



A MESSAGE FROM
Bishop Michael Fisher

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Thank you for coming to this listening session to share your hopes and dreams for the Church here in the Diocese of Buffalo.

This church-wide Synod is an opportunity for us to journey together. We have called our effort **Listening in Love and Hope** because we aspire to reach out as broadly as possible to listen to the many voices within the Church, especially the marginalized, the disenfranchised, our less fortunate among us and our youth. Your participation today is so important as we work to listen and be guided by the Holy Spirit as we consult on the current state of the Church and what we wish it to be going forward.

In this journey together, we will learn from one another as we explore what our Church has done well and in which it needs to improve and change. Our Church is not a collection of buildings, but the vibrant people who are called to engage in dialogue to help shape its future.

Thank you again for your time and participation.

Yours sincerely in Christ

+ Bishop Mike

Bishop Mike



MISSION STATEMENT OF THE Diocesan Synod

... we recall that the purpose of the Synod, and therefore of this consultation, is not to produce documents, but “to plant dreams, draw forth prophecies and visions, allow hope to flourish, inspire trust, bind up wounds, weave together relationships, awaken a dawn of hope, learn from one another and create a bright resourcefulness that will enlighten minds, warm hearts, give strength to our hands ...





LISTENING IN LOVE AND HOPE Conversations about Church

Listen! Let Us Listen!

Listen, let us listen; listen to our Lord's call
Listen, let us listen; the Synodal journey has begun

Oh, we come now together as one,
In an effort to answer God's call
As we air our concerns and our blights
God, we pray you will answer our cries

Listen, let us listen; listen to our Lord's call
Listen, let us listen; the Synodal journey has begun

Our mission is to Christ our Lord
We proclaim and we trust in his word
As we journey in faith to make our Church great
Let us congregate and participate

Listen, let us listen; listen to our Lord's call
Listen, let us listen; the Synodal journey has begun

We're calling all of our parents of children
Fishers, farmers, and all of our young men
Bring us all your concerns
We're calling out to our doctors and lawyers
Teachers, preachers, and all our leaders,
Take a stand and discern

We're calling all of our active believers
Even our inactive believers, The Synod process is here
We're calling out to the priests and religious
Come on and know our brothers and sisters
As we journey along

Listen, let us listen; listen to our Lord's call...

Scripture Reading:

A reading from the 1st Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

For just as the body is **one** and has **many** members,
and all the members of the body,
though **many**, are **one** body,
so it is with **Christ**.

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many.

If the foot were to say,
'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body',
that would not make it any less a part of the body.

And if the ear were to say,
'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body',
that would not make it any less a part of the body.

As it is, there are many members, yet one body.
The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you',
nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.'

Now you together are the body of Christ,
and individually members of it.

The Word of the Lord.

1 COR 12:12, 14-16, 20-21, 27

GROUND RULES

BE HONEST & OPEN

LISTEN TO OTHERS' COMMENTS AND IDEAS

ALLOW TIME FOR OTHERS TO SPEAK

WITHHOLD DEBATE

PASS IS OK

MAINTAIN CONFIDENCES

PARTICIPATE

ACCEPT POSSIBILITIES, BE HOPEFUL



Conversations about Church

PERSONAL NOTES

AS YOU THINK ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE CHURCH...

What are your concerns?

What strengths can we build on and what are your hopes?

How can you further its mission?





Conversations about Church

LISTENING IN LOVE AND HOPE

Evaluation

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither D or A	Agree	Strongly Agree
I felt able to engage in the conversation.	1	2	3	4	5
My group was able to share, listen and learn from each other.	1	2	3	4	5
The facilitators were effective and accurately represented what was shared.	1	2	3	4	5
After this conversation, I feel more hopeful for the future of the Catholic Church in Buffalo.	1	2	3	4	5
I am more likely to engage with the Church in the future.	1	2	3	4	5
Participation in the Synod conversation was worth my time.	1	2	3	4	5

Comments: _____

NAME (OPTIONAL) _____ EMAIL/PHONE _____

For more information on the Synod or to submit additional comments directly to the Diocese of Buffalo Synod Leaders please go to:

www.buffalodiocese.org/Synod

OR SCAN QR CODE

