

L I S T E N I N G
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F U T U R E
S H A R I N G
C R E A T I V I T Y
C O M M U N I O N
A U T H E N T I C I T Y





#ListeningChurch

Our Holy Father Pope Francis has invited the Catholic Church to embark on a journey together. Through listening and discernment rooted in the Holy Spirit, the entire people of God will be called to contribute to a process by which the Church deepens in understanding of Her mission and looks toward the future.

A Synod, which is the process by which the Church will begin this important work is not just a convening of Bishops reflecting on a particular topic and advising the Pope. A Synod is a journey of discernment, in which the people of God are called to pray and reflect upon the Holy Spirit's will for the Church. Through our listening and our sharing, we will seek to understand what the Holy Spirit's will is for the topic being discussed – and thus, for the Church.

For the 2023 Ordinary Synod of Bishops, that topic is synodality. Simply put, synodality is discerning how the Spirit is moving through and with the Body of Christ, so that we may continue to fulfill our mission to evangelize in the world.

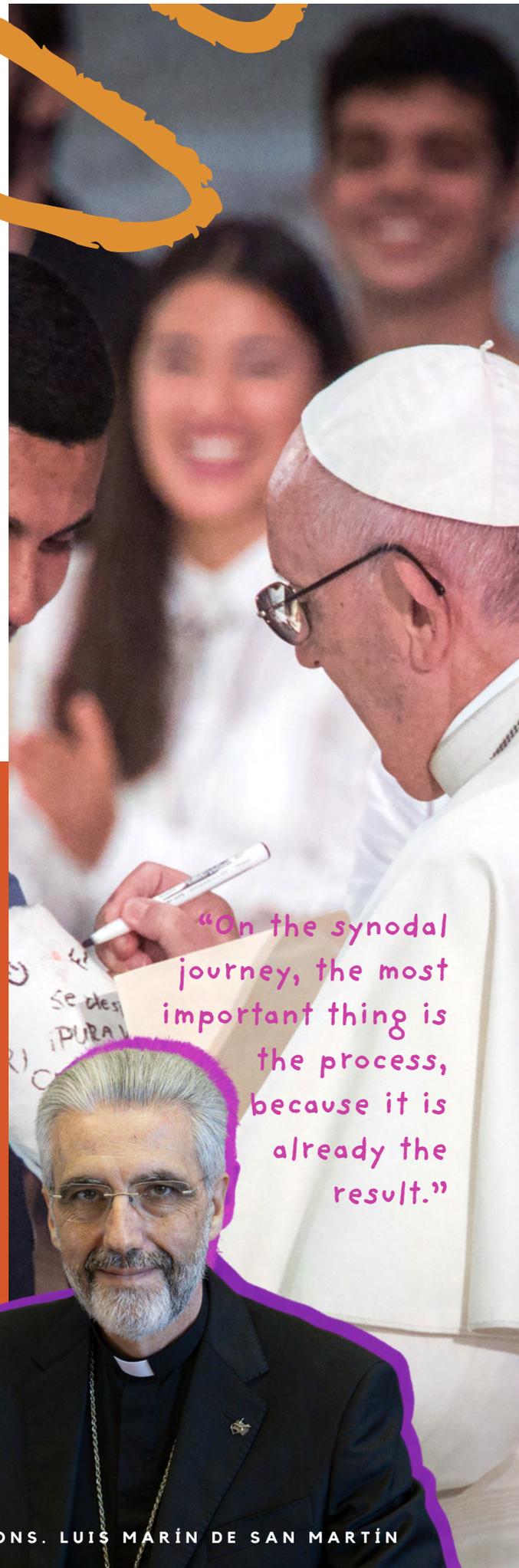


Companions on the Journey (Preparatory Document, nos. 1, 9, 20; Vademecum nos. 1.3, 1.4, 5.3)

- A truly synodal Church walks together, side by side, along the same road towards renewal in the Spirit and the good of all people.
- Journeying together requires great commitment to listen to the voices of all who make up the People of God, but especially those who have often been marginalized, and the openness to discern the path forward that prophetically renews and enlivens.

Listening (Preparatory Document, no. 26, 30; Vademecum nos. 1.5, 5.3)

- The synodal process necessitates that we, as the People of God, first listen with an open heart and open mind to where the Spirit is calling us and discern to whom we are needing to listen and what steps need to be taken to more fully live out our mission.
- Lived synodality is only possible through the approach of a listening Church, open to gathering and reflecting on the lived experiences of all its members, including making space for those often excluded and discarded: women, youth, victims of sexual abuse, and the poor and vulnerable.



“On the synodal journey, the most important thing is the process, because it is already the result.”

MONS. LUIS MARÍN DE SAN MARTÍN



CARD. JEAN-CLAUDE HOLLERICH

Speaking Out (Preparatory Document, no. 30; Vademecum nos. 2.3, 5.3)

- Synodal dialogue insists on the open and honest contributions of all the People of God. Both in speaking and listening a deep sense of courage and openness must be present to welcome all that the Spirit may bring forth.
- Courage must also be the foundation for the process by which the People of God discern and dialogue towards clarity, welcoming all contributions and working together to reveal the truth of the Spirit.

Celebration (Preparatory Document no. 30, Vademecum 5.3)

- Journeying together is only possible if rooted in the Church's communal listening to the Gospel and the celebration of the Eucharist.
- A synodal Church discerns how prayer and liturgical celebration inspires and empowers the community's active participation in our communal mission.



Sharing Responsibility for Our Common Mission

(Preparatory Document, nos. 20, 27, 30; Vademecum no. 5.3)

- The synodal process calls each member of the People of God to equally participate and take responsibility for the method of listening and dialogue being called for by the Spirit. The participation of each member of the faithful is required to further the mission of the Church.
- Just as Jesus sends the apostles and the crowd out, so too, each member of the faithful is invited to live out a synodality that listens to the needs of the community and engages courageously in the work of the Spirit at work in the world.

Dialogue in Church and Society (Preparatory Document, nos. 23, 28, 29, 30; Vademecum no. 5.3)

- The synodal process consists of the invitation and experience of encounter with the larger community of the People of God, embracing dialogue with those outside both our faith and cultural community, with those of different faith traditions, and with the entire human family to promote the flourishing of all.
- The call to "journey together" invites us to enter into relationships of listening and dialogue that engage shared and different realities, experiences of suffering and joy, to promote collaboration and foster the work of the Spirit.

For a Synodal Church:

communion | participation | mission





Ecumenism (Preparatory Document, nos. 29, 30; Vademecum no. 5.3)

- As we walk together on our synodal journey, the fruits of dialogue with and between our brothers and sisters of different Christian denominations can help us to see the Spirit at work in the world.
- A listening Church is open to and invites collaboration with those from differing Christian denominations as we walk together towards unity within diversity.

Authority and Participation (Preparatory Document, nos. 1, 30; Vademecum no. 5.3)

- The Synod calls the People of God, in all their diversity, to embark on a journey together toward a common mission to witness to the love of God at work in the world
- A synodal Church recognizes the call of God to foster co-responsibility in pursuit of the mission. The People of God must examine, together, how authority is exercised within the Church and what practices of teamwork can be taken to better promote the unity of the diverse people of faith.



For a Synodal Church:
communion | participation | mission

“Synodality is the call of God for the Church in the 3rd millennium.... It is a shift of culture and a move toward protagonism for all the people of God.”

**Sr. Nathalie
Becquart**

USING THE SYNOD 21-23 MAIN
THEMES IN SOCIAL MEDIA

Discerning and Deciding (Preparatory Document, nos. 26, 30; Vademecum nos. 2.3, 5.3)

1. The synodal path is not only one of listening but also one of discernment that invites us to “reread” the experiences brought forth in our listening to discover joys and challenges, insights and opportunities.
1. Journeying together calls the Church out of attitudes of complacency and towards an openness to listen, discern, and dialogue with the community towards a consensus that arises from the Spirit and points the People of God toward our mission

Forming Ourselves in Synodality (Preparatory Document, nos. 25, 30; Vademecum nos. 1.2, 5.3)

1. Synodality must be lived and adapted into the local context that engages all in a method of being Church that is guided by the Spirit and responsive to the reality of the world it exists within.
1. The synodal path is one that is guided by the Gospel and grounded in Tradition and requires the equal participation of all those in the People of God who participate in the mission of the Church to together, listen and discern the work of the Spirit within the world.



"I hope for the
maturation of a true
synodal journey"

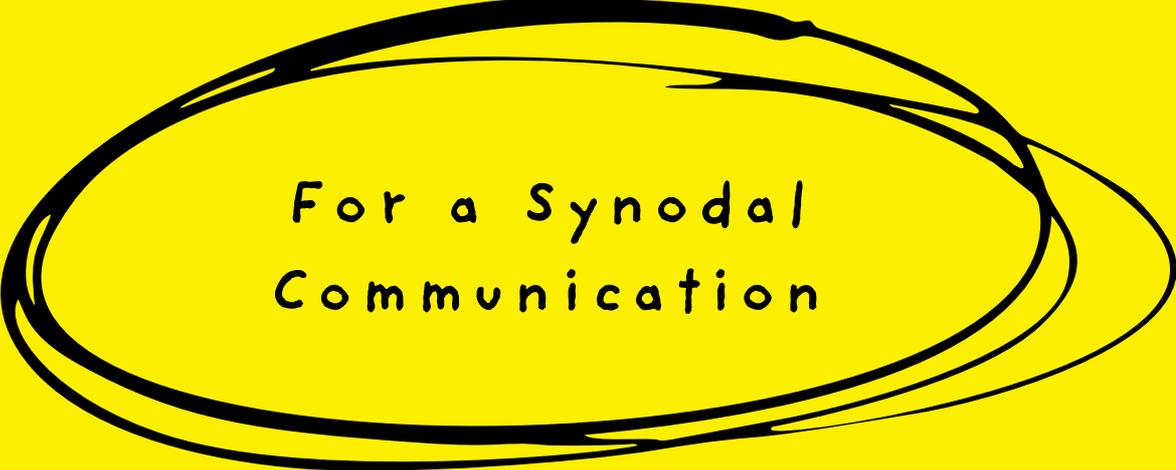
Card. Mario Grech

General Secretary of
the Synod of Bishops

Synod
2021
2023

Toolkit
Synod
2021
2023

GET INSPIRED
GET CREATIVE



For a Synodal
Communication

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