



## *Reflection from Sr. Cele Breen*

### SYNODALITY

“A word for which we need another word.”

Recently, I participated in a two-day session on synodality. To tell the truth, it doesn't seem exciting. But, since one of our sisters was giving it, I knew Susan would not waste our time.

When Pope Francis inaugurated the worldwide synod, I thought of an incident many years ago when we re-introduced the catechumenate in the diocese. We put together a little booklet to explain the whole process. We decided to include a glossary at the end to explain terms easily and quickly. Fr. Bill Bowman (RIP), when he came to the word “mystagogia”, the period from Easter to Pentecost, he wrote “a word for which we need another word.” Synodality is one of these words.

The meaning of the word is not that difficult. It comes from the Greek phrase *sun-odos*: journeying together – as walking together and listening to the spirit. It is very close to the meaning of reconciliation – to walk together again.

Synodality is a process, communal, personal, and participative. We are trying to listen to one another, our neighbor, even those we disagree with often. We are trying to speak the truth intentionally. We are trying to participate, walk with others, be involved. If it feels like you are trying to juggle three objects and eat a sandwich as well, you got the idea. It is what Pope Francis calls getting out of our comfort zone.

We don't really need another word for synodality here at St. James. We just need to keep this communal, personal process going.

*Peace,*  
*Sr. Cele*