

You're Invited: Synod Listening Sessions
Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington
Fall/Winter 2017-2018

A message from Bishop Christopher J. Coyne:

Hello,

I'd like to take this opportunity to invite you to the diocesan synod process. Last April, I called for a diocesan synod to help all of us to discern the work of the Catholic Church now and in the future. I've been your bishop for over two years and I've met many wonderful people and visited many great parishes. I've seen a lot of good works, but I also have noticed a lot of things that we need to attend to—things that are part of the work of the Church now and in the future.

This synod process is one of discernment. I want to listen to you, hear from you and encourage you to speak. I want to share with you my vision of the future and hear your vision of the future, too. I want to hear your ideas as we address questions like: As a Church in the state of Vermont, how are we doing? What are we doing well? What could we do better? What aren't we doing? Having heard and drawn together all the great opinions and ideas that are out there, we can then come together and work our way through it to come to a place where we can make good decisions about how we're going to foster the work of salvation here in the state of Vermont.

My encouragement to all of you is that you could take the time this week to come to your parish's listening session, to listen to others and to share your own ideas about the work of the Church. Also, encourage others—maybe your neighbors, maybe your family who don't often attend Church— to be part of it as well, because those are folks that we need to hear too.

Whatever we do, we move forward as the people of God, trusting in God's will for us and knowing that we are always in His hand. To the power and glory of Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.