



# Memo

**Date:** October 8, 2021

**To:** Priests, deacons, men and women religious

**From:** The Most Rev. Gregory J. Hartmayer, OFM Conv.

**Re:** Synod of Bishops on the theme, “For a Synodal Church: communion, participation, and mission”

---

My dear brothers,

Peace and All Good Things!

I am excited to invite you to join me in shepherding and tending *Synod 2021-2023 – For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission* in our Archdiocese of Atlanta. The Holy Father will open this unprecedented worldwide convocation on Sunday, Oct. 10. I will celebrate a Mass to launch the archdiocesan phase on Sunday, Oct. 17, at 10:30 a.m., at the Cathedral of Christ the King.

According to the preparatory documents for this synod, “the Church recognizes that synodality is an integral part of her very nature.” We are meant to journey together, to listen to one another and to the Holy Spirit. I am looking forward to this journey with you and with all the people of God in north and central Georgia and, ultimately, around the world.

Please invite your local faith community to join their brothers and sisters in Christ across our archdiocese by beginning this process in prayer. The [Adsumus Sancte Spiritus](#) is the prayer for the Synod. I would also encourage each parish to host a Holy Hour dedicated to the success of the Synod between Oct. 10 and 17 or at another time during the process, especially to encourage a link between this synodal journey and our Eucharistic Renewal.

You will be hearing more about the logistics and expectations for this Synod in the coming weeks. In the meantime, I encourage you to read more about it in

The [Georgia Bulletin](#), from the [Vatican's website](#) and from the section of the [archdiocesan website](#) dedicated to this. I have attached here a pastoral letter I would like for you to share with your parish family on the weekend of Sunday, Oct. 17, in the way you deem most appropriate. I have also attached a document from the USCCB with recommendations for the liturgy should you decide to incorporate this into your own Masses on the weekend of Oct. 17.  
Fraternally yours in Christ,

+ Gregory J. Hartmayer, OFM Conv.

The Most Rev. Gregory J. Hartmayer, OFM Conv.  
Archbishop of Atlanta

[Pastor Letter in Spanish](#)

[Pastor Letter in English](#)

[Laity Letter in English](#)

[Laity Letter in Spanish](#)

[For Synodal Church Presentation](#)