

Volunteers: There are also a number of Volunteers of various kinds to help the logistical running of the Synod days. Some of you may receive a summons to offer one of the many skills required.

Mass and Synodal Declaration: After the three days of deliberations by the Members, the Archbishop will decide the key elements to be promulgated as decrees and diocesan laws. The salient outcomes will immediately be available as a Declaration from the Archbishop to the people, presented at the concluding Eucharistic Celebration of the Synod – which will be a public event. You are warmly invited to share the joy of the entire Archdiocese at the Morning Star Regional Seminary, Barrackpore, on 01.10.2017, 10:45 a.m.

Key Dates in the Synod Timeline:

PreSynodal Members Meetings - 13.03.2017, 26.06.2017, 02.09.2017

Archbishop's Message in Churches - 02.07.2017 (Launch of Booklet, Poster and Video Message)

Volunteer Group Meetings - 12 .08.2017, 24.09.2017

Synodal Dates and Venue - Arrival 27.09.2017 – Public Mass/Departure 01.10.2017

Decrees and Declarations - Concise Declaration at Mass on 01.10.2017

Our loving Father,

You call us to be your Church.

As we prepare for our Archdiocesan Synod

Journey with us in the power of your Spirit

Inspiring us to become the Church you want.

Enable us to experience anew your great love for us.

Light in us a burning desire to listen to your Word.

Lord Jesus,

Open our minds to discern your Holy Will:

Our eyes to see the needs of your people

Our hearts to feel their pain

Our ears to listen to their cries.

And filled with your compassionate love

May we reach out to them in humble service.

O Holy Spirit,

Let the Church in the Archdiocese of Calcutta

Be a strong community of love.

Let the mission we come together for

Be entrusted to the Lord and established by Him.

In our words and deeds may we become

Signs of His saving presence

In our country, our archdiocese, our parish

And our smallest communities.

Mary our Mother,

Intercede for us with Jesus your Son

So that this Synod may accomplish all

That is pleasing to Him.

Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for the
Archdiocesan Synod 2017

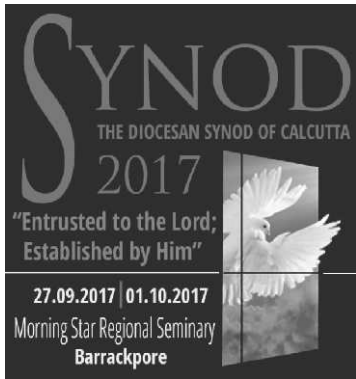
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THE ROMAN CATHOLIC
ARCHDIOCESE OF CALCUTTA



THE DIOCESAN SYNOD OF
CALCUTTA
2017



The Synod Logo and Theme

THE DIOCESAN SYNOD OF CALCUTTA

Archbishop Thomas D'Souza by his official decree of March 01, 2017, has convoked a Diocesan Synod. This is to be a very important and historic event in the life of the local church – a rare and wonderful exercise bringing freshness and vitality the Archdiocese's pastoral mission. **Yet, what exactly is a Synod? Why is it needed? What are the benefits?**

WHAT IS THE SYNOD

The Code of Canon Law provides Diocesan Synod modalities in *Canons 460 to 468*. It gives specific rules for initiating,

convoking and electing Members to the Synod – which the archdiocese has already followed for Synod 2017 - and even the planning of the event, at which the 180+ elected Members, lay and religious, opening their hearts to Grace; will study, deliberate and respond to Questions aimed at fulfilling identified pastoral needs. The Archbishop then decides appropriate action – decreeing laws and initiating steps for a renewed pastoral mission – benefiting our communities and Christian life. The Archdiocesan Synod of Calcutta, **“Synod 2017”**, will take place between 27 September and 1 October 2017, at the Morning Star Regional Seminary, Barrackpore.

WHY A SYNOD

Most parishes have evolved a grassroots pastoral plan, exposed concerns of their communities and generated ideas to improve and strengthen their Parish life. With such a wealth of ideas and information coming from our Parishes, the time is ripe to consolidate the best practices, as basis of the Synodal Questions.

BENEFITS OF THE SYNOD

This consultation through the Synod will be the foundation of an Archdiocesan Pastoral Plan that is relevant and effective. This means positive changes, pastoral care that reflects the real concerns of communities - and results in a vibrant

Archdiocese, that is able to respond well to the challenges of the times. The theme of the Synod is **“Entrusted to the Lord, established by Him.”** It is the Lord's grace which guides the outcomes.

YOU ARE REPRESENTED AT THE SYNOD

The Members of the Synod have been carefully chosen to represent each and every parish in the Archdiocese. Both ecclesial and lay leaders have been summoned by the Archbishop, according to the Rules of Convoking a Synod laid down by the Vatican. These “Members” or delegates have a personal obligation to attend all the pre-Synodal / Synodal sessions, without fail; and have a solemn duty to represent you at the Synod on the basis of the already concluded Parish Plan sessions in your community – they carry this uniqueness with them.

YOUR PARTICIPATION – VERY MUCH NEEDED

Prayer: If you are a summoned Member of the Synod, you are already doing a great service. Equally important is your support through prayer. For this reason, a special *Prayer for the success of the Synod* is being circulated (reproduced in this booklet also) and you are requested to pray it in your communities and privately – so as a huge bouquet of prayer is lifted up to the Heavens...