

SUGGESTED BULLETIN BULLETS FOR SYNOD FAQs.

These may be run from anytime starting now through November. We suggest starting now and using 1 per weekend. You may wish to create a special corner of your bulletin where the people can consistently find the Synod FAQ (Frequently Asked Question).

(July 4-5)

SYNOD FAQ #1: *What is a Diocesan Synod?*

The diocesan Synod is an assembly of selected priests and other members of Christ's faithful of a particular Church (for us that's the Diocese of Crookston) which, for the good of the whole diocesan community assists the bishop in the exercise of his office as bishop in leading the People of God.

(July 11-12)

SYNOD FAQ #2: *When and where does the Diocesan Synod Assembly meet?*

Actually, we are currently within the preparatory time of the Synod since Bishop Hoepfner convoked the synod with a formal proclamation at the last Chrism Mass on April 6th, 2009. The opening Mass for the Synod will occur at the Cathedral on Pentecost of next year, May 23rd. And then the actual assembly of the synod members is scheduled to occur at the Cathedral on June 2-3, 2010 and again on June 10-11, 2010.

(July 18-19)

SYNOD FAQ #3: *So what happens during the preparatory time of the Synod?*

One of the key things to happen first will be the discernment of who will be appointed as Synod members for the Synod assembly next June. The Preparatory Commission (established by Bishop Hoepfner to guide the preparations) has determined that this summer will be the time to surface names of people who would be thought to be good choices for the Synod Assembly. Postcards will eventually be found in your church for the purpose of placing into consideration names of people you think would be a good Synod member. Every parish in the diocese will be making these postcards available on the weekend of August 15-16th.

(July 25-26)

SYNOD FAQ #4: *Who would make a good Synod member?*

A Synod member should be distinguished by a firm Catholic faith, exemplary morals, and prudence and should be in a good relationship with the Catholic Church, able to receive the Sacraments. A Synod member should also be skilled at communication – able to both listen well and be comfortable expressing oneself publicly.

(Aug 1-2)

SYNOD FAQ #5: *If I write a name or two on the Nomination card – what happens next?*

Once all the nomination cards from a parish has been turned in, the Pastor along with chosen others (most likely chosen from the Pastoral Council or other consultative group of the Parish) will pray over all the names submitted and then will lift up between 2-8 names from each parish. The pastor will then bring these parish names to a meeting of the priests of a deanery. There the priests will pray over the collected names of the deanery and will choose from among them 8 people to recommend to the Bishop for appointment to the Synod. Bishop Hoepfner will receive 8 names from each of the 5 deaneries and he will pray over them. Once he has done so, he will write letters of appointment for those whom the Holy Spirit has surfaced to be members of the Synod Assembly.

(Aug 8-9)

SYNOD FAQ #6: *Other than nominating synod members – what else goes on during the preparatory phase of the Synod?*

Plenty! This is a catechetical time for all of us to deepen our understanding of the Church and our mission. To this end, Bishop Hoepfner has already been using OND articles to teach us about who we are as the Church and what our mission is within the world. Other articles have also appeared in the OND concerning the Synod. These and other resources can all be found in the Synod web link at the Diocesan web page:

www.crookston.org

(Aug 15-16)

SYNOD FAQ #7: *Who can fill out the nomination card which was distributed this weekend in every parish of the Diocese?*

Anybody! There is no age restriction; no residence restriction; no denominational restriction; no parish boundary restriction. If you can fill out a card and are willing to pray about the name(s) you submit seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit...go ahead and fill it out!

(Aug. 22-23)

SYNOD FAQ #8: *So catechesis goes on during the preparatory phase – is there anything else I need to know about?*

Absolutely! You are invited to a very key and essential part of the synod preparations: The Parish Discussions. Each parish will make available time (or times) in which members of the parish community will gather together to pray about and share insights about certain topics which will be proposed for discussion. This serves as the foundation for the material which eventually will be proposed to the Synod members next June for their Assembly.

(Aug. 29-30)

SYNOD FAQ #9: *How do the first topics for Parish Discussions get proposed?*

Bishop Hoepfner will propose the initial topics for discussion. He has been praying for discernment and enlightenment about what the initial topics could be for some time now. Sometime soon, he will announce the initial topics in the OND so that we might all begin to pray about them and begin readying ourselves for the parish conversations.