

# Office of the Bishop

Phone: (707) 566-3325  
Email: BpVasa@SRDiocese.org



# Diocese of Santa Rosa

P.O. Box 1297  
Santa Rosa, California 95402

November, 2021

My Dear People of God:

Pope Francis has invited the whole Church to join with him in a process of listening and discerning for the purpose of determining how best to spread the Good News to our culture, that is, to evangelize.

On October 24, I announced our own Diocesan engagement in this consultation process. While everyone is free to respond individually or even as small “base communities” to the fundamental question which stands at the heart of this process, I also want to make broader listening and discerning opportunities available to various regions of the Diocese. In consultation with my Synod Team, it has been determined that five geographic locations:

Santa Rosa, Cathedral	Monday, November 29 - 6:30 PM
Lakeport, Saint Mary Immaculate	Wednesday, December 1 - 6:30 PM
Napa, Saint Apollinaris	Thursday, December 2 - 6:30 PM
Eureka, (Arcata, St. Mary)	Sunday, December 5 - 6:30 PM
Fort Bragg, Our Lady of Good Counsel	Monday, December 6 - 6:30 PM

In the material provided by the Holy See we find this Fundamental Question: A synodal Church, in announcing the Gospel, “journeys together”. How is this “journeying together” happening today in your particular Church?

The question is challenging for any rural Diocese which covers thousands of square miles and in which parishes are 200 or 300 miles distant. Thus, the question for our Diocese might be focused on the local parish more than on the “particular Church” which refers to the Diocese as a whole.

At this time, I invite you to begin to reflect and to pray about the various ways in which the Diocesan or Parish Church invites you to participate in the life and ministry of the Church. I invite you to consider the catechetical programs in your parishes and the Diocesan engagement with this ministry. Consider the RCIA Programs which each Parish sponsors and for which the Diocese provides guidance. I invite you to review the Diocesan Statutes regarding Parish Pastoral Councils and Parish Finance Councils. I invite you to consider your Sunday liturgies and the engagement of Readers, Acolytes, and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. All of these entail an offering of self to the service of God and His Church. All of these are manifestations of our “journeying together”.

We acknowledge these and commend you for all of this. Now, however, we come to you and ask: What are some other ways in which we, as a particular or local Church, can “journey together” more effectively and more fruitfully?

Asking every good grace and blessing of God upon you, I am,

Sincerely yours in Christ Jesus,

The Most Reverend Robert F. Vasa,  
Bishop of Santa Rosa

The Prayer of the Synod: *Adsumus Sancte Spiritus*

We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name.  
With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts;  
Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it.  
We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder.  
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path  
nor partiality influence our actions.  
Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life  
and not stray from the way of truth and what is right.  
All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father  
and the Son, forever and ever. Amen.

*Attributed to St. Isidore of Seville (560-636), it has been traditionally used at  
Councils and Synods.*

This prayer is recommended to you in preparation for the consultation process and will be used  
at the beginning of each Synodal gathering.