

Executive Summary

THE JOURNEY THROUGH LENT, EASTER, ASCENSION AND PENTECOST A POST PANDEMIC PASTORAL PLAN FOR THE DIOCESE OF DALLAS

This pastoral letter presents a vision to renew the Church in the Diocese of Dallas after the historic Covid pandemic. The starting point for the pastoral letter is a reflection on the journey through Lent, Easter, Ascension and Pentecost.

The document highlights recent events surrounding the pandemic as a perfect opportunity to embrace once again the apostolic mission. That is to say, the pastoral plan points to the need for the same drive, zeal, and passion of the original apostles to go out into the world to transform it and spread the message of Jesus to the ends of the earth.

The document offers a review of the state of the Diocese of Dallas reflecting on the four years of Bishop Burns' episcopal ministry in the Diocese. While highlighting the strengths of the Diocese, Bishop Burns emphasizes the importance of lay involvement keeping the pastoral activity and personal involvement of the Diocese flourishing.

Recognizing that the pandemic has taken its toll on discipleship and could lead to members of the diocese to becoming complacent, Bishop Burns presents a pastoral plan that provides a historic response to a historic pandemic.

Bishop Burns announces that he will convene a synod for the Diocese of Dallas. The last diocesan synod took place in 1934, nearly 87 years ago when it was convened by Bishop Lynch.

The diocesan synod process will begin on December 12, 2021 on the feast of our Lady of Guadalupe which is strategically placed 10 years before the 500th anniversary of Our Lady of Guadalupe's appearance to San Juan Diego.

The Diocesan synod process will include significant time for listening sessions in the parishes of the Diocese. These listening sessions will be facilitated by the diocesan preparatory commission which will be responsible for proposing the preparatory documentation for the synod. The multi-day synod event will take place in 2024 close to the 90th anniversary of the 1934 synod. The years following the Synod will be utilized for implementation of the approved resolutions. This time will be used also to focus on the spiritual, pastoral, and temporal renewal of the Diocese.

The pastoral plan will conclude on December 12, 2031 with a large Mass to celebrate the 500th anniversary of our Lady of Guadalupe's appearance to San Juan Diego and the conclusion of this decade long journey of faith and revitalization.

Our Lady of Guadalupe... Pray for us.

Ash Wednesday 2/17/2021