



THE DIOCESE OF STEUBENVILLE

OFFICE OF THE APOSTOLIC ADMINISTRATOR

January 30, 2024

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Responding to the Holy Father's invitation to the entire Universal Church, all clergy, religious and lay faithful in the Diocese of Steubenville are invited to participate in one of four reflection and discussion sessions designed to deepen our understanding of what it means to be a "Synodal Church in Mission" here in the 13 counties of southeastern Ohio that form our diocese. These 90-minute sessions will be held in four different parishes on the afternoon of Sunday, Feb. 18, at Holy Rosary Church, Steubenville; St. Benedict Church, Cambridge; the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Marietta; and St. Joseph Church, Ironton. The theme of these sessions is "A Synodal Church in Mission: Discerning God's Plan for the Future." These discussions are important not only for the Universal Church and her future, but for our own local church in these 13 counties, as well.

Synodality invites us to pray attentively, to listen to the Word of God faithfully with open minds and hearts, and to engage in respectful and productive dialogue with one another. If we truly want to be faithful missionary disciples of Our Lord Jesus Christ, we will use this opportunity to grow as individuals, families and parish communities in our ability to proclaim the gospel of joy to all God's people – those who are close to us and those who are strangers.

These synodal sessions will also provide those who participate an opportunity to identify their experience of the vitality of the church here in our diocese, and what we can do to revitalize our faith through outreach to those who have fallen away from the practice of the faith and/or to those who practice no faith.

Let us entrust these reflection and discussion sessions to the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary, our diocesan patroness. Through her intercession, may we come to a fuller understanding of what it means to listen prayerfully to God's Word and to respond freely and generously as Mary did.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Paul J. Bradley
Apostolic Administrator

Sunday, February 18 (note different start times)

Holy Rosary Church (Steubenville) 3:00 pm

St. Benedict Church (Cambridge) 3:00 pm

St. Mary Basilica (Marietta) 2:00 pm

St. Joseph Church (Ironton) 2:00 pm