



ARCHDIOCESE
OF
SAINT PAUL &
MINNEAPOLIS

*United in Faith,
Hope and Love*

Archdiocesan Synod 2021 Presentation to the Lay Advisory Board

Therese Coons
Fr. Joseph Bambenek

July 17, 2019



What is a Synod?

- A diocesan Synod is an assembly of selected priests and other members of Christ's faithful of a particular Church which, for the good of the whole diocesan community, assists the diocesan Bishop in his exercise of the office of governing the Christian community.
- Can. 461 §1. A diocesan synod is to be celebrated in individual particular churches when circumstances suggest it in the judgment of the diocesan bishop after he has heard the presbyteral council.



Why A Synod Now?

- Emerging from Bankruptcy, the Archdiocese is at a new moment... a moment ripe for a Synod.
 - “Without losing sight of either the critical importance of our Catholic schools or the urgency of creating safe environments and engaging in outreach to those who have in any way been harmed by the Church, we now need to be deliberate in moving forward on other fronts.”
- Our Synod’s purpose is to establish priorities for a 5-10 year time horizon for our Archdiocese.
- These priorities will undergird a pastoral plan for bringing renewal guided by the Holy Spirit.



What Kind of Synod Will it Be?

- A Canonical Synod with a Pastoral Focus.
- It will rely upon the Holy Spirit working through the faithful we look ahead.
- A process that will unfold step-by-step.



Canonical Responsibilities of the Faithful

- Can. 212 §1. Conscious of their own responsibility, the Christian faithful are bound to follow with Christian obedience those things which the sacred pastors, inasmuch as they represent Christ, declare as teachers of the faith or establish as rulers of the Church.
- §2. The Christian faithful are free to make known to the pastors of the Church their needs, especially spiritual ones, and their desires.
- §3. According to the knowledge, competence, and prestige which they possess, they have the right and even at times the duty to manifest to the sacred pastors their opinion on matters which pertain to the good of the Church and to make their opinion known to the rest of the Christian faithful, without prejudice to the integrity of faith and morals, with reverence toward their pastors, and attentive to common advantage and the dignity of persons.



Timeline (Overview)

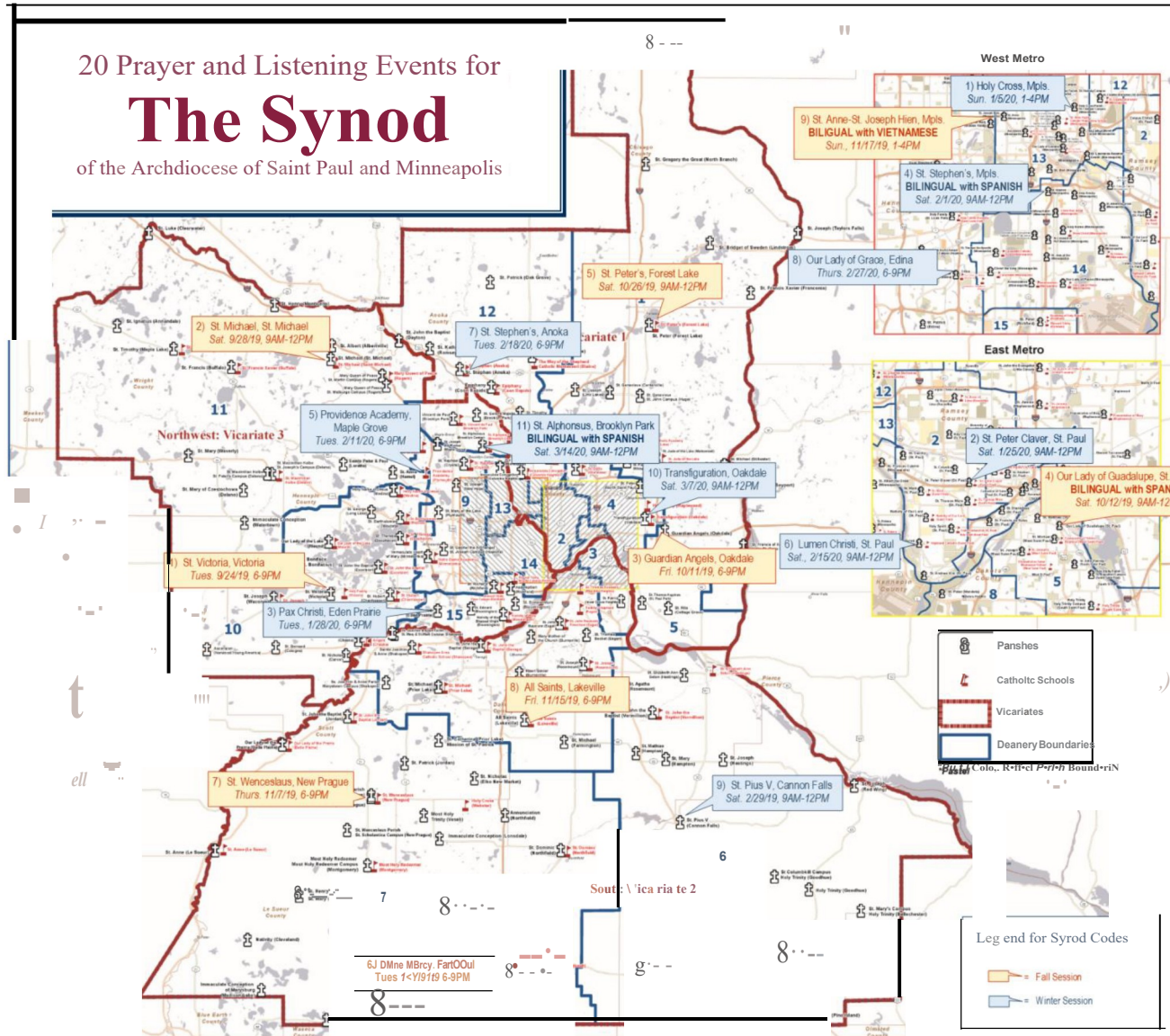
- **Year 1 Pentecost 2019-2020:**

- Pre-Synodal Prayer and Preparation**

- Launching of the Synod process occurred on June 8 at the Pentecost Vigil Mass at St. Peter's in Mendota
 - 20 open Prayer and Listening Events throughout the Archdiocese (Sept 2019-March 2020), at least one in each deanery
 - Additional at least 11 focus group prayer and listening events.
 - Result in initial set of priority areas for Synod



20 Prayer and Listening Events for The Synod of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis



Sessions for Fall 2019

J211Y	Date	Time	Location
Tuesday	September 24	6-9PM	St. Victoria, Victoria
Saturday	September 28	9AM-12PM	St. Michael, St. Michael
Friday	October 11	6-9PM	Guardian Angels, Oakdale
Saturday	October 12	9AM-12PM	Our Lady of Guadalupe, St. Paul (Bilingual w/ Spanish)
Saturday	October 26	9AM-12PM	St. Peter's, Forest Lake
Tuesday	October 29	6-9PM	Divine Mercy, Fairault
Thursday	November?	6-9PM	St. Wenceslaus, New Prague
Friday	November 15	6-9PM	All Saints, Lakeville
Sunday	November 17	1-4PM	St. Anne-St. Joseph, Minneapolis (Bilingual w/ Vietnamese)

Sessions for Winter 2020

J211Y	Date	Time	Location
Sunday	January 5	1-4PM	Holy Cross, Minneapolis
Saturday	January 25	9AM-12PM	St. Peter Claver, St. Paul
Tuesday	January 28	6-9PM	Pax Christi, Eden Prairie
Saturday	February 1	9AM-12PM	St. Stephen's, Minneapolis (Bilingual w/ Spanish)
Tuesday	February 11	6-9PM	Providence Academy, Maple Grove
Saturday	February 15	9AM-12PM	Lumen Christi, St. Paul
Tuesday	February 18	6-9PM	St. Stephen's, Anoka
Thursday	February 27	6-9PM	Our Lady of Grace, Edina
Saturday	February 29	9AM-12PM	St. Pius V, Cannon Falls
Saturday	March 7	9AM-12PM	Transfiguration, Oakdale
Saturday	March 14	9AM-12PM	St. Alphonsus, Brooklyn Park (Bilingual w/ Spanish)



Timeline (overview)

Year 2 (Pentecost 2020-2021):

Pre-Synodal Consultations

- Parish Consultations (Autumn 2020)
 - Small group processes, open to all parishioners, to address specific questions/ propositions identified with respect to the priorities that came to light during the listening sessions.
- Deanery Consultations (January–February 2021)
 - Based upon fruit of parish consultations, refine the propositions



Timeline (overview)

- Pentecost 2021 (May 23) Weekend – Archdiocesan Synod Assembly
 - About 500 Members
 - Further refinement of the propositions
 - Orientation of Synod delegates
- Feast of Christ the King (November 21, 2021)
 - Pastoral Letter from Archbishop Hebda



Multi-Team Effort

- **Archdiocesan Teams**

- Prayer Team (~25 members) praying specifically for Synod
- Executive Team (~20 Members) developing and executing the process
- Preparatory Commission (10-20 members) responsible for content (to be formed this summer)
- Priest Synod Advisory Group (~10 priests) consulted 5-6 times during the process for advice on the specifics of the next stages
- Lay Advisory Board – consulted throughout and will likely be offered opportunities to volunteer
- Synod Members (500?) those who will be at the Archdiocesan Synod Assembly (some *ex officio* and many named in 2020)

- **Parish-based Teams**

- Parish Ambassador Team (12 members) ambassadors for Synod in parish
- Deanery Consultation Delegates (~10/parish)
- Parish Facilitators trained by Synod Process to facilitate and capture information from Parish Consultation sessions



Lay Advisory Board Involvement

- Feedback tonight
- Request 8 Lay Advisory Board members participate in the Friday morning September 6 (9:45 AM-12:45 PM) practice Prayer and Listening Event
- Ask that each Lay Advisory Board Members and Alternate Members help staff 3 Prayer and Listening Events



Prayer for Year of Pre-Synodal Prayer & Listening

Come Holy Spirit

Make our ears to hear

Make our eyes to see

Make our mouths to speak

Make our hearts to seek

Make our hands to reach out

And touch the world with your love. Amen.

Mary, Mother of the Church, Pray for us.

-Attributed to Blessed (almost Saint) John Henry Newman