



# Simla Chandigarh Diocese

Bishop's House, P.O. Box No: 709, Sector 19-A Chandigarh - 160 019, INDIA.

† Ignatius L. Mascarenhas

Bishop of Simla-Chandigarh

TEL: 0172-2775777, 2773777

FAX: 0172-2781630

EMAIL: bpignatius@gmail.com

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## "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission" – 5

[That they may all be one.....(John 17,21) ]

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ,

Greetings!

In October 2021, His Holiness, Pope Francis formally launched the two-year global consultation process leading to the 2023 Synod on Synodality in Rome. This Synod (journeying together) intends to focus on the need for the inclusion and participation of all the Christian faithful in the life of the Church. By journeying together and reflecting together, the Church will be able to learn through her experience which processes can help Her to live communion, to achieve participation, to open Herself self to mission. Without this consultation, there would be no synodal process.

Our Diocese has responded to the Holy Father's invitation and participated in the preparation for the synod on Synodality by having discussions/consultations among the laity, priests, religious, catechists, youth, and children in our parishes. This consultation process was done in line with the phases given in the preparatory document 'Vade Maecum' for the Dioceses.

Now that the consultation process is complete in all the parishes in all the five deaneries. The People of God have voiced their responses, opinions by listening to the Holy Spirit and each other to all the important questions prepared by the Diocesan Synodal Core Team. These responses have been collected, further discussed, and then collated as final statements/recommendations to help us to become a better synodal Church.

The next phase is the culmination of this synodal process and the diocesan discernment on Participation, Communion, and Mission. The date fixed for this Synodal meeting is Saturday, the 7<sup>th</sup> of May 2022. The venue is St. Anne's Convent School, Sector 32, Chandigarh. The Registration will be 9.00 am and concluding with lunch.

Basically, during this Synodal meeting, the objectives of the Synodal process and method - the process of listening, evaluating, learning, and walking together in a journey - will once again be introduced, and the journey of communion, in love and trust among us, will be put together for the final consideration and discernment in the form of voting on the Statements/recommendations proposed. Therefore, please come along with those who participated in the opening ceremony held in the same venue on the 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

Besides the ones who already participated in the opening ceremony on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021, who are the actual synodal registered members, the Parish Priests are requested to bring one or two more persons, who were very actively involved in this synodal process in parish/deanery level consultations.

This information can be shared with your faith community members to prepare themselves for this final Synodal Meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

Kindly inform Fr. Robert about the number of participants, so that things could be organized effectively in time- Mobile number 7340969477.

Given on 29<sup>th</sup> of April, Feast of St. Catherine of Siena.

Yours Sincerely in Christ,

+ Ignatius Mascarenhas  
Bishop of Simla Chandigarh



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Bishop of Simla-Chandigarh

Fr Manoj Prabu  
(Diocesan Coordinator)