



# DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

*Office of the Bishop*

June 2017

Dear Friends in Christ,

I write to you on behalf of our Holy Father, Pope Francis. It is with great joy that I relay his message that the next Synod of Bishops, in October 2018, will focus on young people. In his own words, Pope Francis stated that "I wanted you to be the center of attention, because you are in my heart."

You make a difference in the world! You have the voice, the energy, and the desire to share your gifts for the common good. Let your voice be heard; not only here in the Diocese of Grand Rapids but all the way to the Vatican. Pope Francis wants to hear from you.

The Synod on "Young People, the Faith, and Vocational Discernment" will help our pastors and me, as your shepherd, learn what it means to walk with you. Over the course of this summer, I will spend time listening to you, the young people of our community, to find out how the Catholic Church can best serve you. I am also asking our pastors and parish youth ministers to spend time meeting with you to listen to you.

During this time of consultation, I am inviting you to provide your feedback through our online survey <http://bit.ly/DOGRSynod2018> or by joining me in person at one of our diocesan listening sessions.

Through your efforts the Church can more deeply understand her mission to better serve you and help you discover God's plan for your life.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*+ David J. Walkowiak*

Most Reverend David J. Walkowiak  
Bishop of Grand Rapids