

Pastoral Message: January 23, 2022

Synodality is the buzz word right now! On a common road or journey together. I was with the team, and one person commented that it is like going where “No man or woman has gone before.” I intentionally changed Neil Armstrong’s quote to inclusive language. The hope is that this journey will make us a more inclusive church. I am becoming convinced that the process might be more important than the end result because the process itself is an experience of people thinking and reflecting on new ways of being church. Perhaps we are slowly, gradually changing as a community in this process. I give you one example of what I view as synodality. This past week two pastoral council leaders brought ideas and concrete plans for pastoral council, that were better than I could have come up with, and talked about the gifts that they discovered. I give this as an example because they were setting vision forward, creating plans and goals, taking their own initiative. And I was simply there to affirm and support. I was in awe of their creativity. There is a tie into today’s gospel, because there are extraordinary gifts in the ordinary people of St. Agnes and, hopefully, we all grow to see that more. I think of Jesus, the hometown young man of Nazareth from the poor side of town, and the local people missed his gifts or took them for granted. We can easily do this with people we rub shoulders with every day. We can miss that they are quite extraordinary and God’s grace is at work in their lives. As we continue this process of the synod on this common road, let us become more aware of the extraordinary gifts in each of us in our ordinary lives and be open to how the Holy Spirit wants us to trust Her as we use those gifts.