

# Proclamation

## of the Journey of the People of the Diocese of Orlando



**O**n this First Sunday of the Season of Advent, November 28, 2021, the people with their bishop, clergy and religious join with our Holy Father, Pope Francis, and the people of the earth to begin a journey of Synodality. We recall the striking journey of Emmaus where two disciples met Jesus after His Resurrection and did not recognize Him until He was at table with them. *“And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight” (Luke 24:30,31).*

The entire People of God share a common dignity and vocation through Baptism. All of us are called in virtue of our Baptism to be active participants in the life of the Church. In parishes, small Christian communities, lay movements, religious communities, and other forms of communion, women and men, young people and the elderly, we are all invited to listen to one another in order to hear the promptings of the Holy Spirit, who comes to guide our human efforts, breathing life and vitality into the Church and leading us into deeper communion for our mission in the world. As the Church embarks on this synodal journey, we must strive to ground ourselves in experiences of authentic listening and discernment on the path of becoming the Church that God calls us to be (Vademecum 1.2).

Acknowledging our own weaknesses, and having experienced a world pandemic, we pray fervently to embark on this journey of Synodality with all God's People and affirm our desire to know God and to be nourished by Him through the Eucharist. In our spiritual reality, food plays a primary role in the story of salvation, from the forbidden fruit in the garden which brings forth sin and death to the food of Christ's body on the tree of the Cross which brings forth everlasting life. Pope Benedict XVI wrote, “The remembrance of His perfect gift consists not in the mere repetition of the Last Supper, but in the Eucharist itself, that is, in the radical newness of Christian worship. In this way, Jesus left us the task of entering into His “hour.” “The Eucharist draws us into Jesus’ act of self-oblation. More than just statically receiving the incarnate *Logos*, we enter into the very dynamic of His self-giving.”

From our entry in His self-giving, we call upon the Holy Spirit to sanctify our daily living and make us holy that we are able to be Christ as we receive Him. For by its very nature, the Eucharist demands to be shared with all. Prompted by the Holy Spirit, we call out to each other with Love of God and through, with and in God, listen with eyes of mercy and ears of hope in the Lord that His Word might be known throughout the earth. We offer our heart to each other as we are leaven in the world in which we live and work. We pray that those whom we encounter, individually and collectively, will come to know our joy that they are with us.

The Church exists to evangelize. We can never be centered on ourselves. Our mission is to witness to the Love of God in the midst of the whole human family. During the seasons of Advent 2021 through Pentecost 2022, we offer our whole self - body, mind, soul and strength - to serve the dialogue of God with humanity and to journey together as servants to the coming of the kingdom of heaven.

We turn to our Patronness, Mary, the Mother of God, who by her fiat shares in the redemption brought forth by her Son given to us as the Bread of Life through the Eucharist. We beseech her to guide us on this journey that we may become the true face of her Son for all the people.

Now, therefore, I, Bishop John Noonan, the fifth Bishop of the Diocese of Orlando, do hereby proclaim the Advent season 2021 through Pentecost 2022 as a time of purposeful journey of Synodality. I call upon the holy people of God of the Diocese of Orlando to observe this time with renewed fervor that this journey of faith will arise from a gaze of Love. In our prayer, we invoke the Holy Spirit and humbly listen to Him, journeying together as He, the source of communion and mission, desires – with docility and courage.

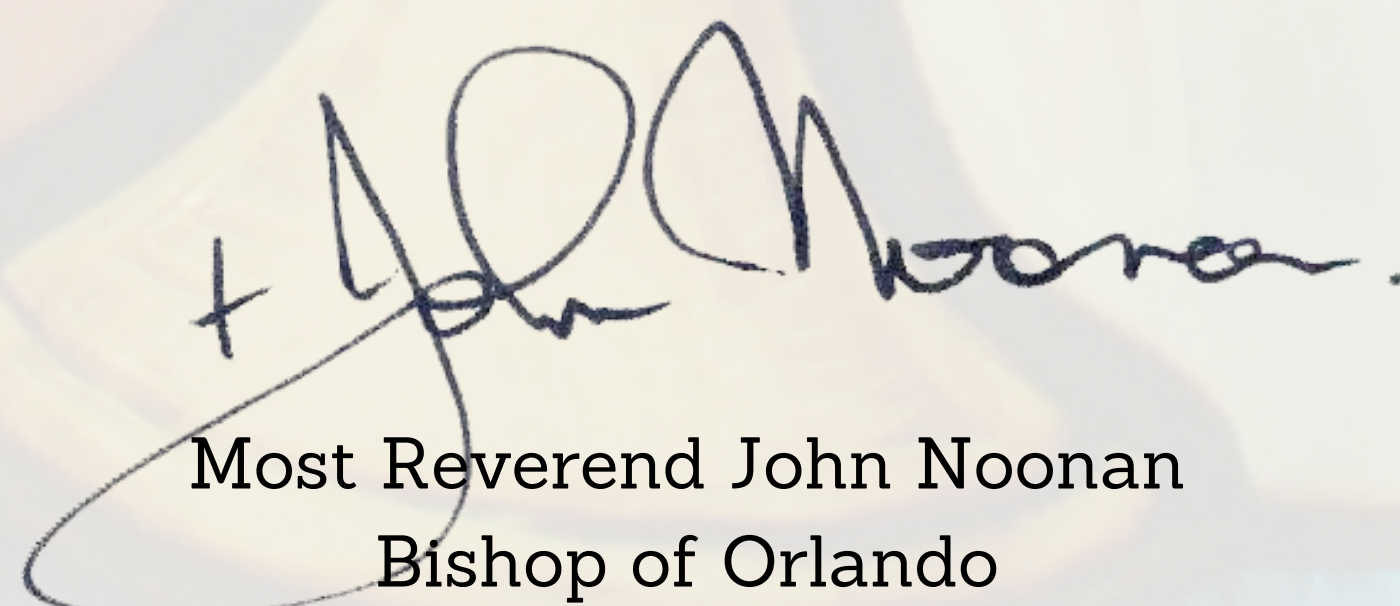
*Come, Holy Spirit!*

*Come, Spirit of love, open our hearts to hear Your voice!*

*Come, Holy Spirit of holiness, renew the holy and faithful People of God!*

*Come, Creator Spirit, renew the face of the earth!*

*Amen.*

  
Most Reverend John Noonan  
Bishop of Orlando

