Summary Report on pages 10 and 11 of this newsletter.

### Quotes from Pope Francis about the Synod

*“It is precisely this path of synodality which God expects of the Church of the third millennium.”*

*“Come, Holy Spirit! You inspire new tongues and place words of life on our lips: keep us from becoming a “museum Church”, beautiful but mute, with much past and little future.”*

*“May we be pilgrims in love with the Gospel and open to the surprises of the Holy Spirit. Let us not miss out on the grace-filled opportunities born of encounter, listening and discernment. In the joyful conviction that, even as we seek the Lord, he always comes with his love to meet us first.”*

Number of Submitted Responses by Individuals who Used the Self-Guided Synodal Participation Option:  
**191**

Number of Post-Listening Session “Exit Cards” to Capture Additional Thoughts and Ideas:  
**218**

Number of Non-Parish Listening Session Table Scribe Submissions:  
**70**

Number of Parish Listening Session Table Scribe Submissions:  
**256**

**Total Word Count of Responses Submitted and Reviewed**  
 Parish Sessions: 118,100  
 Non-Parish Sessions: 34,900  
 Individual Responses: 52,800  
 Exit Cards: 25,000  
**Total: 230,000+**

Download your copy of the Diocese of London’s Summary Report at [www.dol.ca/synod](http://www.dol.ca/synod)

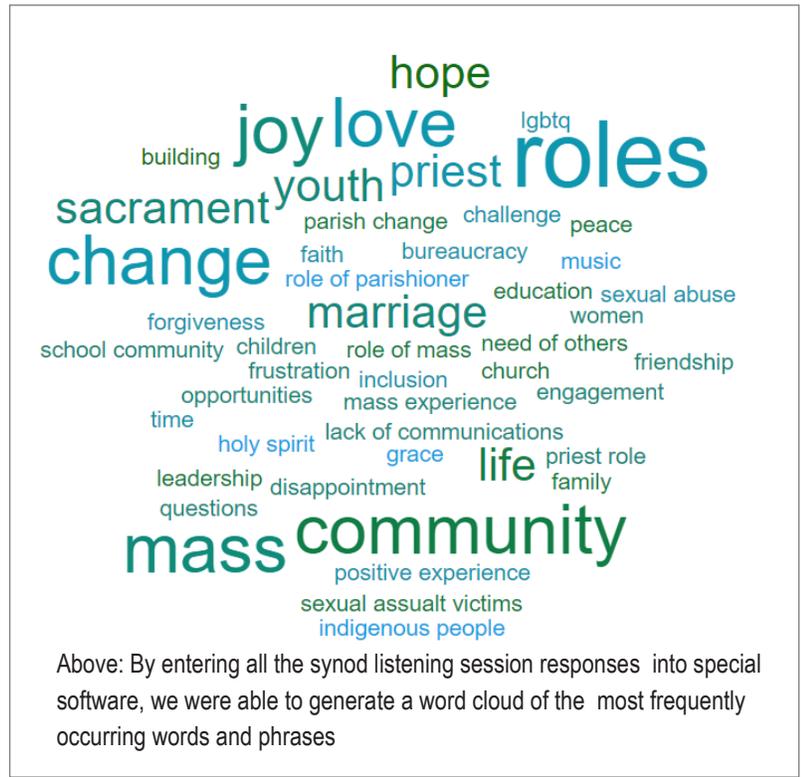
To Learn more about the synod globally, go to [www.synod.va](http://www.synod.va)

## More on the Synod

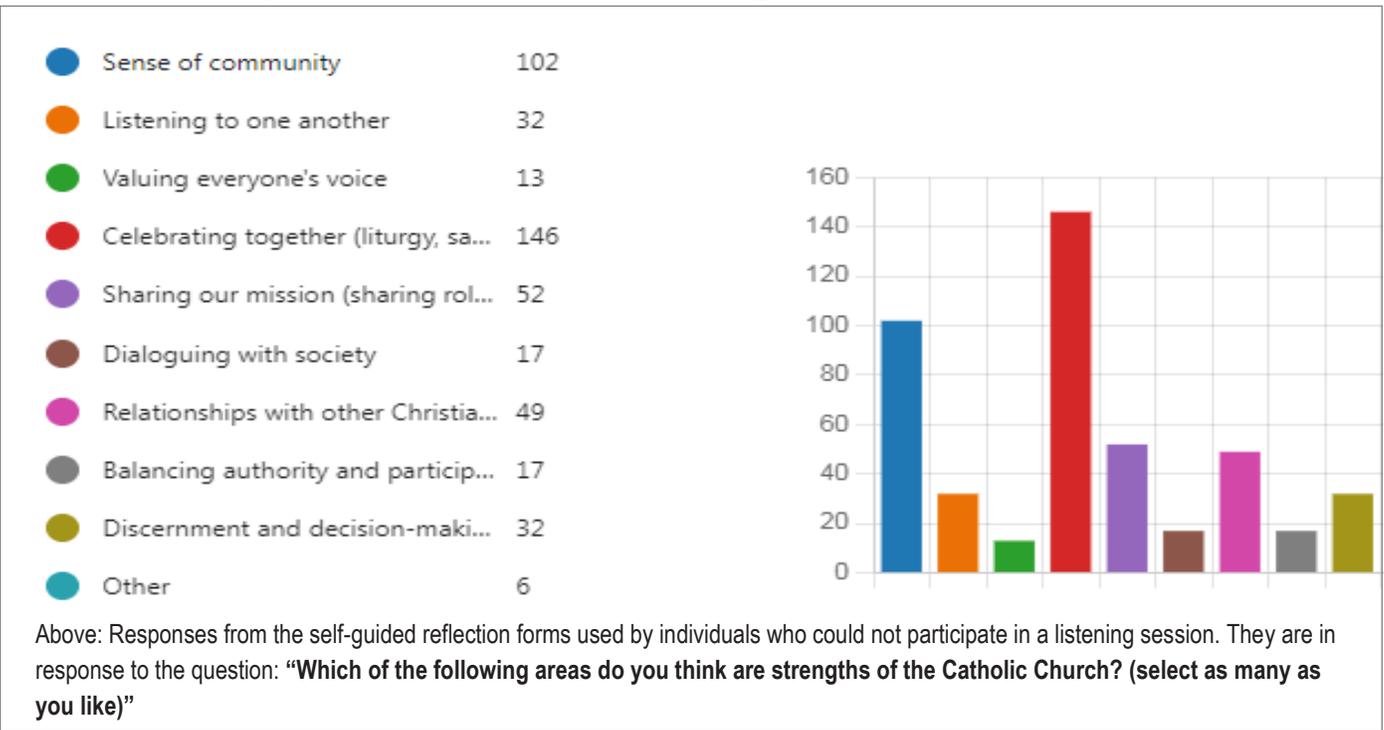
### Next Steps in the Process:

- The Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario will draft a summary report from Ontario dioceses to be submitted to the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops by July 11.
- The Diocese of London will remove personal information and share listening session raw data with parishes who hosted listening sessions by the end of June.
- The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops will draft a synthesis for Canada that must be completed by August 15.
- A continental synthesis must be completed with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and other Episcopal Conferences from Central America and the Caribbean by October of 2022
- Several bishops will represent Canada at the Synod on Rome in October 2023
- Continued synodal journeying together among the faithful going forward. Further resources will be provided to parish teams to support them in prayerfully reflecting upon and responding to their listening session data.

### Word Cloud from Synod Responses



### Individual Responses about Church Strengths



## Bishop Fabbro's Letter to the Faithful about the Synod

To: The Faithful of the Diocese of London

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,  
 The accounts of the days of the early Church immediately following the news of Jesus' resurrection, tell of the disciples locked away in the upper room, hidden and isolated. They were secluded because they were afraid. Scandalized by Jesus' death on a cross, they were left unsure as to what might be next. It was in this moment and place, when they had withdrawn in fear and uncertainty, that Jesus' promised gift of the Spirit was poured out on them, and they were filled with a new heart and a courageous zeal to make Jesus and his gospel message known. They left that upper room and went forth into their world to proclaim the Lord they had known and who had shown himself to have overcome death and risen to new life.

In so many ways our lives in the Church today parallel those of the early disciples. We know that Jesus has risen from the dead and because he has, we, too, have the promise of everlasting life in him. Yet, we also hold back from giving witness to him and the hope that is thus ours. We, too, have been hidden away in virtual isolation, separated from each other, from sharing fully together in the Eucharist, out of fear of COVID-19 and the threat it held. We also have been scandalized and disheartened by harsh, often brutal realities of our times and the shocking, painful failures in our Church. And we likewise have been deeply disappointed for what has not been or a future that did not come to pass as we had hoped.

But like the disciples in the upper room, it is in this moment, in these circumstances that Jesus pours out the promised Spirit on his people, to enliven us, to fill us with a new fervor for the gospel and to rekindle in us a passion for a renewed Church.

This outpouring of the Holy Spirit has been particularly evident in the hundreds of synodal listening sessions held in our diocese in the late winter and early spring of this year. In these simple, powerful gatherings, framed by the word of God, hundreds of parishioners, pastoral leaders, educators, students and participants in

various community programs — men and women, young and elderly — have shared their joys, their difficulties and their hopes for the Church. And all of this has been done in a spirit of listening — of listening to others with the heart. This elemental part of the synodal process, launched by Pope Francis for the Church throughout the world, has been an extraordinary gift to our diocese, revealing that the Spirit is alive and present among the people of God.

I have seen the initial draft of the Summary Report of the listening sessions. It narrates the hope for a more welcoming, more inclusive Church, a Church that engages our young people, a Church of mercy and compassion, a Church that is attentive to the needs of all, especially the poor and the marginalized. Overall, what has been offered represents the longing for a Church that models and makes present Jesus Christ.

It now belongs to all of us, particularly those in pastoral leadership, to listen to what has been put forward, to consider it prayerfully and to respond openly and generously to where the Holy Spirit is leading us in these post-pandemic times. In this period of profound change in our Church, the call is, once again, to conversion of mind, heart and spirit and not only on the part of some but by all.

The Summary Report prepared by the Diocesan Synodal Committee will be made available to the whole diocese by means of the diocesan website this weekend, the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. By the end of June, all the input received in the listening sessions in a Family of Parishes will be returned to it, so that in the weeks ahead those in pastoral leadership and the members of the parishes, through a process of prayer, may undertake to discern particular goals and objectives for their Family in the months and years ahead.

This is a time of promise for our diocese as we journey together on the road to actualizing the Church that the Holy Spirit is leading us to become — a Church like that first small group of disciples on Pentecost that moved out of the upper room to embrace all people.

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
 Most Rev. Ronald P. Fabbro, CSB  
 Bishop of London



Aux fidèles du diocèse de London

Chers frères et sœurs dans le Christ,  
Les récits des jours de l'Église primitive, immédiatement après la nouvelle de la résurrection de Jésus, parlent des disciples enfermés dans la chambre haute, cachés et isolés. Ils étaient isolés parce qu'ils avaient peur. Scandalisés par la mort de Jésus sur la croix, ils n'étaient pas sûrs de ce qui les attendait. C'est en ce moment et en ce lieu, alors qu'ils s'étaient retirés dans la peur et l'incertitude, que le don de l'Esprit promis par Jésus a été déversé sur eux et qu'ils ont été remplis d'un cœur nouveau et d'un zèle courageux pour faire connaître Jésus et son message évangélique. Ils ont quitté cette chambre haute et sont allés dans leur monde pour proclamer le Seigneur qu'ils avaient connu et qui s'était montré vainqueur de la mort et ressuscité à une vie nouvelle.

À bien des égards, notre vie dans l'Église d'aujourd'hui ressemble à celle des premiers disciples. Nous savons que Jésus est ressuscité des morts et parce qu'il l'a fait, nous avons, nous aussi, la promesse de la vie éternelle en lui. Pourtant, nous nous retenons aussi de témoigner de lui et de l'espérance qui est ainsi la nôtre. Nous aussi, nous nous sommes cachés dans un isolement virtuel, séparés les uns des autres, ne partageant pas pleinement l'Eucharistie, par peur de la COVID-19 et de la menace qu'elle représentait. Nous avons aussi été scandalisés et découragés par les réalités dures, souvent brutales, de notre époque et par les échecs choquants et douloureux de notre Église. Et nous avons également été profondément déçus par ce qui n'a pas été ou par un avenir qui ne s'est pas réalisé comme nous l'avions espéré.

Mais comme les disciples dans la chambre haute, c'est en ce moment, dans ces circonstances, que Jésus déverse l'Esprit promis sur son peuple, pour nous animer, nous remplir d'une nouvelle ferveur pour l'Évangile et raviver en nous la passion pour une Église renouvelée.

Cette effusion de l'Esprit Saint a été particulièrement évidente lors des centaines de sessions d'écoute synodales organisées dans notre diocèse à la fin de l'hiver et au début du printemps de cette année. Dans ces rencontres simples et puissantes, encadrées par la parole de Dieu, des centaines de paroissiens, de responsables pastoraux, d'éducateurs, d'étudiants et de participants à divers programmes communautaires - hommes et femmes, jeunes et personnes âgées - ont partagé leurs joies, leurs difficultés et leurs espoirs pour l'Église. Et tout cela s'est fait dans un esprit d'écoute - d'écoute des autres avec le cœur. Cette partie

essentielle du processus synodal, lancé par le pape François pour l'Église du monde entier, a été un cadeau extraordinaire pour notre diocèse, révélant que l'Esprit est vivant et présent au sein du peuple de Dieu.

J'ai vu la première version du rapport de synthèse des sessions d'écoute. Il raconte l'espoir d'une Église plus accueillante, plus inclusive, une Église qui engage nos jeunes, une Église de la miséricorde et de la compassion, une Église qui est attentive aux besoins de tous, en particulier des pauvres et des marginalisés. Dans l'ensemble, ce qui a été offert représente le désir ardent d'une Église qui modèle et rend présent Jésus-Christ.

Diocèse de London : être une Église orientée vers la mission qui forme des disciples de Jésus.

Il nous appartient maintenant à tous, en particulier aux responsables pastoraux, d'écouter ce qui a été proposé, de l'examiner dans la prière et de répondre ouvertement et généreusement à l'endroit où l'Esprit Saint nous conduit en ces temps postpandémiques. En cette période de profond changement dans notre Église, l'appel est, une fois de plus, à la conversion de l'esprit, du cœur et de l'âme, et pas seulement de la part de certains, mais de tous.

Le rapport de synthèse préparé par le Comité synodal diocésain sera mis à la disposition de l'ensemble du diocèse par le biais du site web diocésain ce week-end, en la solennité du Corps et du Sang du Christ. D'ici la fin du mois de juin, toutes les contributions reçues lors des sessions d'écoute dans une Famille de paroisses lui seront retournées, afin que, dans les semaines à venir, les responsables pastoraux et les membres des paroisses, à travers un processus de prière, puissent entreprendre de discerner des buts et des objectifs particuliers pour la Famille dans les mois et les années à venir.

C'est un temps de promesses pour notre diocèse, alors que nous cheminons ensemble sur la voie de l'actualisation de l'Église que l'Esprit Saint nous conduit à devenir - une Église comme ce premier petit groupe de disciples de la Pentecôte qui est sorti de la chambre haute pour embrasser tous les peuples.

Sincèrement le vôtre dans le Christ,  
Mgr Ronald P. Fabbro, CSB  
Évêque de London



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