

SYNOD PREPARATION IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF DURBAN

WEEK 3 OF PRAYER

“PARTICIPATION”

Prayer for the Synod: *Adsumus Sancte Spiritus*

Every session of the Second Vatican Council began with the prayer *Adsumus Sancte Spiritus*, the first word of the original Latin, meaning, “We stand before You, Holy Spirit,” which has been historically used at Councils, Synods and other Church gatherings for hundreds of years, and is attributed to Saint Isidore of Seville (c. 560 - 4 April 636). As we embrace this Synodal Process, this prayer invites the Holy Spirit to be at work in us so that we may be a community and a people of grace. Let us commit to praying this prayer every day.

We stand before You, Holy Spirit,

as we gather together in Your name.

With You alone to guide us,

make Yourself at home in our hearts;

Teach us the way we must go

and how we are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful;

do not let us promote disorder.

Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path

nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity

so that we may journey together to eternal life

and not stray from the way of truth

and what is right.

All this we ask of You,

who are at work in every place and time,

in the communion of the Father and the Son,

forever and ever.

Amen.

Short Daily Scripture Passages:

- Sunday, 31 October: Matthew 28:18-20
- Monday, 1 November: Ephesians 4:11-16
- Tuesday, 2 November: 1 Peter 4:10
- Wednesday, 3 November: 1 Peter 2:5,9
- Thursday, 4 November: 1 Corinthians 12:4
- Friday, 5 November: Acts 1:8
- Saturday, 6 November: Acts 2:42

Reflection for the week on: “Participation”

The Lord Jesus Christ “whom the Father consecrated and sent into the world” (John 10:36) makes his whole Mystical Body sharer in the anointing of the Spirit wherewith he was anointed: for in that Body all the faithful are made a holy and kingly priesthood, they offer spiritual sacrifices to God through Jesus Christ, and they proclaim the virtues of him who has called them out of darkness into his admirable light (1 Peter 2:5, 9)

Through the Sacrament of Baptism all the baptised members of the Church are incorporated into the Mystical Body of Christ and so they share in his life as a priest, prophet and king. All the baptised members of the Church should actively participate in the life and mission of Christ. Both types of sharing in the Priesthood of Christ: Common Priesthood of all the baptised and Ministerial Priesthood of the baptised and ordained ministers (priests) should work collaboratively and together to proclaim the good news and journeying together in love and in mission.

This participation and collaboration find expressions in ministerial duties and in reaching out to others and proclaiming the gospel with our lives. Am I actively involved in the life and mission of the Church? What is my ministry? What is my role? Am I an active member of my parish community? It goes beyond what we see for it is the participation in the priesthood of Christ and in his mission which is the mission of the Church. Welcome, share. Participate, engage, be the living stones building up the Body of Christ, the Church.

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Lord, Jesus Christ,
we thank you for calling us to follow you
and to participate in your priesthood and to belong to the priestly people.
Grant, we pray, that through a life worthy of a Christian
I (we) may participate fully, actively and consciously in your life and mission
that at any time and place I (we) will bear witness to God
and bring people closer to you
that we will fulfil our tasks worthily
and let us, united with each other, present to you a life and people worthy of you.
Amen.

*We hope that you will enter this period of preparation for our Archdiocesan Synod
Consultation open to the Holy Spirit and with a deep desire to grow closer to God and one
another as we make our journey together!
Archbishop Siegfried Mandla Jwara CMM*