

# HOW DOES SYNODALITY HELP RENEWAL?



**In Bishop da Cunha's homily** presented during the Mass to open the diocesan phase of the Synod —For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission, he shared his vision and hope for the Fall River Diocese; his dream to see it rise from the ashes of the coronavirus pandemic as a renewed Church; as people centered on Jesus, the Eucharist, and the Church; with the synodal process as its main character; a united Church with active participants focused on the teachings and Real Presence of Jesus. Do you have a dream for our Church today and for the future?



Moving forward together, believing the beauty that awaits each of us if we allow the Holy Spirit to guide this dream for our Church and our Diocese. To be able to witness the Holy Spirit working through and with us in all. Bishop da Cunha reminded us how God, through the Holy Spirit, has given gifts and charisms to every one of us; although different, each can be used for the glory of God and the good of the Church. What gift are you willing to share with your Parish, and how can this gift be used to help others along their faith journey?

On the road to Emmaus, two disciples encounter Jesus and everything changes. We can experience a profound conversion, just as they did, as we allow Jesus to draw near to us. Jesus walks with us in so many ways and forms, especially in difficult times. What prevents us from recognizing him walking alongside and with us? What prevents us from seeing him at work in our lives? The disciples prayed, "stay with us," this Bishop da Cunha suggested is a simple prayer we make daily. "Stay with me, Jesus," in both challenging and joyful times. We can pray together, "stay with us, Lord, during the synod and lead us." This time of walking with each other and recognizing Jesus within us and among us.



What helps the disciples in Luke's Gospel determine it was indeed Jesus among them? It came at the moment Jesus took the bread—blessed, broke, and gave it to them. It was then their eyes were opened. We, too, can have our eyes opened in the breaking of the bread, which we do every day, every Sunday on the altar, we recognize Jesus' presence in the Holy Eucharist. His Real Presence—body, blood, soul, and divinity. "If we can't see Jesus there before us in the Eucharist," Bishop asserted, "we will struggle to discover him present with us in our daily lives."