



Directory for the Third Synod of the Diocese of Fargo

Parish Delegates

The following excerpts are from “[Directory for the Third Synod of the Diocese of Fargo](#)” and describes the qualifications, duties and elections of parish delegates. The complete text of the “[Directory](#)” is available on the Diocese of Fargo website.

Membership in the Diocesan Synod

11. Those who are members by reason of election are:

- Parish Synodal Delegates:
 - Two delegates, elected according to Articles 14-17, from each of the following parishes of the Diocese of Fargo:
 - St. Ann, Belcourt;
 - St. Joseph, Devils Lake;
 - Blessed Sacrament, West Fargo;
 - Holy Spirit, Fargo;
 - Nativity, Fargo;
 - Sts. Anne and Joachim, Fargo;
 - St. Anthony, Fargo;
 - St. Mary’s Cathedral, Fargo;
 - St. John, Grafton;
 - Holy Family, Grand Forks;
 - St. Mary, Grand Forks;
 - St. Michael, Grand Forks;
 - St. James Basilica, Jamestown;
 - St. Therese, Rugby;
 - St. Catherine, Valley City;
 - St. John, Wahpeton;
 - Holy Cross, West Fargo.
 - One delegate, elected according to Articles 14-17, from each parish of the Diocese of Fargo not named above.
- One consecrated person, nominated or elected according to the determination of the Superior, from each of the following houses within the Diocese of Fargo:
 - Carmel of Mary;
 - Franciscan Sisters of Dillingen;
 - Sisters of Mary of the Presentation;
 - Sisters of the Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity;
 - Union of Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

12. One’s membership may be lost by reason of loss of title or office, which qualified one to become a member, or by removal by the bishop for a lawful reason.

13. In accord with canon 464, if a member becomes lawfully impeded from attending, he or she cannot send a proxy, but is to notify the diocesan bishop of the reason for not attending.

The Qualifications of a Parish Synodal Delegate

14. To be elected as a parish synodal delegate, “It is an indispensable requisite that these members ... be in a canonically regular situation ...” (*Instruction*, II.3). In addition, the individual must 1) be a lay person; 2) have completed his or her eighteenth year of age; 3) be outstanding in firm faith, high moral standards, and prudence; 4) be willing to attend the Synodal Assembly.

The Duties of a Parish Synodal Delegate

15. The parish synodal delegate is asked to be centered on Christ, to pray for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in his or her life and over the diocesan synod; receive, read, and reflect on the communications regarding the diocesan synod; assist the pastor in leading a study of the questions proposed by the bishop; and is to attend the Synodal Assembly from the evening of Thursday, April 11 to noon, Saturday April 13, 2024.

The Manner of Election of a Parish Synodal Delegate

16. Parish synodal delegates are elected in the following manner:
- If there is a **pastoral council**, either for the parish or the parish cluster, the pastor is to present two or more candidates. The pastoral council will then elect the delegate(s) according to the norm of c. 119, namely, by an absolute majority of the quorum present. If there have been two inconclusive votes, a vote is to be taken between the two candidates with the greatest number of votes, or if there are more than two, between the two senior by age. After a third inconclusive vote, the person is deemed elected who is senior by age.
 - If there is **no pastoral council**, it is for the pastor to nominate the delegate after consultation with some respected members of the parish.
17. The election of a parish synodal delegate is subject to confirmation by the diocesan bishop. The pastor is to email the name, address, phone number, and email of the parish synodal delegate to Steve Splonskowski (steve.splonskowski@fargodiocese.org) no later than 22 September 2023.

Registration

21. All attendees must pre-register for the Synodal Assembly.

Procedural Norms

28. The synodal assembly will be conducted in accord with *Robert’s Rules of Order*, as modified below.
29. In accord with canon 833, 1° each member is personally bound to make the profession of faith before commencing synodal discussions.

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