



Diocese of Kamloops
BISHOP'S OFFICE

October 29, 2021

Dear Clergy, Religious and Faithful of the Diocese of Kamloops,

In October 2023, there will be the celebration of the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops. The theme is “For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission”. In preparation for this monumental occasion of walking together, Pope Francis invites the entire Church to reflect and provide input.

In response to this initiation, I am asking Dialogue Groups to be established throughout the Parishes and Missions in the Diocese of Kamloops including our Carmelite Monastery in Armstrong, BC. Parish priests will be receiving a Handbook to guide the coordination of this consultative process. A summary of the local parish discussions is to be submitted by the parish priest to the Chancery Office no later than February 28th, 2022. This will enable time to synthesise the responses which will be forwarded to the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops who, in turn, will submit the findings to Rome. This inclusive consultation of the People of God of each Diocese throughout the world will play a significant role in preparing for the formal Synod.

The above process recognizes “synodality as the form, the style and the structure of the Church”. Every effort needs to be taken to ensure all the baptised have an opportunity to participate. Individuals are also free, if necessary, to submit comments directly to their parish priest.

In union with the Universal Church, we are called to “scrutinize the signs of the times and interpret them in the light of the Gospel” (GS, no. 4). For many, this will be their first experience of participating in such a process. We must trust and listen to the Holy Spirit speaking through all members of the Church, including the most marginalized among us.

Sincerely in the vineyard of Lord,

✠ Joseph Phuong Nguyen
Bishop of Kamloops