**Meditation Synod Experience**

**PROPOSED SCHEDULE**

**Friday Evening (Saturday Afternoon)**

* 5:30 – 6:00PM (10:30-11:00AM) ……………. Opening/Explanation of Synod on Synodality
* 6:00 – 7:00PM (11:00AM-12:00PM)..………. Dinner/Lunch
* 7:00 – 8:15PM (12:00-1:15PM) .……………. Meditation

 Synod Questions

 Group Sharings

* 8:15 – 9:00PM (1:15-2:00PM) ………….….. Fellowship and Closing Prayer

**Explanation of the Synod**

Like many of the words that we use in our tradition, Synod is an ancient Greek word that means assembling to determine the path forward. Pope Francis is inviting the Church to gather and to listen to each and every Catholic to find the Church’s path forward at this time in our history. During adoration today, we will take time in prayer to ready our hearts with answers to the Pope’s questions about our church and fully open ourselves to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

**Meditation**

As we consider the power of the day of Pentecost, we cannot help to consider the sound of the Upper Room. The Upper Room was the place of their choosing to wait in obedience to the final instructions of the Lord in Acts 1:4, “…wait for the Promise of the Father.”

**The Upper Room**As they waited, we can imagine the chaos and noise of those disciples—120 strong waiting in the upper room. The noise of the different groups praying, trying in vain to understand the fullness of the instructions from the Lord. And they waited until the Day of Pentecost had fully come, and they were of one accord.

And then suddenly, a sound came from Heaven that filled the room. The sound as of a rushing mighty wind gives us thoughts of being in the center of a great storm. At that predestined moment, the purpose of Pentecost was made manifest as tongues of fire rested upon each of the 120 and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit! When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

The crowd outside the room, devout men from every nation gathered to hear the sound emanating from the upper room—except that each could hear in His own language! This magnificent noise, this sound, allowed them to hear as one—with **one sound**, the testimony of Jesus Our Lord, the Christ.

It is in this moment that the plan of God took one giant step forward in the lives of mankind. For where Christ came and touched **some**—the Holy Spirit came that **all**might be touched. The price of Christ on the cross not only redeemed the lost—but created a oneness in His Spirit. We should never forget this while we are busy “doing church.”

For every church dispute and falling away we have the drawing of the Holy Spirit, pulling us back toward the center of the Lord’s Will, toward the **one sound**of Pentecost. We must no longer allow anything to hold us back from our fullness in God that Christ died for. We must be a people who find our hope and our joy in that same sound of the Holy Spirit. The great symphony of God, in the upper room of our own hearts and minds…the **one sound**of Christ.

**Quiet Reflection**

The Spirit can come as a mighty wind; a wind that energizes us where we’ve become inactive; a wind that stirs up what is buried deep inside; a wind that carries us along and speeds our course; a wind that blows over our structures and defenses that keep God at a safe distance. Are we, like the apostles in the Upper room, willing to welcome the wind?

(At this time, you can either pass out or display a power point with the questions)

***Now take a moment to read and discern the questions you were given. What are your hopes for the church as the voice of the people is heard? Take time to share with those at your table.***

**Closing Prayer**

We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name. With You alone to guide us, make yourself at home in our hearts; Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it. We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder. Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions. Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right. All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever.