



November 15, 2021

Dear People of God of the Church of Monterey in California:

It is with great joy that I confirm that the Diocese of Monterey will participate in the *synodal journey* which our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has invited us and the entire Catholic Church to embark upon. Through this journey, rooted in a trust of the Holy Spirit, we are being called to participate in a process by which the Church will deepen its discernment and understanding of Her mission as we look with joy towards the future.

The *Ordinary Synod of Bishops, 2023*, is not just a convening of the Bishops reflecting on a particular topic. Rather, it is the final step in a process of *synodality* – in which the entire Church consults, listens, reflects, and discusses. The goal is to discern the Spirit's lead, so that we might fulfill more effectively, our mission to evangelize the world. Below are the *synodal* steps:

- October – November 2021: Diocesan Organization and Planning
- **November 28 – April 15, 2022:** **Advent: Consultations begin and are conducted throughout the Church of Monterey**
- April 16, 2022: All particular reports throughout diocese provided to Synod Diocesan Director and Team
- June 30, 2022: Diocesan Report given to the USCCB
- August 15, 2022: Reporting by Episcopal Conferences to Rome, of results of Conference-wide consultations
- Later 2022 through summer 2023: Synthesis of Reports, *Instrumentum Laboris I, II*, developed in Rome for Bishops' Synod
- Synod of Bishops: October 2023, Rome

I have appointed **Deacon David Ford**, Vice Chancellor and Director of Pastoral Ministries, as Director of the Diocese of Monterey's *Synodal* Process. He has already begun some initial meetings with our Diocesan Pastoral Directors to establish an organizational process and begin work on the formation of a Core Team to coordinate this large undertaking.

He and his Executive Assistant, Ms. Ann Ventura, will be in dialogue with pastors and parish leaders, seeking your help and engagement in this wonderful journey to which we have been invited to participate. Consultation will involve our consultative and ministerial bodies, both at the diocesan and parish level, various groups throughout the diocese, and of course, listening to the voices of our parishioners and even those not in the Church. I invite you to please give Deacon Dave and Ann your full cooperation and assistance, as we walk this synodal journey together. Let us pray together for the wisdom to listen to the Spirit in one another and throughout our communities and society.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Daniel E. Garcia
Bishop of Monterey