19th January 2015

*Diocesan Reflection Process in preparation for the*

*2015 Synod of Bishops*

I write about the desire of Pope Francis that God’s people around the world should have an opportunity to make their contribution to the process of ecclesial reflection in preparation for the Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops which will take place in October next on the theme:  “*The Vocation and Mission of the Family in the Church and Contemporary World”*.  With this letter I would like to set the process in the Archdiocese of Dublin in motion.

I would ask you to share this letter with the Members of the Parish Pastoral Council, Deacons, Parish Pastoral Workers and Catechists, as their role in the process will be vital. I attach three documents which will be helpful in this process.

The responses of each parish should be sent to the Office for Evangelization and Ecumenism **before the end of March 2015**, so that a consolidated report of the Irish Church can be prepared in time to prepare the formal working document of the Synod.

Worldwide, there was great appreciation of the fact that Pope Francis wanted to hear the sentiments of God’s people around the world on the theme of the Synod.   I know that parish life is busy and that it is not easy to find time for new activities.   I believe, however, that we owe it to Pope Francis to use the opportunity – and indeed a new model of Church practice - he offers.

Where possible, this process should be accompanied by the prayer of the Christian community to support married couples and families in their mission in the Church and especially those who may be experiencing difficulties.

With prayerful good wishes

+DMSig

  +Diarmuid Martin

Archbishop of Dublin