

As you will remember this church-wide Synod is an opportunity for us to journey together. Our sessions were both general in nature as well as gatherings that were structured to hear distinct voices within our local Church. Those distinct groups included women, those committed to social justice, the LGBTQ+ community, the African American, African and Hispanic communities, traditional Latin Mass Catholics, youth, young adults, refugees, person with disabilities, divorced Catholics, survivors of abuse, Church ministers, women religious, and priests and deacons.

We have called our effort Listening in Love and Hope because we aspired to reach out as broadly as possible to listen to the many voices within the Church, especially the marginalized, the disenfranchised, our less fortunate among us and our youth. The feedback was candid and honest, and it is our hope and desire to implement many of the suggestions from the sessions if agreed upon into the continuing restructuring and pastoral planning of our diocese here in Western New York.

I encourage you to spend some time reviewing these findings and work with us to continue our ongoing Synodality as we pursue a true renewal in our faith.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Bishop Michael W. Fisher

Bishop of Buffalo