

TOGETHER

a monthly bulletin insert from the archdiocese



ARCHDIOCESE
of DUBUQUE

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October, 2021 Vol. 1 | No. 10

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MESSAGES FROM ARCHBISHOP JACKELS



27 September 2021

OUR PARTICIPATION IN THE SYNOD ON SYNODALITY

Our Holy Father Francis (God preserve him) is planning a Synod on synodality. Most of us will probably respond to that news by saying: Huh? I know I did.

Synodality is a process of consulting, arriving at a decision, and then communicating the results. And a Synod is the gathering of people for the process of synodality.

We might not use the word, but we practice synodality when we ask for counsel from councils, like the Priest Council, Archdiocesan Pastoral Council, parish council, etc.

Basically, the Pope wants us to talk about talking, listening, and decision-making in the Church. That's a little abstract, don't you think, and hard to get people interested.

It needs a concrete, practical context. So, in the Archdiocese of Dubuque we'll talk, listen, and proceed to decision-making about the topic of the parish community:

What makes for a viable parish? How is it determined which parishes will be closed, merged, or remain the same? How many parishes can one priest reasonably serve?

We'll listen to all the voices that speak to the matter, collaborate on setting the criteria for decision-making, and work to help everyone own the results.

This is an issue that has to be addressed. Jeff Henderson was hired as the Director of Pastoral Planning and Leadership Development in order to drive that bus.

The Pope's Synod begins in October 2021, when each diocese in the world is asked to have an Opening Mass and First Session to launch the consultation on the local level.

Ours will be on 14 October 2021, piggy-backing on a study day for parish leaders and staff, which by happy coincynk identified the parish community as its basic theme.

We'll celebrate the Mass for the Sunday to follow, and post it on the archdiocesan website, on the 16-17 October 2021, as has been our practice during the pandemic.

Also, everyone is welcome to listen to any or all of the study day sessions by visiting www.dbqarch.org/synodal-church. They will be posted there after 14 October 2021.

Ideally, consultation is done with people gathered in person. But that's not prudent due to the on-going pandemic, and so our consultation will take place mostly virtually.

The time allotted for consultation concludes at the end of March 2022, when we're asked to submit a report on our experience of the process of synodality in the Church.

Michael O. Jackels
Archbishop of Dubuque

29 September 2021

ACTION ALERT ABOUT ABORTION LEGISLATION

Tom Chapman, Director of the Iowa Catholic Conference, just forwarded an action alert about abortion legislation passed by the US House of Representatives (HR 3755).

It is called the Women's Health Protection Act. It would, for example, allow abortion on demand nationwide throughout pregnancy; ban pro-life laws in state and local government; and force Americans to support abortions with their tax dollars.

The action alert <https://www.votervoice.net/USCCB/Campaigns/88618/Respond> is addressed to our Senators and Representatives. And depending on where we live, it either thanks them or expresses disappointment for their vote.

Action alerts are easy to send. And while most observers don't believe the measure can get to the necessary 60 votes in the Senate, it's still important to let legislators know how you feel about the bill. They are there because we vested them with authority.

Here is a link to a fact sheet: <https://files.constantcontact.com/ec9baf35001/3ecca8a8-b71c-49e9-9b32-7b2ec37fe499.pdf>.

Michael O. Jackels
Archbishop of Dubuque



A Follower of Jesus in His Holy Catholic Church

This is the fifth entry in a document by Archbishop Michael Jackels titled, "A Follower of Jesus In His Holy Catholic Church" which was published online in April of 2021.

WHAT IS THE WAY OF LIFE JESUS SHOWS HIS FOLLOWERS ?

After learning about the person of Jesus, his teaching and his saving deeds, we are invited to believe in Jesus and his promises, to be baptized (if we aren't already), and to live out our Baptism by practicing our holy Catholic Faith; it is, after all, a way of life.

St. Pope John Paul II, on his first visit to France, repeatedly cried out the question: "What have you done with your Baptism?" It was a rhetorical question, for they had done nothing; the members of the Catholic Church of France had for the most part fallen away from the practice of their faith.

Being saved is dynamic, not static. We can't one day accept Jesus as our savior, and then forget about it. It's possible for us to forfeit the gift of eternal life by the same kind of pride and disobedience as Adam and Eve.

So, we need to have in our hearts and on our lips a profession of faith: I do believe in Jesus as Son of God and Savior. I can be forgiven by Jesus' mercy. I will try until I die to live according to the teachings of Jesus and his Catholic Church.

We try by "work out your salvation with fear and trembling" (Philippians 2:12), and by "faith working through love." (Galatians 5:6)

How do we practice our holy Catholic Faith? The leaders of the Catholic Church, from their study of Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition, have identified essential elements of the way of life that Jesus shows to his disciples:

PRAYER

Like conversation between friends, prayer is needed to start and maintain a relationship with God; if we stop praying, the relationship weakens and dies.

Therefore, **some kind of prayer should be part of daily life for a follower of Jesus**, in order to keep our friendship with him alive. As MC Hammer sang: "You've got to pray just to make it today." Word!

Prayer is described as lifting up our minds and hearts to God, to express love, sorrow for sin, gratitude, or need. Prayer is also described as a dialogue with God.

As with any conversation, prayer starts on a surface level, maybe reciting written prayers, but it eventually goes deeper, more intimate, using fewer words.

One kind of prayer is called vocal prayer: reciting words someone else wrote, like praying the Rosary, or speaking out loud words from our own mind and heart.

Another kind of prayer is called mental prayer: thinking about, or meditating about God, or a teaching of Jesus. An example is *lectio divina*, prayerful reading of the Bible.

Jesus prayed, and when his followers saw him pray, and maybe also the effect prayer had on him, inspiring in him clarity and action, they begged him: teach us to pray.

Jesus taught them the Our Father, also known as The Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13):

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Some Bible scholars say the Our Father is made up of individual prayers stitched together into one.

It begins by addressing God as Our Father, which we would only dare do because Jesus tells us we are God's children, and because the Holy Spirit puts the word in our mouths. This is a prayer of love, just to say the Holy Name of God.

After calling God, Father, we say hallowed be Thy Name. This is a prayer of thanksgiving and praise. It's a form of a speech common in Semitic languages, such as Hebrew and Arabic. For example, whenever Muslims mention the name of their Prophet, they follow up by saying "Peace be upon him."

When we say Thy kingdom come, we are asking, hoping, that God be introduced into day-to-day life, and vice-versa, removing the boundaries between Heaven and Earth.

An important way to live in the kingdom of God is to do God's will, just as the angels and saints in Heaven do. We do God's will when we say "Yes" to God's plan for our vocation, or when we obey the Ten Commandments.

We beg God to give us this day our daily bread, acknowledging our dependence on God for what we need to live with dignity, but also for spiritual food, such as the Bible and Holy Communion. This is a prayer of petition.

We beg God to forgive us our trespasses, our sins, remembering Jesus' teaching that we will be forgiven if we forgive, that God will be generous with mercy to us as we are towards others. This is a prayer of contrition, sorrow for sin.

Finally, we beg God that we might be delivered from the temptation of the devil, and from both doing and suffering evil.

In addition to the Our Father, Catholics should commit certain prayers to memory, especially so they can pray together with others, like reciting the Holy Rosary:

The Sign of the Cross – In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into Hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into Heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

The Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

The Glory Be

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

The Act of Contrition

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy. Amen.

This section will continue in the November issue as Archbishop Jackels teaches about Jesus starting the seven sacraments and our worship at Holy Mass.

Litany to St. Joseph to be prayed on the 19th of each month, March - November, 2021

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

God our Father in heaven,
have mercy on us.

God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
have mercy on us.

God the Holy Spirit, have mercy on us.
Holy Trinity, one God, have mercy on us.

Holy Mary, pray for us.

St. Joseph, pray for us.
Noble son of the House of David, pray for us.

Light of the Patriarchs, pray for us.
Husband of the Mother of God,
pray for us.

Guardian of the Virgin, pray for us.
Foster father of the Son of God, pray for us.
Faithful guardian of Christ, pray for us.

Head of the Holy Family, pray for us.
Joseph, chaste and just, pray for us.
Joseph, prudent and brave, pray for us.
Joseph, obedient and loyal, pray for us.
Pattern of patience, pray for us.

Lover of poverty, pray for us.
Model of workers, pray for us.
Example to parents, pray for us.
Guardian of virgins, pray for us.
Pillar of family life, pray for us.
Comfort of the troubled, pray for us.
Hope of the sick, pray for us.
Patron of the dying, pray for us.
Terror of evil spirits, pray for us.
Protector of the Church, pray for us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

God made him master of his household, and put him in charge of all that he owned.

Let us pray. O God, who in your inexpressible providence were pleased to choose Saint Joseph as spouse of the most holy Mother of your Son, grant, we pray, that we, who revere him as our protector on earth, may be worthy of his heavenly intercession.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.