

**Promotional blurbs to encourage Synod participation - #4**

* In Pope Francis’ 2022 Lenten message (February 24) he opened by saying: “Lent is a favorable time for personal and community renewal, as it leads us to the paschal mystery of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. For our Lenten journey in 2022, we will do well to reflect on Saint Paul’s exhortation to the Galatians: ‘Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest, if we do not give up. So then, while we have the opportunity (*kairós*), let us do good to all.’ (*Gal 6:9-10*).” This Lent gives us the opportunity to “*journey together and sow*” towards a Church that uses *communion, participation, and mission* as its experience leading us to “*reap a better future harvest*”. To learn more and/or to participate visit the webpage [www.dor.org/synod](http://www.dor.org/synod) or contact [add parish contact and information].
* The deadline to participate in synodal conversations is soon approaching. All conversational input is due to the DOR by **March 31, 2022**. After all input is gathered the Diocesan team will synthesize the feedback and send it into the U.S. Catholic Conference of Bishops (USCCB), who will in turn create a “continental” synthesis that will be shared at the Global 16th Ordinary Synod of Bishops in October 2023. To learn more and/or to participate visit the webpage [www.dor.org/synod](http://www.dor.org/synod) or contact [add parish contact and information].

**PARISHES**: Please remember to share pictures of your synodal journey on social media using the hashtag ***#DORsynod***. This can help encourage others to join the journey.

Sunday Gospel Synodal connections…

* **3/6/22 – 1st Sunday of Lent (Lk 4:1-13)**: In this week’s Gospel we hear about the temptation of Jesus in the desert. On this synodal journey we may also encounter “pitfalls” that can make it difficult to see what God wills for us as a Church. Three of the pitfalls mentioned in the Vademecum (2.4) sound similar to the temptations Jesus encountered: Pitfall #1 – *The temptation of wanting to lead ourselves instead of being led by God.* (“…If you are the Son of God, throw yourself from here…” *Lk 4:9-11*), Pitfall #3 – *The temptation to only see “problems”.* (“…If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.” *Lk 4:2b-4*), and Pitfall #4 – *The temptation to focus only on structures.* (“…All this will be yours if you worship me.” *Lk 4:5-8*) How are we tempted during this journey? Name the temptations/pitfalls and rebuke them as Jesus did his tempter. To learn more and/or to participate visit the webpage [www.dor.org/synod](http://www.dor.org/synod) or contact [add parish contact and information].
* **3/13/22 – 2nd Sunday of Lent (Lk 9:28b-36)**: Similar to last weekend’s Gospel, we hear of Peter, James and John’s encountering other “pitfalls” as they are awestruck by Jesus’ transfiguration. After experiencing such a wonder, they lost sight of what they saw and heard. Two similar “pitfalls” we can experience during this synodal process are: Pitfall #6 – *The temptation to lose focus of the objectives of the Synodal Process* … we need to be mindful that the goal is of discerning how God calls us to move forward together. The other is Pitfall #9 – *The temptation to listen only to those who are already involved in Church activities* … [doing so] ultimately ignores a significant proportion of the People of God. Don’t miss out on this opportunity; there is still time to join in. To learn more and participate visit the webpage [www.dor.org/synod](http://www.dor.org/synod) or contact [add parish contact and information].
* **3/20/22 – 3rd Sunday of Lent (Cycle C – Lk 13:1-9)**: The Gospel this week cautions us to be patient and nurturing of the process when on this synodal journey and not to set our own expectations but to let the Holy Spirit move and guide the dialogue. The Parable of the Barren Fig Tree brings awareness to our journey by reminding us that it is tempting to want to reap immediate fruit, to see dramatic change. But perhaps what is needed most is patience, and loving attention to the process – which is ongoing, even after these dialogues are over. Then, we may very well be blessed with abundant fruit. To participate visit the webpage [www.dor.org/synod](http://www.dor.org/synod) or contact [add parish contact and information].
* **3/27/22 – 4th Sunday of Lent (Cycle C – Lk 15:11-32)**: In this week’s Gospel we hear the well-known Parable of the Prodigal Son. In Pope Francis’ Lenten message, he reminded us of what he shared in his Apostolic letter “*Fratelli Tutti*” – “It is truly noble to place our hope in the hidden power of the seeds of goodness we sow, and thus to initiate processes whose fruits will be reaped by others” (#196). This is what the older son should have understood, that the good we do is not for our own benefit alone but also for the good of others. As we close out this synodal process here at our local level, let us pray that the good seeds we have sown through our dialogues bear strong and healthy fruit towards the Church of the Third Millennium on the grass roots and globally. To continue praying for the process as it enters the continental phase visit the webpage [www.dor.org/synod](http://www.dor.org/synod). You can also visit Facebook and search **#DORsynod** to see the highlights of our journey.