



DIOCESE OF BISMARCK

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

DECREE OF CONVOCATION

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www.bismarckdiocese.com

SECOND SYNOD OF THE DIOCESE OF BISMARCK

The events of the last seventy-five years of the Twentieth Century and the first decade and a half of the Twenty-first Century in the life of the Universal Church and this local Church, have had a significant influence on the sacramental, educational, spiritual, liturgical, pastoral and disciplinary life of the Christian faithful. The Second Ecumenical Council of the Vatican, several World Synods of Bishops, the revision of the Code of Canon Law, and the publication of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and its *Compendium* have had an immediate and enduring effect on the profession and practice of the Roman Catholic Faith.

Given these most significant events and since this local Church last convoked its First Diocesan Synod in 1924, The Most Reverend David D. Kagan, D.D., P.A., J.C.L., Seventh Bishop of the Diocese of Bismarck, having consulted the Presbyteral Council in the years 2014 and 2015, has judged that circumstances warrant the convocation and celebration of a Second Synod of the Diocese of Bismarck. This decision is solemnly decreed and is effective as of Saturday, 6 August A.D. 2016, The Transfiguration of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

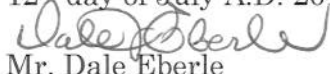
Therefore, in accord with the norms of Canon 461 §1, and Canon 462 §1, of the Code of Canon Law, by this presents it is decreed that,

The Second Synod of the Diocese of Bismarck is to be convoked and celebrated on Wednesday, 9 November A.D. 2016, at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, Bismarck, North Dakota, at the hour of 10:30 A.M. Central Standard Time.

Moreover, in accord with the norms of Canon 463 §1 and §2, of the Code of Canon Law and the *Instruction on Diocesan Synods* of the Congregation for Bishops and the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, those persons called and named to be members of this Second Synod of the Diocese of Bismarck and bound to participate in it, are hereby appointed with this decree.


+1 David D. Kagan
Episcopus Bismarckiensis

Given at the Chancery this
12th day of July A.D. 2016


Mr. Dale Eberle



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DECREE OF APPOINTMENT

MEMBERS OF THE SECOND SYNOD OF THE DIOCESE OF BISMARCK

In accord with the Decree of Convocation of the Second Synod of the Diocese of Bismarck published on 12 July 2016, and having taken effect on 6 August 2016, the following persons are called, named and appointed to be members of the Second Synod of the Diocese of Bismarck and required to participate in it. They are:

The Most Reverend David D. Kagan, D.D., P.A., J.C.L.
Bishop of the Diocese of Bismarck

Officers of the Synod

The Reverend Father Joshua J. Ehli, J.C.L.
Promoter of the Synod

Mr. Laton Lohmann
General Secretary

The Reverend Jared M. Johnson
Ecclesiastical Notary

The Reverend Father Nick L. Schneider, S.L.L., S.L.D.
Master of Ceremonies

MEMBERS

Vicar General

The Reverend Monsignor Gene E. Lindemann, J.C.L.

Episcopal Vicars

The Reverend Monsignor James B. Braaten
The Reverend Monsignor Thomas J. Richter

Judicial Vicar

The Reverend Christopher J. Kadrmas, J.C.L.

Chancellor

Mr. Dale Eberle

Presbyteral Council

Chairman: The Reverend Monsignor Gene E. Lindemann, *ex officio*

Secretary: The Reverend Bruce D. Krebs

Treasurer: The Reverend Keith N. Streifel

The Reverend Brian P. Gross

The Reverend Jason R. Signalness

The Reverend Shane Campbell

The Reverend Paul D. Becker

The Reverend Marvin J. Klemmer

The Reverend Gary L. Benz

The Reverend Stephen O. Folorunso

The Right Reverend Brian Wangler, OSB

The Synod Preparatory Commission

The Reverend Monsignor James B. Braaten

The Reverend Monsignor Gene E. Lindemann

The Reverend Monsignor Thomas J. Richter

The Reverend Monsignor James P. Shea

The Reverend Monsignor Patrick A. Schumacher

The Reverend Father Joshua Ehli

The Reverend Father Wayne Sattler

The Reverend Father Biju Chitteth

The Reverend Father Marvin Klemmer

The Reverend Father Roger Synek

The Reverend Father Robert Shea

The Reverend Father Paul Becker

The Reverend Father Keith Streifel

The Reverend Father Nick Schneider

The Reverend Father Joshua Waltz

The Reverend Father Justin Waltz

The Reverend Father Christopher Kadrmas

The Reverend Father David Zimmer

The Reverend Father Brian Gross

The Reverend Father Kregg Hochhalter

The Reverend Father Jady Nelson

The Reverend Father Jared Johnson

The Reverend Father Thomas Grafsgaard

Mrs. Christie Collins

Mrs. Vicky Boechler

Mrs. Sonia Mullally

Ms. Diana Trnka

Ms. Belinda Vollmer

The Right Reverend Brian Wangler, OSB

Brother Alban Petesch, OSB

Deacon Lloyd Krueger

Deacon Anthony Ternes

Deacon Lonnie Grabowska

Sr. Anna Rose Ruhland, OSB

Sr. Janet Zander, OSB

Sr. Phoebe Schwartz, OSB

Sr. Thomas Welder, OSB

Sr. Brenda T.H. Valdes, HMIG

Mr. Laton Lohmann

Mr. Ronald Schatz

Mr. Dale Eberle

Mr. Jerome Richter

Mr. David Fleck

Mr. Steve Glasser

Mr. Gerald Vetter

Mr. John Warford

Mr. Gregory Vetter

Mr. Tony Chap

Ms. Sandy Breiner

Mrs. Tara Brooke

Mrs. Michelle Gerlach

Mrs. Lillian Bielinski

Ms. Laura Huber

Mrs. Cheryl Hansen

Vicars Forane

The Reverend Father Jason Signalness, Bismarck
The Reverend Father Shane Campbell, Mandan
The Reverend Father Keith Streifel, Dickinson
The Reverend Father Bruce Krebs, Minot
The Reverend Father Brian Gross, Williston

In addition to the above-named Clergy, Consecrated Religious Men and Women, and Lay Faithful, the following are also called and appointed to attend and participate in the Second Synod of the Diocese of Bismarck. They are:

All Diocesan and Religious priests in good standing, active and retired, not already named in this Decree and residing within the Diocese of Bismarck;

All Diocesan and Religious permanent deacons in good standing, active and retired, not already named in this Decree and residing within the Diocese of Bismarck;

All Diocesan Seminarians residing in the United States;

Four (4) representatives from each Religious Institute of Men and Women residing in the Diocese of Bismarck;

The Student Council officers for each of our three (3) Central Catholic High Schools;

The class officers of the 9th through 12th grades for each of our three (3) Central Catholic High Schools;

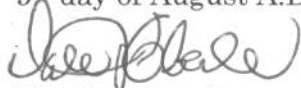
Three (3) representatives from each Parish Community in the Diocese of Bismarck;

All Diocesan employees not already named in this Decree.



The Most Reverend David D. Kagan
Episcopus Bismarckiensis

Given at the Chancery this
9th day of August A.D. 2016



Mr. Dale Eberle
Chancellor



DIOCESE OF BISMARCK

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Opening Statement of the Second Synod of the Diocese of Bismarck

Cathedral of the Holy Spirit

9 November A.D. 2016

Good morning my brothers and sisters in Christ,

My name is Laton Lohmann and I am the General Secretary of the Second Synod of the Diocese of Bismarck.

On behalf of his Excellency, Bishop Kagan, I welcome you synodal members to this Synod on what is a truly historic day for our Diocese.

Approximately one year ago our Holy Father, Pope Francis, addressed the Synod of Bishops in Rome, and strongly emphasized the notion that “synodality” or “walking together” was what is asked of the Christian faithful by the Lord. The Holy Father stated that “a synodal Church is a Church who listens, aware that listening is more than hearing.” He further stated that the “first level of the exercise of synodality occurs in the particular Churches.” We are exercising this synodality here today in the Church of Bismarck with this, our Second Diocesan Synod.

On this historic occasion for our diocese, I would like to offer a brief review of the work that has led us to this day. In June, 2014 Bishop Kagan consulted the Presbyteral Council of the Diocese and let them know of his desire to convoke a Diocesan Synod to update and consolidate the various rules and norms of this Diocese that could be found in many different sources.

In the Summer of 2015 the Promoter of the Synod, Fr. Joshua Ehli, began the remote preparation of the Synod by assisting the Bishop in formulating the topics to be addressed and selecting the various subcommittees. In the Fall of 2015, these subcommittees, which comprised the Synod's preparatory commission were selected and began the drafting of the statutes appropriate to their respective committees. This work continued throughout the Spring of 2016. Fr. Ehli and I also traveled to several Deanery and Parish Business Manager Meetings throughout the Diocese during the Fall of 2015 and Spring of 2016 discussing the nature and purpose of our upcoming Synod.

In the Summer of 2016, the statutes drafted by the various subcommittees were published in the *Dakota Catholic Action* and on the Diocesan website. Both the clergy and lay faithful were given the opportunity to offer input on these proposed statutes. After receiving a generous amount of feedback on these statutes from all the faithful, many of the statutes were revised according to the concerns and recommendations expressed.

Bishop Kagan convoked the Second Synod of the Diocese of Bismarck by Decree in July 2016 and issued a Decree of Appointment of Members to the Synod in August 2016.

It is my hope that fruits of this Synod will be seen for years to come and that this most sacred institution will be seen as efficacious for the entire diocese and will have served to strengthen our Christian faithful in their sense of duty to contribute to the life of the Church of Bismarck and to be aware of their responsibilities in living out their various vocations.

Respectfully submitted this 9th day of November A.D. 2016



Mr. Laton Lohmann
General Secretary of the Second Synod of the Diocese of Bismarck



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Introduction to the Second Synod of the Diocese of Bismarck

Cathedral of the Holy Spirit

9 November A.D. 2016

Dear brothers and sisters, I am Fr. Joshua Ehli, Promoter of the Second Synod of the Diocese of Bismarck, and it is truly good that we are here today. It is my honor to conduct this essential element of the Synod, in which I will present to you, the people of God of Bismarck, the Synod document and ask that you provide our Bishop with your response.

Our presence here today is a fruit of the 2nd Vatican Council, of which the 4th Bishop of Bismarck, Hilary Hacker, was a member. We are here in continuation and completion of the Synod work originally started in 1990 by Bishop John F. Kinney, the 5th Bishop of Bismarck, and continued through Bishop Paul Zipfel, Bishop Kagan's beloved predecessor, through his Pastoral Planning initiatives. This Synod is also much in line with Pope Francis' express interest in Synodality, the coming together of the People of God to provide consultation to the Bishop.

Dear Bishop Kagan, in this light and on behalf of the People of God of the Diocese of Bismarck, I want to thank you for responding to the call of the Holy Spirit to continue and bring to completion the good work started by your esteemed predecessors. This Synod process has brought us all together in various ways to present you with a Synod Directory, containing Statutes which are meant to help serve the ever-changing needs of the People of God and advance the spreading of the Gospel for the building up of the Kingdom of God in this area.

Dear brother priests, deacons, dedicated religious and lay faithful in attendance on this auspicious day, as Promoter of the Second Synod of the Diocese of Bismarck, I want to assure you that the Bishop has, with great docility, listened to you, prayerfully considered and accepted many, many of your suggestions, recommendations and observations. Thank you for your invaluable input, prayers and presence here!

I would like to extend a special thanks to Mr. Laton Lohmann, General Secretary, the Subcommittee Chairmen and Chairwoman, the Preparatory Commission, Mrs. Abbey Nagel, and all who generously contributed to this great work, for without all of you this Synod would not be possible.

An important part of this synodal process takes place today in which we, the priests, deacons, religious men and women, and lay faithful of the Diocese of Bismarck, present the Bishop of Bismarck with a Synod Directory, the fruit of over 18 months of labor and the result of your expertise, insights, comments and suggestions.

And so, seeing that all here present have already had ample opportunity to review the proposed Statutes, I will provide a brief summary of each chapter individually, highlighting only a few salient elements of the proposed Synod legislation, in particular, some of the important changes and innovations.

I will then ask your kind response, through which you may indicate, by raising your hand, that you recommend that these Statutes, as presented, be approved and promulgated as law by Bishop David Kagan for the Diocese of Bismarck. All here present have the right and duty to indicate to the Bishop your approval or lack thereof.

Respectfully submitted this 9th day of November A.D. 2016

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Joshua Ehli".

The Reverend Joshua J. Ehli, J.C.L.
Promoter of the Second Synod of the Diocese of Bismarck



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DECREE

In accord with the norm of Canon 466 of the Code of Canon Law and by this presents, I, the undersigned Diocesan Bishop for the local Church of Bismarck in North Dakota, and the sole legislator for this local Church hereby decree

the Synod Directory and accompanying documents as they have been composed, discussed and presented to me in solemn session for my review are now received. They shall be studied in advance of the issuing of a decree of promulgation for the Catholic faithful of the Diocese of Bismarck.

The Most Reverend David D. Kagan, D.D., P.A., J.C.L.
Bishop of the Diocese of Bismarck

Given at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit on
the Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica
this 9th day of November A.D. 2016

The Reverend Jared M. Johnson
Ecclesiastical Notary



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DECREE

In accord with the norm of Canon 466 of the Code of Canon Law and by these presents, the undersigned

David Dennis Kagan

by the Grace of God and the favor of the Apostolic See

Seventh Bishop of the Diocese of Bismarck

hereby decrees that the Directory of the Second Synod of the Diocese of Bismarck, accepted for review on the 9th day of November in the year of Our Lord, 2016, is promulgated for the Catholic faithful of this local Church as of the date of this decree.

Furthermore, in order to allow for the widest possible distribution of this Synod document among the Catholic faithful, all and everything contained in the statutes and appendices of this Synod document become effective on the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, the 1st day of January in the year of Our Lord, 2017.

The Most Reverend David D. Kagan, D.D., P.A., J.C.L.
Bishop of the Diocese of Bismarck

Given at the Chancery on the
Feast of Pope St. Leo the Great
this 10th day of November A.D. 2016

The Reverend Monsignor Gene E. Lindemann, J.C.L.
Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia