

Dear All

The proposed target date for our diocesan Synod is September 2007!

Thank you to all those who completed the preliminary questionnaire focussing on our dream for the Church of the future. Over the past few weeks the Synod Preparatory Committee has been processing the hundreds of responses received. It has been truly a humbling experience for all of us. The responses to the first question on what the Church does well has reminded us of the many ways that God has blessed our local church of Cape Town. Surely the Synod in September next year must include a celebration of how we have been **WALKING TOGETHER!**

And we need to continue moving forward. The responses to the other questions have suggested many ways to go from here. The next stage in our listening and consultation process is to feedback these suggestions to the diocese. **Your responses to the issues raised will assist us in preparing the working document, which will form the basis for discussion at the Synod Assembly next year.** It is absolutely vital that all parish groups and diocesan organisations and structures participate in this process so as to make the Synod as representative as possible. Let us discern together what the Holy Spirit is saying to our Church at this stage of the journey.

In the first two weeks of October meetings will be held in each deanery at which members of the Preparatory Committee will explain the next part of the process and present the Emerging Themes booklet to the parishes in the deanery.

- The parish priests/deacons and 3 representatives of each parish are asked to attend this meeting. Please let Coral at the Chancery know the names of the representatives by Friday 22 September.
- Deans are asked to decide on the venue for the meeting in their deanery and to decide on a first and second choice of meeting date. Inform Coral please.
- All parish groups and diocesan organisations are asked to discuss the material in the booklet and to respond to the questions in each section. Responses are to be sent to Coral by 08 December.
- Priests and deacons attending the deanery meetings on 21 September are asked to discuss the booklet and respond as a deanery.

Please continue to pray for the Synod. In the midst of many challenges and opportunities we know that God has a plan for the Church. Let us discern together! May we become instruments of hope fostering a new springtime of faith and reconciliation!

Fr. Sean Cahill, OFM Cap