



## SYNODAL CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF THE SOUTHEAST

### *The NORMS of the DIOCESE*

#### ARTICLE I

##### **The Title and Territory of the Diocese**

*“No one pours new wine into dry wineskins, because the new wine will burst the seams and run out, and the skins will be ruined. New wine has to be poured into fresh wineskins!” Luke 5:37-38*

1.1 This Diocese shall be known and distinguished as the “Synodal Catholic Diocese of the Southeast” hereinafter also referred to as the “Diocese.” The Territory of the Diocese shall include the coastal states of the southeastern United States, together with any State or region that freely chooses to participate in the Diocese until such a time when that State or region forms its own diocese. These same States or regions may opt out of participation in the Diocese with written notice by the duly elected representatives of each affected Parish, Intentional Religious Community, or Specialized Ministry within the State or region that is opting out. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the coastal states of the southeastern United States and all its Parishes, Intentional Religious Communities, and Specialized Ministries within it shall always be included in the definition of the Territory for this Diocese.

#### ARTICLE II

##### **Concurrence to the Constitution of the Communion**

*“So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.” Ephesians 2:19-22*

2.1 The Church in the Synodal Catholic Diocese of the Southeast accedes to the Constitution of that branch of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church, known as the Communion of Synodal Catholic Churches (also referred to herein as the “Communion”). In the event of a conflict between these Norms and the Communion, the Constitution of the Communion shall take precedence.

## ARTICLE III

### The Diocese

*“Where the Bishop is, there let the multitude of believers be; even as where Jesus is, there is the Catholic Church.” St. Ignatius of Antioch, 1<sup>st</sup> cent.*

**3.1** A diocese, and specifically this Diocese, is constituted as Local Church (*ekklesia*), full and complete, and is the heir of the Apostolic Tradition from the Apostolic Community described in the Acts of the Apostles. Thus, a bishop of this Diocese fulfills the role that the apostles of Jesus fulfilled in their communities, and stands in the Apostolic Succession of that role by their ordination to the episcopacy. The principal bishop of the Diocese is called the “Ordinary,” the “Diocesan Ordinary” or the “Diocesan Bishop,” with all the duties and responsibilities as set forth under Article V of this document and is the “Local Ordinary” described under Articles II, III, and IV of the Communion’s Constitution.

**3.2** The polity and authority of the Diocese is vested in and exercised by the Diocesan Synod, comprised of the Diocesan Ordinary, defined herein, the Diocesan House of Laity defined below under Article VII, and the Diocesan House of Clergy defined below under Article VIII.

**3.3** Legislation passed by both the House of Laity and House of Clergy, if signed by the Ordinary, shall immediately become effective, unless otherwise specified. Under no circumstance may any legislation alter or set aside any of the language of the Nicene Creed, nor any of the Belief Statements and Affirmations of the Catholic Faith set forth in the Communion’s Constitution. Any controversies over matters of Faith shall be forwarded and governed exclusively by the Diocesan Bishop in consultation with the Episcopal Council of the Communion in accordance with the Constitution of the Communion.

**3.4** The Diocese shall have authority in all intra-diocesan matters and all matters that are not vested exclusively to the Presiding Bishop or the Episcopal Council of the Communion as set forth in its Constitution.

**3.5** The Diocesan Synod may create standing or ad hoc committees to address issues such as it deems necessary for the furtherance of the ministry of the Diocese. The Diocesan Ordinary may also create standing or ad hoc committees as required for the administration of the Diocese, in accordance with Article 5.4 of these Norms.

**3.6** The Diocesan Synod shall have the right to coordinate within the Communion for the formation of seminarians and clergy, and for development of efforts to aid the financing and cultivation of faith communities, as well as any benefits programs for ordained and lay staff.

**3.7** In addition to the provisions of the Norms of this Diocese, all business, including further regulations of legislative action and of nominations and elections shall be by rules of order that promote and foster professional, respectful, and Christian-like conduct, and, having once been

adopted, shall continue in force until the same, in whole or in part, shall have been amended or canceled.

## ARTICLE IV

### The Election of the Diocesan Bishop

*“You must, then, elect for yourselves bishops and deacons who are a credit to the Lord, individuals who are gentle, generous, faithful, and well tried.”* Didache, 2<sup>nd</sup> cent.

*“The consent of the clergy, the testimony of those held in honor, the approval of the orders and the laity should be required. One who is to govern all should be chosen by all.”* St. Leo I, Letter 10, no. 6, 450 A.D.

**4.1** A Nomination Process Committee shall be formed, comprised of all three voices of the Diocese; Bishops, Clergy, and Laity.

A. The Nomination Process Committee shall organize and execute the process of the election in accordance with these Norms and the Constitution of the Communion.

B. The Committee will insure that the vetting process is completed in a fair, transparent, and impartial manner.

C. The Committee will schedule the election process to take place ninety (90) days prior to the Diocesan Synod.

D. The Committee will schedule the Affirmation (*Iudicium*) to take place as part of the Order of Business at the Diocesan Synod.

**4.2** The vetting and elections process for the Diocesan Bishop shall include, at minimum, the following:

A. Testimony (*Testimonium*): Listening to the testimony of the clergy and laity and neighboring bishops of the Candidate.

- i. As part of the process each Member Parish, Religious Order, and Specialized Ministry of the Diocese shall have the opportunity to propose to their delegates names of current Member Presbyters in good standing for consideration as potential candidates for Diocesan Bishop. The current Diocesan Bishop, if one exists and they have not yet served two terms as limited by the Constitution, may choose to have their name automatically added to the list of candidates by submitting such to the Nominating Process Committee in writing. The local delegates shall forward those Bishop candidates' names to the Nomination Process Committee.

ii. The Nomination Process Committee will vet the potential candidates to make sure they are in conformity with the requirements of these Norms and the Constitution of the Communion including but not limited to background and psychological evaluations. Such information will be held confidential and shall solely be used for the vetting process. With regard to psychological evaluations, the Nomination Process Committee will be limited to knowing only if one has already been completed as part of the ordination process and if the candidate has been cleared by a psychological professional. If a candidate has not completed a psychological evaluation, one will be completed through the Diocesan Bishop.

iii. All potential candidates will be contacted and asked to submit their current Curricula vitae, references for background checks, biography, and other required documents such as proof of education, mental health report, letters of recommendations, answers to questions posed by the Nomination Process Committee.

**4.3 Voting (*Suffragium*):** The vote of all the Members including the bishops of the Diocese.

A. If the initial list of potential candidates is more than three candidates, then the Nomination Process Committee will establish a primary voting and election process. The top three candidates in that election will be voted on in a final election. The House of Laity and House of Clergy delegates shall administer and tally the voting numbers for each candidate and forward it to the Nomination Process Committee.

B. The Nomination Process Committee shall then submit the names to the Communion for final election (*Suffragium*) to determine the Final Candidate who shall be presented to the Holy Synod for the Affirmation (*Iudicium*) process.

C. Questions that may be asked of the Candidates for publication and dissemination to the Communion may include the following: Leadership attributes that the Candidate will bring to the Office of the Diocesan Bishop, How the Candidate perceives the role of the Diocesan Bishop as Chief Pastor of the Diocese and an equal participant of the Episcopal Council of the Communion, The Candidate's vision regarding the mission and ministries of the Diocese, How the Diocese makes the Gospel relevant in the lives of people in light of current world events, The role of spirituality and prayerfulness in the Candidate's life, Diplomatic capabilities in growing the Diocese as a regional Local Church of the Communion and growing global ecumenical relations.

a. No more than six (6) questions, and the same questions, will be uniformly submitted by the Nominations Process Committee to each candidate in these areas.

D. After the Candidates have responded, the Nomination Process Committee shall assemble an election booklet to be given to all delegates and clergy of the Diocese, the Episcopal Council, and the current Presiding Bishop. The Election Booklet, which may be delivered electronically, posted on the Communion website, or by other means approved of by the Committee, shall contain the picture, the Curricula Vitae, the biography, and responses to the questions of each of the candidates and shall then be made available to all members of the Diocese no less than thirty (30) days prior to the date set for the Vote (*Suffragium*).

E. All pre-election activities and all activities on the day of elections should be aimed at prayerful discernment and seeking the presence of the Holy Spirit.

F. The Vote (*Suffragium*) shall take place in each recognized Member Parish, Intentional Religious Community, and Specialized Ministry on the date published in advance by the Nomination Process Committee, and must include the informed, free, and conscientious vote of every adult member of said Faith Communities. The Vote will be tallied in each Faith Community by the House of Laity Delegates of the Faith Community and affirmed by the House of Clergy Delegate(s) of the same or senior clerical member of the Faith Community.

G. No person may vote in more than a single Faith Community.

H. Any Conflict of Interest between a Nomination Process Committee member and a Nominee shall disqualify the Nomination Process Committee member from any tallying or balloting tasks.

I. The candidate to be considered elected by the Vote (*Suffragium*) must receive a total of no less than sixty (60) percent of the total votes cast by the members of the Diocese.

J. The Vote (*Suffragium*) shall be promptly communicated to the Presiding Bishop and the Episcopal Council of the Communion, as well as the date of the Affirmation (*Iudicium*), that they may participate as the consecrating Bishops for ordination of the Bishop-Elect.

**4.4 Affirmation (*Iudicium*):** Affirmation by all the Delegates during the Diocesan Synod, followed by the ordination and installation of the Bishop-Elect for the Diocese.

A. Once the final candidate has been elected by Vote (*Suffragium*), the Affirmation (*Iudicium*) process of the newly elected Diocesan Bishop will take place at the Diocesan Synod.

B. For the purposes of the Affirmation of the Diocesan Bishop, each House Delegate will accurately and faithfully convey the decision of the Faith Communities that they represent. The candidate's election is to be considered affirmed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority affirmation by the elected and constitutional Delegates of the Synod of the Diocese.

C. The newly elected and affirmed Diocesan Bishop assumes their role on the first day of the month following their Affirmation and valid Episcopal Ordination and Installation as Ordinary.

**4.5** Any irreconcilable controversies regarding the Election of the Diocesan Bishops shall be forwarded to the Communion's Episcopal Council for resolution.

**4.6** Those former Ordinaries who have completed their term of office and have not been selected or are ineligible to serve for another term, shall automatically become Auxiliary Bishops of the Diocese.

## ARTICLE V

### The Diocesan Bishop

*“Jesus called them together and said, “You know how among the Gentiles those who exercise authority are domineering and arrogant; those ‘great ones’ know how to make their importance felt. But it cannot be like that with you. Anyone who aspires to greatness must serve the rest; whoever wants to rank first among you must serve the needs of all. The Promised One has come not to be served, but to serve—to give one’s life in ransom for the many.” Mark 10:42-45*

**5.1** The Diocesan Bishop is the Chief Pastor, Prime Teacher and Chief Presider of the Diocese, and therefore, they have the right and obligation to safeguard the Catholic Faith and officiate within any community of faith or elsewhere in the Diocese over the liturgical worship and sacramental ministries of the diocese, as well as act as the prime teacher in matters of doctrine and practice.

**5.2** The Diocesan Bishop is the Ordinary of all member faith communities within this Diocese, and as such may attend and preside at any of their meetings. However, this does not in any way diminish the rights established in the Constitution of the Communion of faith communities within the Diocese. Specifically, the Diocesan Bishop shall be the Ordinary for all communities open for public worship even if they are administered by faith communities on their properties. The Diocesan Bishop and the senior leaders of all member faith communities shall work together collegially. The Diocesan Bishop and the Diocesan Synod shall continue to have primary jurisdiction for all matters affecting the Diocese. The Presiding Bishop and the Communion Episcopal Council shall continue to have appellate jurisdiction over any proceedings.



**5.3** The Diocesan Bishop is the Chief Executive of the Diocese and as such administrates and adjudicates in all intra-diocesan matters. They are the jurisdictional head of the diocese in the tri-part synodal structure of laity, clergy and bishop. The Ordinary of the Diocese convenes the Diocesan Synod.

**5.4** The Ordinary shall be responsible to establish an administrative body, including Vicars, or the like as deemed necessary to assist the duties of the Office of Diocesan Bishop. The Ordinary may also establish standing committees or ad hoc committees to further the mission of the Diocese and ultimately of the Communion.

**5.5** The Ordinary shall be responsible to sign or veto all intra-diocesan legislation. A veto may be overridden by a 2/3 majority vote of both the House of Laity and the House of Clergy. Upon such override, the disputed Legislation may be appealed to the Episcopal Council of the Communion if requested by the Ordinary.

**5.6** The Ordinary becomes a voting member of the Episcopal Council of the Communion once their episcopal election is affirmed by the Synod of the Communion and the Episcopal Council of the Communion as set forth in the Constitution of the Communion of Synodal Catholic Churches. Auxiliary Bishops are non-voting members of the Episcopal Council of the Communion.

**5.7** The Ordinary is responsible for the process, procedures, and reception of new communities into the Diocese, of all applications for ordination, of ordinands themselves, of receiving, or not, of all clergy applying for incardination into the Diocese, and is the presider at all ordinations in the Diocese, unless otherwise specified. The Ordinary gives faculties to the Clergy of the Diocese and also withdraws faculties from Clergy for just cause and after due process.

## ARTICLE VI

### The Diocesan House of Laity

*“In the Church, there is a diversity of ministry but a oneness of mission. Christ conferred on the Apostles and their successors the duty of teaching, sanctifying, and ruling in His name and power. But the laity likewise share in the priestly, prophetic, and royal office of Christ and therefore have their own share in the mission of the whole people of God in the Church and in the world.”* Vatican II, Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity, chapter 1

**6.1** The House of Laity is comprised of members of the laity of participating Faith Communities within the Diocese. Each Faith Community shall elect two (2) lay delegates to serve for (2) years, up to three consecutive terms.

**6.2** The Delegates must be at least 18 years of age, who shall be regular communicants and active members in good standing of the faith community, not a member of the Clergy, and elected by their diocesan Faith Community to represent the people of that community.

**6.3** The House of Laity shall establish its own policies and procedures of its governance, including establishing a rule of order, and shall elect from its constituent members a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. The delegates shall meet at least once per year at the Diocesan level, and the delegates shall represent their Faith Community at the Quadrennial Holy Synod of the Communion. The duties and responsibilities of the House of Laity shall be commensurate with Constitution of the Communion.

## ARTICLE VII

### The Diocesan House of Clergy

*“The apostles and the elders met together to consider this matter.” Acts 15:6*

**7.1** The House of Clergy is comprised of one clergy, pastor or primary clergy leader, and one clergy representative from each Member Faith Community for a total of up to two clergy representatives from each Member Faith Community.

**7.2** Pastors shall be voting members of the House of Clergy. Bishops are not permitted to serve in the House of Clergy. In parishes whose pastor is the Ordinary, a designated clergy vicar shall serve in lieu of the Ordinary as the voting Pastoral Representative of that parish. Such a designated vicar shall be selected by the Ordinary. In addition to the Pastor, each Parish shall select one additional clerical representative, deacon or presbyter, of that parish to serve as a voting member of the House of Clergy. The term of office is four years and the number of terms shall be no more than two consecutive terms.

- A. The Clergy representing Intentional Religious Communities and Specialized Ministries shall be selected in conformance with the guidelines of the Constitution of the Communion, and the terms of service will be determined by the members of the Intentional Religious Community or Specialized Ministry.
- B. In no case may a member of the House of Clergy represent more than a single Faith Community.

**7.3** The House of Clergy shall establish its own policies and procedures of its governance in conformity with these Norms and shall meet at the Diocesan level at least annually and shall convene no less than every four years at the Holy Synod.

**7.4** Pastors of parishes and the clergy leaders of all other faith communities are required to attend all diocesan Synods and the quadrennial Holy Synod of the Communion.

**7.5.** The House of Clergy shall work closely with the local Ordinary for consideration and implementation the following within the Diocese, consistent with and in compliance with the



standards of the Communion:

- A. Liturgical changes of the Diocese,
- B. Standards for new faith communities to be received into the Diocese.
- C. Standards for the ordination of bishops, presbyters, or deacons of the Diocese.
- D. Standards for the reception of ordained clergy from other ecclesial bodies into the Diocese.
- E. Standards for the discipline and the termination of faculties of clergy of the Diocese.

## ARTICLE VIII

### The Diocesan Advisory Council

*“Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise.”* Ephesians 5:15

**8.1** The Diocesan Advisory Council shall consist, ex officio, of the two (2) elected leaders of the House of Clergy of the Diocese, and the two (2) elected leaders of the House of Laity of the Diocese, and the Ordinary of the Diocese. They shall work together on any matters affecting the Diocese which are not specifically reserved to the Ordinary. A community shall not have more than one representative, lay or clergy, on the Advisory Council at a time.

**8.2** The powers, functions and duties of the Diocesan Advisory Council shall be determined by the Local Ordinary in conformity with those set forth by the Constitution of the Communion, and by the Norms of this Diocese.

## ARTICLE IX

### Ordination of Deacons and Incardination

*“I will give you shepherds after my own heart.”* Jeremiah. 3:15

*“The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him.”* Luke. 4:20

*“... For they, too (bishops and deacons), render you the sacred service of the prophets and teachers.”*

Didache, 2<sup>nd</sup> c. A.D.

**9.1** Regarding the diaconal and presbyteral formation of its clergy, the Diocesan Bishop shall faithfully administer the Guidelines for Ordination and Incardination of the Constitution of the Communion (Article V) to provide integrity, authenticity, and transparency to the laity and member communities of the Diocese.

**9.2** In addition to the Guidelines of the Communion, the Diocese requires the following:

- A. For diaconal candidates: the successful completion of twenty-two (22) prescribed

- core courses at the University of Notre Dame Step Theology Online Program.
- B. For presbyteral candidates: The successful completion of thirty-nine (39) prescribed core courses and a Certificate of Catholic Theology from the University of Notre Dame Step Theology Online Program.

For all candidates for ordination or incardination:

- C. Ecclesiology and Polity Seminar provided by the Diocesan Bishop.
- D. Sexual Misconduct Prevention Course provided by the Diocesan Bishop and cost incurred by the candidate.
- E. Active participation in the life of the candidate's community of faith and the synodal life of the Diocese.
- F. Final evaluation by team of three members of the Diocese designated by the Diocesan Bishop.

## ARTICLE X

### Meetings of the Diocesan Synod

*"In Christ there is no Jew or Greek, slave or citizen, male or female. All are one in Christ Jesus."* Galatians 3:28

*"I have made it a rule, ever since the beginning of my episcopate, to make no decision merely on the strength of my own personal opinion without consulting you [the priests and deacons] and without the approbation of the people."*

St. Cyprian of Carthage, 3<sup>rd</sup> c.

**10.1** The Church in the Diocese, comprised of the clergy and lay representatives of every Member Parish, Intentional Religious Community, and Specialized Ministry as well as any other members, clerical or lay, who wishes to attend shall physically assemble in a Diocesan Synod at least once every calendar year. The Ordinary of the Diocese convenes the Diocesan Synod, and shall be the presider of the Synod.

**10.2** In witness to the experience of complete Church and in commitment to the Synodal expression of our Diocese and Communion, the elected Delegates of the House of Laity and every Presbyter and Deacon of the Diocese have the responsibility and duty to be physically present at and actively participate in the Diocesan Synod.

**10.3** Special Meetings of the Diocesan Synod may be called as deemed necessary by the Ordinary, notice being properly given to all representatives. Such meeting may be either physical or virtual.

## ARTICLE XI

### Admission of New Faith Communities

*“Day by day, God added to their number those who were being saved.” Acts 2:47*

11.1. A New Faith Community shall be admitted for full participation in the Diocese provided it shall have presented credentials for admission, complied with and accedes to these Norms and the Constitution of the Communion of Synodal Catholic Churches. The status of a Faith Community shall be determined by the guidelines established in the Constitution of the Communion.

11.2 A Faith Community must be financially self-sustaining to be admitted into the Diocese. It must demonstrate standards and practices of transparency and accountability to its community, to include regular reporting of financial data to its members.

11.3 Prior to receiving Member Status, Faith Communities will have the following in place:

- A. At the time of application for acceptance into the Communion, the Faith Community should also have applied for a not-for-profit status to the appropriate authorities of the state and federal governments (State Incorporation, State Sales Tax Exemption and Federal EIN). Copies of these civil documents shall be sent to the Ordinary.
- B. Communities will form a Finance Committee. This committee should not be chaired by the pastor of the community and should not include members of the Pastor’s immediate family. Committee members should include individuals who are knowledgeable in sound business practices, yet understand the spiritual and social mission of a Faith Community.
- C. Accounting of all funds should reflect standard business practice in accordance with civil law. All contributions and expenditures should be recorded in a timely fashion, and the finance committee should publish a summary of its activities at a minimum of once a year.
- D. A council shall be formed to work in a synodal model in conjunction with the pastor or senior clerical member of the Faith Community. The council of the Faith Community should establish in writing any contractual relationships it has with Clergy. This should include reimbursement of salaries, benefits, and allowances for living expenses.
- E. The Diocese does not hold financial responsibility for any Faith Community’s property or operating expenses. Nor does the Diocese hold claim to the property and assets of the Faith Community.

- F. Each Member Faith Community shall be the employer of record for its leaders, members, staff and volunteers. Member Faith Communities will hire and terminate all clergy and staff, practice pre-employment inquiries of sexual misconduct, appropriate psychological evaluations and conduct criminal background checks as delineated within these Norms.
- G. The Diocese carries no legal responsibility or liability for the conduct of clergy, leaders, members, staff and volunteers of each Faith Community. Each Faith Community shall establish for itself policies and procedures for Sexual Misconduct, Conflict of Interest, or any other reasonable ethical standards required within the civil jurisdiction of the Faith Community.

**11.4** Any Faith Community that relinquishes membership in the Communion, shall automatically forfeit membership in the Diocese. Conversely, any Faith Community that relinquishes membership in the Diocese shall automatically forfeit membership in the Communion, excluding transfers to newly formed neighboring Dioceses of the Communion.

## ARTICLE XII Diocesan Funding

*“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” Matthew 6:33*

*“Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.” Acts 4:32-35*

**12.1** The Diocesan Synod shall have the authority to raise money by such means as it may determine or amend, to be designated for the Diocesan Fund, from the Faith Communities and Clergy of the Diocese, for the regular expenses of the Diocese. The Diocesan Synod may, from time to time, approve and direct extraordinary or special projects; provided, that such shall be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote in both the House of Clergy and the House of Laity.

**12.2** Each Member Parish, Intentional Religious Community, and Specialized Ministry shall responsibly contribute to the Diocesan Fund up to five (5%) percent of its regular ordinary income to be sent quarterly to the Diocesan Treasurer. Recognizing the financial challenge often experienced in planting and building communities of faith, these Norms recommend an intentional, incremental growth toward the goal of five percent in a Faith Community’s financial stewardship to the Diocese.

12.3 Each Bishop, Presbyter and Deacon active in the Diocese shall also responsibly contribute annually to the Diocesan Fund: Two-hundred-fifty dollars (\$250.00) for active Bishops and active Presbyters; One-hundred-fifty dollars (\$150.00) for active Deacons. Retired clergy are exempt. This Clergy Support (*cathedraticum*) aids the operational needs of the Diocese, its outreach and support of those most in need, and the furthering of our mission together as a Local Church, and our participation in the Communion.

### ARTICLE XIII

#### Adoption and Amendment of These Norms

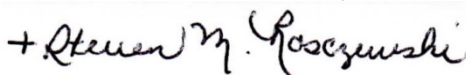
*“People must think of us as Christ’s servants, stewards entrusted with the mysteries of God. What is expected of stewards is that each one should be found worthy of this trust.”* 1 Corinthians 4:1-2

13.1 These Norms shall be considered adopted and ratified by a majority vote of the member representatives of the House of Laity and the House of Clergy and its ratification by the Ordinary. These Norms shall become effective on its affirmation at the Diocesan Synod.

13.2 These Norms may be amended in the following manner:

- A. Any proposed amendment which shall have been submitted to the Advisory Council not less than 90 days before a Diocesan Synod by any member representative of the House of Laity, the House of Clergy, or the Office of the Ordinary.
- B. An electronic vote shall be taken in each Faith Community not less than 60 days prior the Synod on the proposed amendment or amendments wherein each adult member of the Faith Community will be given an opportunity to vote for or against the proposal.
- C. Should the proposed amendment be assented to by a 2/3 majority of the total number of registered adult members voting in the Faith Communities, such a proposed amendment shall be considered accepted and approved.
- D. The amendment or amendments approved become effective immediately upon affirmation of the delegates meeting in Synod and the Diocesan Ordinary’s signature.

Affirmed and ratified by the Holy Synod  
of the Synodal Catholic Diocese of the Southeast  
on Saturday, 26 January 2019,  
Memorial of Saints Timothy and Titus.

  
Ordinary