
Synod
of the
Diocese
of Charlotte
1986-87

ALL THE EARTH PROCLAIMS YOU,
LORD, YOU ALONE ARE GOD

O Holy Spirit, sent by the Father in the name of Jesus, you are present in the Church and you guide it. Pour forth, we pray, the fullness of your gifts upon the Synod of the Diocese of Charlotte.

Guide in wisdom and grace John, our bishop and teacher in faith. May he lead us to a greater love of your Son and strengthen the bond of charity in our Church. May he be a sign of unity for all.

Grant that from this Synod abundant fruit may ripen; that the light and strength of the Gospel may be extended more and more in our society with the happy result that knowledge of the Church's teaching may spread and Christian morality may flourish in our land.

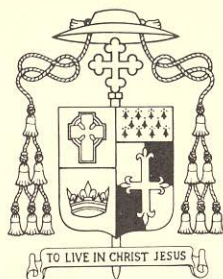
Renew your wonders in this our day, as by a new Pentecost. Grant to your people, that being of one mind, and steadfast in prayer with Mary, the Mother of Jesus, we may continue to grow ever more perfectly into a community of praise, worship and witness. Amen.

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LORD, YOU ALONE ARE GOD

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Bishop John F. Donoghue, D.D., Bishop of Charlotte



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

September 14, 1985
(Feast of the Triumph of the Cross)

Dear Friends in Christ:

In 1975 at our first Diocesan Assembly, the faithful of our diocese developed the following Mission Statement: "We, the People of God in the Diocese of Charlotte, fortified in the Father, redeemed in the Son and empowered in the Spirit are called to grow ever more perfectly into a community of praise, worship and witness. We seek to become ever more enthusiastically a leaven of service and a sign of peace through love in Piedmont and Western North Carolina."

Like the Church which is constantly renewing herself, we, too, called by the Lord to share in His life and to continue His work on earth, must renew ourselves from time-to-time in fidelity to our mission. To assist me in my grave responsibility to those entrusted to my care and to carry forward the magnificent work begun by my predecessor, Bishop Begley, I have decided, in consultation with the Presbyteral Council, to convoke a Diocesan Synod.

It is my hope that from the broad consultation called for by a Synod, we will be able to develop a pastoral plan which will shape the diocese for the future so that together, we will be the "sign and instrument of communion with God and unity among all men." (Vat. II, Constitution on the Church, n.1)

The preparatory work will begin immediately for the first session of the Synod. The first session will be held in September, 1986. The final document will be promulgated at the final session in May, 1987 during the fifteenth Anniversary of the Diocese.

I have appointed a committee to coordinate the work of the Synod. It will require input from many people on a variety of issues. I know that I can count upon your full cooperation. A fuller explanation of the procedures of a Diocesan Synod will be forthcoming in *The North Carolina Catholic*.

Praying that God will shower His blessings upon us as we engage in this work of renewal, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ.

Most Reverend John F. Donoghue
Bishop of Charlotte



SYNOD TIMETABLE

September 1985	Bishop Donoghue calls for a Diocesan Synod
October 1985	Preparatory Commissions are established by Bishop Donoghue
November 1985– March 1986	Parish Programs are held during Lent to address the Synod issues
May–June 1986	Selection of Members for the Diocesan Synod
July 1986	Bishop Donoghue reviews work of Preparatory Commissions
August 1986	Bishop Donoghue publishes the materials prepared for the Synod's consideration
September 1986	Synod Session I
October– December 1986	Preparatory Commissions work on revising their materials
January 1987	Synod Session II
February– April 1987	Preparatory Commissions work on final revisions
May 1987	Synod Session III Bishop Donoghue promulgates the documents of the Synod and begins their implementation