



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**The Diocese of Winona-Rochester submits a new synod report**

**WINONA, MINNESOTA, APRIL 11, 2024** – Over two years ago, over 1,500 participants from around the Diocese of Winona-Rochester took part in the initial, diocesan phase of the Synod on Synodality by gathering with parishioners to discuss a wide range of topics. After the parish sessions, a diocesan synthesis was prepared, summarizing our thoughts in [this brief document](#). This was sent to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, who in turn compiled the summaries of all 177 dioceses into [one document](#). The synodal conversations continued at the continental stage prior to last October's assembly in Rome. Of the more than 300 participants in this universal gathering, one was our very own Bishop Robert Barron.

To prepare for the second session, we were asked to gather Church leaders to reflect on the findings from last October's conversations (the full 41-page document can be found [here](#)), to discuss the following two questions: 1. Where have I seen or experienced successes—and distresses—within the Church's structure(s) / organization / leadership / life that encourage or hinder the mission? 2. How can the structures and organization of the Church help all the baptized to respond to the call to proclaim the Gospel and to live as a community of love and mercy in Christ?

Two sessions took place in the Diocese: one on March 9 at Saints Peter and Paul Church, Blue Earth and one on March 23 at Holy Redeemer Parish, Eyota. Over 60 participants took part and the fruit of these sessions have been summarized in [a four-page report](#) that was sent on to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Our report will join the report of the rest of the Dioceses in the United States and will be used to help the participants of the second assembly of the Synod of Bishops that will take place in the Vatican October 2<sup>nd</sup> through the 27<sup>th</sup>.

The Diocese of Winona-Rochester serves the 20 southernmost counties of Minnesota with more than 130,000 Catholics and 96 parishes, four high schools, 30 elementary schools and the Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary on the campus of St. Mary's University in Winona.