



ROMAN CATHOLIC  
**DIOCESE**  
**OF CHARLESTON**  
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

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August, 2021

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is with great joy that I announce to you the Synod on Synodality, an upcoming diocesan- and nation-wide collaboration to help us plan the way ahead for the Church in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Calling upon the Holy Spirit, our diocesan dialogue begins Oct. 17, 2021, with a finalized document to be sent to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) in April of 2022. Then, in October of 2022, the USCCB will send a national document to Rome for the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops.

The theme of this endeavor is “For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission.” A synod literally means taking the path together, and with this opportunity, we will discern and discuss the way forward. All baptized Christians are companions on the journey and thus active subjects of the call to holiness and mission. We all participate in the one priesthood of Christ and are enriched by the charisms of the Spirit.

Pope Francis will convene this synod to foster dialogue between bishops, priests, and lay people with various cultural backgrounds. Our diocesan effort will be led by Sister Kathleen Adamski, OSF, of the Office of Spirituality & Formation for Ministry, plus a team of diocesan personnel. The team will work on implementation and gathering data from a questionnaire which will be sent from Rome.

In the Acts of the Apostles, we see how early Christians dialogued to meet the needs of the community. In our time, we are asked to reflect, listen and ask the Holy Spirit to inspire us to truly proclaim the Good News of salvation to meet the needs of our changing world.

In the Lord’s Peace,

Most Reverend Robert E. Guglielmo, DD  
*Bishop of Charleston*