



**SYNODAL CHURCH:
OPENING NEW PATHWAYS**

Synod
2021
2023

Based on
Lineamenta (Outline: A Preparatory Document on Synodality)
&
Vademecum (An Official Handbook for Listening and
Discernment in Local Churches)

For a synodal Church

HYMN TO THE HOLY SPIRIT



PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

**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. AMEN.**

SYNODAL CHURCH = BACKGROUND

- USE OF WORD 'SYNODALITY' ON THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INSTITUTION OF THE SYNOD OF BISHOPS BY BLESSED PAUL VI IN THE YEAR 1965 ON 17TH OCTOBER 2015 IN ROME.
- INTERNATIONAL THEOLOGICAL COMMISSION UNDERTOOK STUDY OF SYNODALITY IN THE YEARS 2017 & 2018.
- IT IS A NEW TEACHING THAT THE MAGISTERIUM HAS OFFERED IN THE WAKE OF VATICAN II.
- **KAIROS** = OPPORTUNE TIME FOR THE CHURCH

SYNODAL CHURCH

MEANING OF THE WORDS: SYNOD & SYNODALITY

- **SYNODAL CHURCH = MEANING OF THE WORDS: SYNOD & SYNODALITY**
- “SYNOD” - TAKES ITS ROOT FROM TWO GREEK WORDS: ‘SYN’ AND ‘HODOS’ MEANING ‘PATH’ OR ‘WAY’
- **CONCEPT IS APPLIED IN THE CONTEXT OF ECCLESIAL ASSEMBLIES CONVOKED BY VARIOUS LEVELS (PD # 4).**
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- **CIC # 342** SPEAKS: “SYNOD OF BISHOPS IS GROUP OF BISHOPS SELECTED FROM DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE WORLD
- TO PROMOTE THE CLOSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE ROMAN PONTIFF AND THE BISHOPS.
- TO ASSIST THE ROMAN PONTIFF IN THE DEFENCE AND DEVELOPMENT OF FAITH AND MORALS IN THE PRESERVATION AND STRENGTHENING OF ECCLESIASTICAL DISCIPLINE.
- TO CONSIDER QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH IN THE WORLD.
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- **SYNODALITY:** WITH THE ORIGIN OF THE GREEK TERMS AS JOURNEYING TOGETHER INDICATING THE PATH ALONG WHICH PEOPLE OF GOD WALK TOGETHER AS ‘**FOLLOWERS OF THE WAY**’ (ACTS 9:2), AS A “CONSTITUTIVE DIMENSION OF THE CHURCH” (PD # 3 & 5)
- **CONCEPT IS APPLIED IN THE CONTEXT OF THE LIFE AND MISSION OF THE CHURCH**
- _REFERS TO: INVOLVEMENT AND PARTICIPATION OF THE WHOLE PEOPLE OF GOD IN THE LIFE AND THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH. (PD # 7)
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- **IN THIS CONTEXT, ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM** SPEAKS OF ‘SYNOD’ AND ‘CHURCH’ AS SYNONYM FOR ECCLESIAL ASSEMBLY, THE COMMUNITY HOW THE DISCIPLES WERE CALLED TOGETHER AS AN ASSEMBLY BY JESUS.

SYNODAL CHURCH

TYPES OF SYNOD (CIC # 345 & 346)

- **ORDINARY SYNOD:** ORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SYNOD OF BISHOPS IS COMPRISED OF BISHOPS ELECTED FOR EACH ASSEMBLY BY THE BISHOPS' CONFERENCES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NORMS OF SPECIAL LAW OF THE SYNOD.
- 1965 TO 2018: 15 GENERAL ASSEMBLIES FOR A PARTICULAR THEME: SUCH AS HOLY EUCHARIST, HOLY BIBLE, NEW EVANGELIZATION, PRIESTS, BISHOPS, LAITY, FAMILY & YOUTH, ETC.
- IN 2018 SYNOD: YOUTH (3-28 OCT 2018) *CHRISTUS VIVIT* (CHRIST IS ALIVE)
- 16TH ORDINARY SYNOD: IN 2023 SYNOD: SYNODALITY (2 YEARS OF PREPARATION TOGETHER WITH THE ENTIRE PEOPLE OF GOD)
- **PLAN:** PREPARATION FOR 2 YEARS: 3 PHASES: DIOCESAN, CONTINENTAL AND UNIVERSAL PHASES
- **PROCESSES:** MEETING, GATHERING, LISTENING AND DISCERNING
- **PROCESS:** GENERAL SECRETARIAT: HEADQUARTER IN ROME WITH ITS SECRETARY AND A YEAR OF PREPARATION WITH ITS *LINEAMENTA* (OUTLINE: PREPARATORY DOCUMENT WITH ITS QUESTIONNAIRE)
- *INSTRUMENTUM LABORIS* (WORKING DOCUMENT) SENDS TO THE EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE TO HAVE THEM STUDY, REFLECT AND CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS THE THEME.
- AS THE OUTCOME OF IT WILL BE A POST-SYNODAL APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION: *CHRISTUS VIVIT* (CHRIST IS ALIVE) IN 2019.
- **EXTRA-ORDINARY SYNOD:** 3 EXTRA ORDINARY ASSEMBLIES FOR A PARTICULAR THEME: SUCH AS COOPERATION BETWEEN ROMAN PONTIFF AND BISHOPS, CATECHISM & FAMILY.
- IN 2014 SYNOD: FAMILY (OCT 5-19) *AMORIS LAETITIA* (THE JOY OF LOVE) IN 2019
- **SPECIAL SYNOD:** 11 SPECIAL SYNOD FOR A PARTICULAR EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE OR **SUI IURIS:** SUCH AS ECCLESIA IN ASIA: SPECIAL ASIAN SYNOD (1998), AMAZON (SPECIAL SYNOD FOR PAN-AMAZON REGION), ETC.
- IN 2019 SYNOD: AMAZON (OCT 6-27) *QUERIDA AMAZONIA* (BELOVED AMAZON) IN 2020

SYNODAL CHURCH = A TIME OF INTROSPECTION

“THE ROAD NOT TAKEN”

-ROBERT FROST (AMERICAN POET)

TWO ROADS DIVERGED IN A WOOD, AND I
TOOK THE ONE LESS TRAVELLED BY
AND THAT HAS MADE ALL THE DIFFERENCE.

CHOICES THAT WE MAKE IN LIFE MAKES A DIFFERENCE....

SYNODAL CHURCH: OPENING NEW PATHWAYS....

ARE WE READY TO MAKE A CHOICE: TO OPEN A NEW PATH?

SYNODAL CHURCH = A TIME OF INTROSPECTION

COVID – 19 CRISIS

CLIMATE CHANGE

ECONOMIC RECESSION

CLERICALISM

SEXUAL SCANDALS

VOCATION CRISIS

SYNODAL CHURCH = A NEED OF THE HOUR



SYNODALITY

WHAT IS NOT...

- # PROGRAMME/EVENT
- # SPEECH/ DEBATE
- # MEETING/DOCUMENTATION
- # ABSTRACT/UNKNOWN
- # DIFFERENT/ALTERNATE MODEL

WHAT IS...

- * PLAN/PROCESS
- * LISTEN/INTROSPECTION
- * DISCERNING/DECIDING
- * CONCRETE/KNOWN
- * DIFFERENCE/CONVERSION MODEL

SYNODAL CHURCH = DEMANDS FOR A CHANGE

- RECOLLECTION = REFLECTION = RENEWAL = REVITALIZATION = REFORMATION = TRANSFORMATION
- LISTEN = BE SILENT = LISTEN TO THE HOLY SPIRIT = LISTEN TO OTHERS
- TRIPLE LISTENING = GOD, AUTHORITY & LAITY

WE HAVE STRENGTH TO SPEAK BUT HAVE NO COURAGE TO LISTEN!

SYNODAL CHURCH = LISTEN TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

- **“TEACHER**, WHO RENEWS THE FAITH OF THE CHURCH AND THE INTELLECTUAL QUEST OF HUMANITY.
- **UNIFIER**, WHO RENEWS THE LOVE OF THE CHURCH AND THE SOLIDARITY OF HUMANITY
- **LIBERATOR**, WHO RENEWS THE JUSTICE OF THE CHURCH AND THE MORAL ENERGY OF HUMANITY
- **VIVIFIER**, WHO RENEWS THE HOPE OF THE CHURCH AND THE ASPIRATIONS OF HUMANITY”.

PHILIP J. ROSATO

“THE MISSION OF THE SPIRIT WITHIN AND BEYOND THE CHURCH”

SYNODAL CHURCH = LISTEN TO OTHERS

WE BUILD UP: A DYNAMIC AND SYSTEMIC VISION OF AN INTEGRAL ECCLESIOLOGY

RELATIONSHIP AND COMMUNITY

EQUALITY AND EGALITARIAN COMMUNITY

ENHANCEMENT OF GIFTS AND CHARISMS

RECIPROCITY AND CIRCULARITY

PARTICIPATION AND CO-RESPONSIBILITY

SYNODAL CHURCH = OBJECTIVES

TO LISTEN = WORD OF GOD & LIVING TRADITION

TO INSPIRE = FAITH

TO LIVE OUT= GOSPEL IN THIRD MILLENNIUM

TO MOVE TOWARDS THE KINGDOM REALITIES

SYNODAL CHURCH

OPENING NEW PATHWAYS (A TRANSITION PHASE)

1.	ECCLESIAL 'I'	-	ECCLESIAL 'WE'	CLERICALISM	COMMUNION
2.	STATIC	-	DYNAMIC	RITUAL/PIETY	NEW STYLE
3.	EXCLUSIVE	-	INCLUSIVE	GENDER DISCRIMINATION	CO-LEADERSHIP
4.	INDIVIDUAL	-	RELATIONAL	EGOISM	BEFRIENDING
5.	MONOPOLY	-	DISTRIBUTION	KINGLY	SERVANT-LEADER
6.	AUTHORITATIVE	-	CONSULTATIVE	DIRECTIVES	DECISION MAKING
7.	DOCUMENTS	-	DREAMS	SUCCESS/ACHIEVEMENT	COMMITMENT
8.	EVENTS	-	PROCESS	HISTORY/CHRONICLE	ACTIVE/VIBRANT
9.	BEING SEATED	-	WALKING TOGETHER	SLUMBER	WAKE-UP CALL
10.	SPEAKING	-	LISTENING	HABITUAL	COMPANIONSHIP
11.	THEORETICAL	-	PRACTICAL	CURRICULUM	REALITY
12.	PYRAMIDAL	-	CIRCLE	STRUCTURAL STRUGGLE	PARTICIPATION
13.	DOCUMENTARY	-	MISSIONARY	DESK WORK	MISSION
14.	DECORATIVE	-	ATTRACTIVE	PALATIAL	HOLINESS
15.	COLLEGIALITY	-	SYNODALITY	POWER CHARACTER	BAPTISMAL CHARACTER
16.	TRADITIONAL	-	RENEWAL	CUSTOMS/ROUTINE	<u>NEW PATHWAYS</u>

TAGLINE THEME: COMMUNION, PARTICIPATION & MISSION

SYNODAL CHURCH

TRACE ROOTS: LIFE & MISSION OF THE CHURCH

SYNOD = CHURCH AS SYNONYM (ASSEMBLY OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD (QAHAL YHW))

DISCIPLES: CALLED BY JESUS TO FOLLOW HIS WAY (JN 14:6) : **COMMUNION** (TRINITY)

PARTICIPATION: BAPTIZED DISCIPLES PARTAKE IN 3 FOLD FUNCTIONS

PRIEST - SANCTIFYING

PROPHET - PREACHING/TEACHING

KING - GOVERNING/SERVING

MISSION (MISSIONARY DISCIPLES)

LOVING/SHARING/CARING

PRAYING/ REFLECTING/LISTENING

DISCERNING/DECIDING/DIRECTING

SYNODAL CHURCH

TRACE ROOTS: LIFE & MISSION OF THE CHURCH

SCRIPTURE

CREATION GEN 1: 26-28/ EX 4:22/ DEUT 14:2/ IS 49:6 /JN 17:21 /ACTS 2:1-4; 4:44-47

COVENANT – SINAI: EX 24: 6-8, 34:20FF (MOSES/ABRAHAM & PROPHETS & JUDGES)

LIBERATION & REDEMPTION (GOD WHO LIBERATES/SAVES: EXODUS EXPERIENCE)

SYNODAL CHURCH

TRACE ROOTS: LIFE & MISSION OF THE CHURCH

TRADITION

FIRST MILLENNIUM: APOSTLES/FATHERS OF THE CHURCH

SECOND MILLENNIUM: CHURCH (EAST/WEST: SCHISMS: DEBATES/DELIBERATIONS)

THIRD MILLENNIUM: PEOPLE OF GOD (AGGIORNAMENTO & SYNODALITY)

CHURCH OF THE LAITY

(DOCUMENTS VAT II : LG, GS, NA, AG & UR)

SYNODAL CHURCH

TRACE ROOTS: LIFE & MISSION OF THE CHURCH

THEOLOGY

SYNODALITY: ECCLESIAL CONSCIOUSNESS/COLLEGIALITY: THEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE

EXPRESSION OF ECCLESIOLOGY OF COMMUNION (**LG**)/ DYNAMIC OF CATHOLIC COMMUNION

SYNODALITY: WHOLE CHURCH IS A SUBJECT

AND

EVERYONE IN THE CHURCH IS A SUBJECT

SYNODAL CHURCH MODEL : JESUS (ACTS: 10)

- RECONCILIATION (EUCCHARISTIC SYNAXIS: BREAD BROKEN & BLOOD SHED)
- LISTENING TO WORD/LIVING TRADITION (JESUS, APOSTLES & CROWD)
- **COMMUNION:** IN TRIUNE GOD: *CREATION, LIBERATION & REDEMPTION*
- **PARTICIPATION:** CAPTURE EVERYONE'S ROLE
- **MISSION:** TO THE WORLD (**AD GENTES**)

SYNODAL CHURCH CHALLENGES OF SYNODALITY

TO DEAL WITH THE DIFFERENCE

TO LISTEN

TO EMPOWER THE LAITY

TO IMPLEMENT CO-RESPONSIBILITY/CO-LEADERSHIP

SYNODAL CHURCH CAUTIONS THE PITFALLS/TEMPTATIONS

- **WANTING** TO BE LED BY OURSELVES RATHER THAN LED BY SPIRIT (WE ARE PILGRIMS, SERVANTS & CLAY)
- **FOCUS** ON OURSELVES AND IMMEDIATE CONCERNS (MISSIONARY OUTREACH TO THE PERIPHERIES)
- **ONLY** SEE “PROBLEMS” (PROBLEMS NOT TO LEAD US TO OVERWHELM, DISCOURAGE AND BE CRITICAL)
- **FOCUSING** ONLY ON “STRUCTURES” (ONGOING CONVERSION AND RENEWAL OF BODY OF CHRIST)
- **NOT LOOKING** BEYOND THE VISIBLE CONFINES OF THE CHURCH (DIALOGUE WITH THE OTHER SCIENCES)
- **LOOSE** THE FOCUS ON THE OBJECTIVES OF SYNODAL PROCESS (DISCERNING AND CO-RESPONSIBILITY)
- **CONFLICT** AND DIVISION (UNITY AMONG DISCIPLES & SEEDS OF DIVISIONS BEAR NO FRUIT)
- **TO TREAT** THE SYNOD AS KIND OF ‘PARLIAMENT’ (POLITICAL BATTLE IS CONTRARY TO THE SYNODALITY)
- **TO LISTEN** TO THOSE WHO ARE ALREADY INVOLVED (LISTEN TO ALL: EXCLUDED, FORGOTTEN, AT THE MARGINS)

SYNODAL CHURCH LEARN TO ACT

- SHARING/DIALOGUING
- LISTENING/JOURNEYING
 - HUMILITY
- OPENNESS TO CHANGE/CONVERSION
 - DISCERNMENT/DECISION
 - GIVE UP PREJUDICES

SYNODAL CHURCH

A PLAN & PROCESS

- **DISCERNMENT** = LISTENING/CREATE A SPACE FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
- **ACCESSIBILITY** = AS MANY AS PEOPLE PARTICIPATE, REGARDLESS OF LOCATION, LANGUAGE, EDUCATION, SOCIO-ECONOMIC, STATUS, ABILITY, DISABILITY AND MATERIAL RESOURCES
- **CULTURAL AWARENESS** = CELEBRATE AND EMBRACE THE DIVERSITY WITHIN THE LOCAL COMMUNITIES
- **INCLUSION** = MAKE AN EFFORT TO INVOLVE EVERYONE
- **PARTNERSHIP** = MODEL OF CO-RESPONSIBLE CHURCH
- **RESPECT** = RIGHTS, DUTIES AND OPINION OF EACH PARTICIPANT
- **ACCURATE SYNTHESSES** = TRULY CAPTURE THE RANGE OF CRITICAL AND APPRECIATIVE PERSPECTIVES OF ALL RESPONSES
- **TRANSPARENCY** = ENSURE THE PROCESS OF AGGREGATION OF INPUT ARE CLEAR AND WELL COMMUNICATED
- **FAIRNESS** = TREAT EVERYONE EQUALLY AND EVERY VOICE

SYNODAL CHURCH: A PROCESS

1. DISSEMINATION PHASE
2. TRAINING PHASE
3. CONSULTATION PHASE
4. CONSOLIDATION PHASE
5. DISPATCHING PHASE

SYNODAL CHURCH ROLE OF BISHOPS

FACILITATOR WHO ENABLES THE PEOPLE TO EXPERIENCE THE JOURNEY TOWARDS A SYNODAL CHURCH

LISTEN TO THE PEOPLE OF GOD: PRIORITY & OBLIGATORY

INVOLVEMENT IN THE SYNODAL PROCESS

FOSTER OPEN DIALOGUE AMIDST THE DIVERSITY OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

SEEK FEEDBACK AND PARTICIPATION WHEREVER HELP IS NEEDED

INVITE VARIOUS BODIES OF THE DIOCESE: DIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL, PRESBYTERAL COUNCIL, RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES, LAY MOVEMENTS, PASTORAL MINISTRIES (SOCIAL WORK, SCHOOLS, HOSPITALS, YOUTH, ECUMENICAL & INTERFAITH DIALOGUE, ETC)

SEEK HELP FROM COORDINATORS AND CONTACT PERSONS TO FACILITATE THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

SYNODAL CHURCH

ROLE OF PRIESTS & DEACONS

ASSIST THE BISHOP TO ADMINISTER HIS EPISCOPAL MINISTRY ENTRUSTED TO HIS CARE

BE A BRIDGE BETWEEN BISHOP AND PEOPLE

HELP FAITHFUL TO JOURNEY TOGETHER AND TO WALK FORWARD WITH ONE ANOTHER

BE THE HERALDS OF RENEWAL, REVITALIZATION IN THE NEEDS OF FLOCK

MEN OF PRAYER WHO PROMOTE A GENUINELY SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE OF SYNODALITY

PROMOTING AND PUTTING INTO PRACTICE A MORE SYNODAL WAY OF BEING CHURCH

FIND NEW AND CREATIVE WAYS OF FOSTERING AN AUTHENTIC SYNODAL EXPERIENCE AMONG LAITY
AND PEOPLE OF OTHER FAITHS.

SYNODAL CHURCH SYNODALITY IN ACTION

- AVAILABILITY, CLOSENESS, TENDERNESS, CONFIDENCE, MUTUALITY, FRATERNITY & FRIENDSHIP
- **PARTICIPATORY: ECUMENICAL & DIALOGICAL** : INTER-RELIGIOUS
- **LEARN TO LIVE IN COMMUNION**
- **PAVE A WAY TO ACHIEVE PARTICIPATION**
- **OPEN YOURSELF TO THE MISSION**

SYNODAL CHURCH SYNODALITY IN ACTION

**WE MUST BECOME SYNOD BY BEING
ACTIVE PARTICIPANT IN THE TASK
AN EXEMPLARY ROLE MODEL
PUTTING INTO PRACTICE WHAT CHURCH TEACHES
BECOMING A MISSIONARY CHURCH**



THANK YOU FOR LISTENING

Fr. Vianney

Simla-Chandigarh Diocese

Date: 09-11-2021