

The 2023 Synod of Bishops begins here and in Rome in October

The XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops with the theme: *for a synodal Church: communion, participation and mission* commences in both the Vatican and in our Archdiocese this October.

Pope Francis has announced that the next Synod of Bishops, scheduled for October 2023, will not only be celebrated in the Vatican but in each diocese of the five continents of the world. This synod will follow a two-year process divided into three phases: diocesan, continental and universal. The synod will culminate with the assembly in October 2023 in Rome.

On October 10th 2021 in Rome, Pope Francis will open this two-year synodal journey with a time for encounter and reflection, followed by a moment of prayer and the celebration of the Eucharist.

The official opening of the synod in each diocese will take place on Sunday October 17th 2021. In the Archdiocese of St. John's, Archbishop Peter Hundt will begin our synodal journey by presiding at a special 11:00 am Mass at the Cathedral-Basilica of St. John the Baptist, convening the local portion of the journey, announcing the steps that we will take on our journey, and inviting the participation of all. You may wish to attend this Mass at the Basilica, or join the livestream of the Mass at www.thebasilica.net.

More information will follow in next week's bulletin, and in the Archdiocesan weekly catechetical resource, *Living Faith*.