



ARCHDIOCESE OF HARTFORD  
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OFFICE OF  
THE ARCHBISHOP

Pentecost 2017

Dear Friends in Christ,

When I last wrote to you in your individual parishes about the implementation of our pastoral plan, I said that it was not meant to be an end, but a new beginning for our Archdiocese. This echoes the mysteries of faith we celebrate at this time of year. Christ's resurrection at Easter is not an end, but an unimagined new beginning unleashed with the gift of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost Sunday, which we celebrate today.

At the commemoration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Our Lady's apparitions at Fatima, in his homily Pope Francis said something that applies to us at this moment of our history: "...with [Mary's] protection may we be for our world sentinels of the dawn, contemplating the true face of Jesus the savior, resplendent at Easter. Thus may we discover the young and beautiful face of the church, which shines forth when she is missionary, welcoming, free, faithful, poor in means and rich in love."

As we move beyond the restructuring of parishes and consider ways to further our mission at every level, Church law provides for the convocation of what is known as a diocesan Synod. This is a gathering of representatives of the clergy, religious and lay faithful convoked by the Bishop for the purpose of a focused discussion and recommendation to the Bishop of priorities and practical steps to order and promote the life and mission of the local Church.

The last Synod for the Archdiocese of Hartford was held in 1996, and it is now my intention to convoke another one, to be concluded at Pentecost in June of 2019. I am consulting with our Presbyteral Council, among others, about this possibility.

The success of a Synod depends in large part on intensive preparation, consultation and study, as well as the selection and training of delegates; hence the need for two years before the actual event. In the meantime I ask that everyone pray for God's blessing on our efforts, especially through the intercession of Mary, Mother of the Church, and our Archdiocesan patron, Saint Joseph.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair  
Archbishop of Hartford