June 4, 2019

My dear brother priest,

It is hard to believe that our last Synod *On Embracing the Joy of Love* was three years ago. And, needless to say, one of the fruits of that synod was our new Family Life and Spirituality Office. And, I commend all of you for your collaborative efforts with this office in ongoing implementation of the synod proposals with parish committees on Family Life & Spirituality. This Synod was very timely and obviously lifted the spirits of engaged, newly married and families in our diocese.

As many of you know, Pope Francis in 2018 held a *Synod on Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment*. And, in March 2019, he issued his Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation, *Christus Vivit*. We all anguish on how to engage our young people in the life and mission of the Church. In addressing this critical issue in our local church, I decided to convene a diocesan synod on the weekend of October 26-27, 2019 specifically devoted to the implementation of *Christus Vivit*. This Diocesan Synod theme is, *Christ Lives! A Time of Dreams and Decisions*. It is a diocesan young adult synod with and for the young church. This decision is made after consultation with the Presbyteral Council, the Board of Deans and the diocesan curia.

This is a time for us to accompany young adults as key and vital members of the local church here in San Diego and Imperial Counties. And, it is imperative for us to build on the last synod in accompanying the young adults in and with families for greater engagement in the Church. The goal of this synod is, *The Church of San Diego will provide a time for young adults to dream big and make decisions about walking with Christ and to engage the local church to accompany them in the mission of Jesus*. Young adults will explore in seven Deanery gatherings:

- **Walking with God**...young adults will evaluate their spiritual and personal relationship with God.
- **Walking with the Church**...young adults will assess their perception of the Catholic Church today.
- **Walking in Solidarity**...young adults will explore how they are welcomed and accompanied in their parish communities.
- **Walking with Purpose**...young adults will explore their calling and purpose in life by assessing their leadership, their sense of social service and making a difference in life as a Christian.
- **Walking towards Freedom**...young adults will explore the elements of this Christian freedom...*A God Who is Love, Christ Saves You, Christ is Alive and the Spirit Gives Life.*
The October Synod General Assembly will explore the final question in each of the above “walkings” at the Deanery gatherings and make specific proposals for implementation throughout the Diocese of San Diego.

In addition to the members of the Presbyteral Council, one delegate will be nominated by each pastor. The Synod process will kick off on September 7th with seven deanery gatherings ending October 13th. Each deanery gathering will have four representatives from each of the deanery parishes, the delegate and 3 additional young adults decided by the pastor in consultation with the delegate he has chosen to represent the parish. The Synod Office will work with pastors and delegates to ensure that we can engage the un-affiliated whom you know in the deanery gatherings.

PASTORS, I am inviting all of you to consult with your staffs on who should represent your parish as a young adult, 18-39. I know that some of you may be transitioning to another parish, however I do ask that you make the nomination since it will take some time for a new pastor to get up to speed, we need to have the delegates chosen by the end of June to begin the process. Remember... Young adults are single...some are graduates of high school, college/university students and young professionals. Young adults are couples...dating, engaged, married without children, married with infants/toddlers and married with children. Among these young adults, consider some who bring an additional perspective to our much needed conversations such as young adults with their deep cultural backgrounds, military spouses, divorced, LGBTQ, single parents, DREAMers and others who can add to the richness of the synod process. I ask that send nominations to me by June 22nd with the young adult from your parish who will serve as a synod delegate. Please make sure before you nominate them that they can attend the Synod General Assembly, October 26-27, 2019. The nomination form is attached.

It is my hope that this process will be a creative moment for our diocese for us to accompany the young church in the fullness of life and mission with one another in Christ. It is also my hope that this will be a truly spiritual process which acknowledges at every moment that it will succeed only with the grace that God pours out in our ministry and the young church entrusted to our pastoral and loving care.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Rw McE

Most Reverend Robert W. McElroy
Bishop of San Diego
2019 DIOCESAN YOUNG ADULT SYNOD

CHRIST LIVES! A TIME OF DREAMS AND DECISIONS

Parish Delegate Nomination Form

Name of Parish: ________________________________________________

Name of Delegate: _____________________________________________

Mailing Address: ______________________________________________

______________________________________________________________

Phone Number: __________ E-mail: _______________________________

Age (18-39) _____ Single _____ Married _____ /// Female _____ Male _____

Check any of the following: HS Graduate _____ College Student ______

Young Professional _____ Engaged _____ Married w/o Children ______

Married w/Children _____ Divorced _____ Single Parent _____ LGBTQ _____

DREAMer _____ Military Spouse _____ Other: _______________________

Ethnicity: Anglo ___ Hispanic ___ Vietnamese ___ Filipino ___ Other: ___

Preferred Language: English ___ Spanish ___ Other ___________________

Parish Ministry or Involvement ____________________________________

Reason for Selection: __________________________________________

________________________________________________________________

Pastor: _______________________________________________________

Preferred E-mail: _____________________________________________

Address Information Will Not Be Published Anywhere.  
All Communications will preferably be through e-mail.

Please return by JUNE 22nd to: Aurelia Vargas
Email: avargas@sdcatholic.org    Fax: 858-490-8302
Mail: Bishop’s Office, Pastoral Center
P.O. Box 85728, San Diego, California 92186-5728