



January 6, 2013

My dear parishioners,

Do you know that the Archdiocese of Washington is preparing for a Synod in 2014 and as part of that, our parish will have an opportunity to participate? What is a synod? Cardinal Wuerl writes: "An archdiocesan synod provides an opportunity to look at the life of the diocese and the parish to evaluate five key areas (worship, faith formation, community, service and stewardship/administration) where the ministry of the Church is successful and areas where there may be need for more attention so that we can better prepare ourselves to carry forward the work of the Church into the future.

I've planned an opportunity for you to participate in this process whereby we review our mission of manifesting the kingdom of God in our community. It is also my hope that you will think about whom among your friends and family may want to learn more about the church or would like to join the conversation, and that you invite them to come and join us. Indeed, given the historic nature of this project (the synod will be a first for our archdiocese!) it is very important to me that you make plans to join fellow parishioners on Saturday, February 23rd, here at St. Matthew's, to reflect on how the diocese and St. Matthew's Cathedral can be the best they can be.

Parishes across the Archdiocese are holding listening sessions and the comments shared and priorities identified will be sent in a report to the Synod committee. The synod committee will review the reports from every parish and make recommendations to Cardinal Wuerl to consider. On Pentecost of 2014, Cardinal Wuerl will announce all of the recommendations that have been accepted and will be instituted across the archdiocese.

Here at St. Matthew's, we will look at our strengths and the areas where we need to improve. Many good things are happening, but we recognize that there is always room for improvement. I am sure there is a need for additional thoughts. You are the parish. You should have a voice in what we do. I want to hear your recommendations. What is working well? What should be added? Where are our weak points? Come, join your fellow parishioners and staff on Saturday, February 23rd to have a lively conversation and to offer your thoughts on how we can better build the kingdom of God right here in our midst.

Start now to pray for the success of the listening sessions and that the work of the synod will bear much fruit in the years to come. Also, make plans now to participate in the listening sessions here at the Cathedral on February 23rd. You will hear more about the details of these sessions in the weeks ahead.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "W. Ronald Jameson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "W".

Rev. Msgr. W. Ronald Jameson
Rector