

DIOCESE OF SUPERIOR OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

April 13, 2022

To all who participated in the Diocesan stage of the World Synod,

I want to begin by thanking everyone who participated in your parish/cluster Synod meeting, the two Diocesan follow-up gatherings, or offered your input via the Diocesan Synod portal online. This truly is an historic event. Never before has there been a worldwide Synod of the Church involving everyone who wanted to participate. Thank you for your time, your honesty, and your candor.

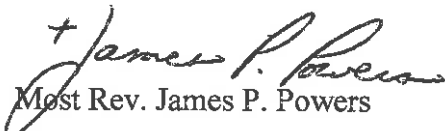
Through this process many suggestions were made and many issues were raised. These items will be a valuable source of information as we prepare as a diocese to move forward in our mission to bring the good news of Jesus Christ to every soul in northwestern Wisconsin.

Please remember as the preparatory document states, "The purpose of this synod is not to produce more documents. Rather, it is intended to inspire people to dream about the church we are called to be, to make people's hope flourish, to stimulate trust, to bind up wounds, to weave new and deeper relationships, to learn from one another, to build bridges, to enlighten minds, warm hearts, and restore strength to our hands for our common mission."

With this, there were some issues and suggestions that called into question the Church's understanding of her teachings, traditions and disciplines, such as gender dysphoria, married clergy, and female ordinations. As I am sure you know, these suggestions are beyond the authority of any local bishop and diocese. The Church's doctrine is not going to change because of this Synod and as your bishop I do not want anyone to garner any false hopes in this regard.

I recently instructed the priests of the diocese to please utilize the conversations that took place within their clusters in any way that they can to better touch the lives of those on the peripheries. In addition, I want to assure the faithful of the diocese that all the issues that surfaced during our listening sessions will be included in our report to USCCB (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops) to be included in the USCCB report being sent to Rome for the final phase of this World Synod. Our Diocesan Report is due to the USCCB office in June. The USCCB Committee working on the Synod Report has until September to complete their report and forward it to Rome. The General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops will take place at the Vatican in October of 2023.

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Most Rev. James P. Powers