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Dear Brother Priests, Deacons and Subdeacons, Consecrated Women and Men, Lay Faithful,

Pope Francis has invited all of us to be a part of the Synod in Rome to be held in 2023. This synod intends to focus on the need for the inclusion and participation of all the Christian faithful in the life of the Church. The term *synod* comes from two Greek words meaning “to journey together.”

Our Eparchy would like to respond to the Holy Father’s invitation and participate in the preparation for the Synod on Synodality by having discussions among the laity in our parishes and among clergy in the various regions.

I have asked the pastors to organize groups of parishioners and to explore some important questions in the life of the Church, by listening to the Holy Spirit and each other. The five Protopresbyters will organize the priests, deacons and subdeacons in their regions for small group meetings for this same purpose. In a similar way, there will be opportunities for our seminarians, consecrated men and women and eparchial organizations to meet with the Bishop and/ or his appointee to discuss matters of importance.

Lastly, in March, I hope to have a Zoom meeting with the coordinating team that will give me the opportunity once again to listen as we strive to become even better a synodal Church.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Gregory

+ Gregory John Mansour

GJM/rb