



DIOCESE OF GREAT FALLS-BILLINGS

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

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DECREE

Having considered the current life of the Church in the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings, and having consulted the Presbyteral Council and Diocesan Pastoral Council, I judge that the convocation of a Diocesan Synod would be greatly beneficial to the present and future of our Diocese. Therefore I, the Most Reverend Michael W. Warfel, by the grace of God and the favor of the Apostolic See, Bishop of Great Falls-Billings, in accord with canon 461 §1, hereby convoke the First Synod of the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings, with the overall theme "The Domestic Church in Eastern Montana" to proceed according to the following timeline:

August 4, 2020. This decree and a letter of explanation will be mailed out to all priests of the Diocese.

September 14th, 2020. The preparatory commission will provide resources and information, including the directory, to the priests of the Diocese, gathered for the Fall Priest Assembly.

September, 2020. The Synod will be formally announced by the publication of this decree in the Diocesan Harvest.

December 15, 2020. Questions for consideration and suggestions from priests and parish pastoral councils must be submitted to the chancellor of the Diocese.

January 1, 2021 through April 30, 2021. Members of the synod will be appointed or elected as provided for in the directory. Groups charged with such appointments or elections shall notify the chancellor of their choice by May 15.

February 1, 2021 through April 30, 2021. The bishop will consult his various diocesan councils on the preliminary questions for the Synod.

July 30, 2021. Members of the Synod will be provided with the questions for consideration by this date.

Friday, September 10, 2021, 12:00pm. The Bishop will celebrate an opening Mass of the Synod in the Cathedral of St. Ann in Great Falls, followed by a gathering of the delegates for introductions and an explanation of the procedures of the Synod.

September 11-October 9, 2021. Vicariate sessions will be held to discuss the proposed questions.

October 15, 2021, 10:00am-3:00pm. First full session, held in Lewistown, MT.

October 22, 2021. 10:00am-4:00pm. Second and final full session, held in Billings, MT, 5:00pm. Closing Mass at St. Patrick's Co-Cathedral, followed by dinner for the delegates.

It is my hope and prayer that this Synod will enliven our Diocese, but most especially the families of our Diocese, to more faithfully love and serve our Risen Lord.

Given at Great Falls, Montana on the Memorial of St. John Vianney, patron of parish priests, this 4th day of August, in the year of Our Lord 2020.

Most Reverend Michael W. Warfel
Bishop of Great Falls-Billings

Darren Eultgen
Chancellor of Great Falls-Billings