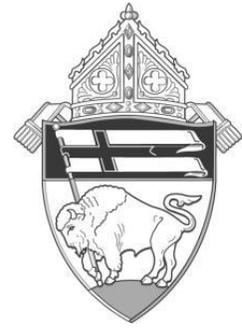

Diocese of Buffalo

Office of Communications



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 14, 2021

Bishop Michael W. Fisher Opens Worldwide Synod in Buffalo

Part of worldwide two-year Synod launched by Pope Francis to invite the entire Church to reflect, recommit and reassert it's mission in the modern world

(Buffalo, NY) – **Bishop Michael W. Fisher** will preside at a special Mass this Sunday, October 17th at St. Joseph Cathedral, formally launching in the Diocese of Buffalo the worldwide Synod convoked by Pope Francis last weekend. The two-year global reflective and consultation process involves all levels of the Church in considering the universal mission of evangelization and in a process of discerning how to best to engage as an active, constructive influence in addressing the issues that define modern culture and society. The Synod will culminate with the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, dedicated to the theme *“For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission,”* at the Vatican in October 2023.

In his remarks at the Vatican, Pope Francis explained: *“...As we begin this synodal process, let us begin by asking ourselves -- all of us, pope, bishops, priests, religious and laity -- whether we, the Christian community, embody this ‘style’ of God, who travels the paths of history and shares in the life of humanity...”* Describing the Synod as a *“journey of spiritual discernment,”* the Pope explained *“That word [Synod] summons us to discernment and it brings light to that process. It guides the synod, preventing it from becoming a Church ‘convention,’ a study group or a political congress, because it is not a parliament, but rather a grace-filled event, a process of healing guided by the Holy Spirit...”*

Further details about the Synod and the involvement of parishes across Western New York will be made available at www.buffalodiocese.org

WHAT: Local Launch of Worldwide Synod of the Catholic Church

WHEN: Sunday, October 17, 2021, 3:00 p.m.

WHERE: St. Joseph Cathedral, 50 Franklin Street, Buffalo, NY

WHO: Bishop Michael W. Fisher, Priests of the Diocese, Deacons, Laity, members of religious orders

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