



**ST. KATERI PASTORAL CENTRE**  
**ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF WHITEHORSE**  
5119 – 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Whitehorse, YT Y1A 1L5  
Phone: (867) 667-2052  
Fax: (867) 667-4713

Prot.#: 291021b

October 29, 2021

Dear Parishioners of the Diocese of Whitehorse,

**RE: Synod on Synodality – The Diocesan Phase**

I am pleased to announce to you the Holy Father's initiation of the Synod on Synodality. This Synod was launched with an opening Mass celebrated by Pope Francis on October 7, 2021 and will end in Rome with the Synod of Bishops in October 2023.

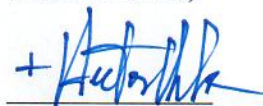
Pope Francis has described Synodality as “the way of being the Church today according to the will of God, in a dynamic of discerning and listening together to the voice of the Holy Spirit.” He invites all people in every Diocese of the world to pray, reflect and share what the Holy Spirit is telling us today. I, in turn, encourage each one of you to actively participate at the Diocesan synodal phase in whatever capacity you are comfortable with.

The Diocesan phase in our Diocese will begin with **an opening Mass on Sunday, November 7, 2021** which will be celebrated at the **10:30am Mass from Sacred Heart Cathedral**. It will be recorded, therefore if you are unable to attend, you are welcome to watch it on our Roman Catholic Diocese of Whitehorse Facebook page and YouTube channel.

We have prepared cards for the *Prayer for the Synod: Adsumus Sancte Spiritus* for you to use during this Diocesan synodal phase. It is a simplified version of the prayer which has been historically used at Councils, Synods and other Church gatherings for hundreds of years. We are also developing specific materials based on the Synod Preparatory document and Vademecum to assist with group discussions and individual submissions. This material will soon be available through your local churches and on the Diocese of Whitehorse website. For more information, please visit our website at [whitehorsediocese.ca](http://whitehorsediocese.ca) or the Synod website at [synod.va](http://synod.va).

I believe many fruits can come from this Diocesan synodal phase, not only for the Church, but also for our Diocese as we engage with the Synod themes of Communion, Participation and Mission. May God bless you and your families as we move through this process. I remain,

Yours in Christ,

+ 

Bishop Hector Vila