



WE WANT YOU TO BE HEARD!

In October 2021, Pope Francis formally launched a two-year global consultation process that will lead to the 2023 Synod on Synodality. He has tasked every parish, worldwide, to conduct a series of listening sessions in their community. We are asked to encounter the Holy Spirit, listen, and prayerfully discern how we can journey together with Christ.

Here are a couple questions to ponder, pray over, and discern the Holy Spirit's voice as He speaks to our hearts.

- *How is journeying together (Synodality) happening today in our local Church?*
- *What steps does the Spirit invite us to take to grow as we journey together?*

How can you be a part of this synod process?

- We want you to be a part in one of our listening sessions occurring over the next few months.
- Let us know you are interested in being heard by submitting your contact info on the Synod Listening Session Sign-Up on our website under News and Announcements – www.stmaryanacortes.org

We want everyone that wants to participate to have the opportunity to do so.

- We are also looking for your neighbors and friends who may not come to church for whatever reason – as well as those who are unchurched – to join us. We ask that you please share this invitation. We would love for them to be a participant as well.

At the completion of the listening sessions, we will report our results to the Archdiocese who in turn will forward this information to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and finally to Rome. **This Synod is unique in history as it allows all the laity of the Church, informed by the Holy Spirit, to fully express their beliefs. The format is designed to make Church governance more open and inclusive to all its members.**

Pope Francis has directed that this process be led by the laity, not the clergy. Our team here at St. Mary's is excited to embark on this spiritual journey with you, our fellow parishioners, and millions of people around the world in faith through the Holy Spirit! We look forward to hearing from as many of you as possible when we begin this process in the New Year. Please pray with open hearts and hear the voice of the Holy Spirit bestowing His love and guidance to all of us and the Church.

Paul Hammer
Synod Committee Chairperson

Mark Leopold
Pastoral Council Chair

**COME HOLY SPIRIT
SPEAK TO OUR HEARTS!**