



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Over two years ago, Pope Francis called the Church to embrace Synodality with its tradition of accompanying each other through listening and dialogue while focusing on its mission of evangelization. Synodality is a way of being a Church that integrates communion, mission, and participation, walking together in joy and love as pilgrims on a journey witnessing Christ to the world.

Beginning in the Fall of 2021, dioceses worldwide, including the parishes of our Archdiocese, met in small groups to listen and discuss what it means to be Church and our hopes and dreams for the Church. In June of 2022, the Archdiocesan Synod committee wrote a synthesis report from those many gatherings, contributing to reports for our region and ultimately to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Thank you for supporting and participating in the 2022 diocesan stage of the Synod. Your sharing and contribution continue to provide me with insight into the needs of our new Archdiocese. Hearing your interest and concerns has guided our efforts to establish offices and opportunities to assist in faith formation, participation in the Eucharistic Revival, and involvement in the Synod on local, regional, and national levels.

The Synod in 2024 is now at the interim stage. The Holy Father asks dioceses to gather together again, focusing on several discussion points from the October 2023 Synod meeting held at the Vatican. The month-long October 2023 Synod meeting in Rome brought together bishops, priests, religious men and women, and laity to discuss how the Church walks together while living out its mission in the community with the participation of all believers. The purpose of our gatherings now is to provide input for the Synod meeting that takes place in October 2024.

You will hear more from the Archdiocesan Synod committee on how those interested can participate and follow the progress of this interim stage. I thank the committee members for shepherding us through the Church's Synod on Synodality and our Archdiocesan participation as we continue our support and involvement in the Synod process.

May God continue to bless our efforts as we pray for the Church and continue to understand the work of the Holy Spirit through listening, dialogue, and discernment!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Andrew E. Bellisario, C.M.
Archbishop of Anchorage-Juneau