



Synod 2024

NEWSLETTER



Issue Eight: Sunday, October 20, 2024

Synod can help to mend Christian divisions, Francis tells prayer vigil

On October 11, an Ecumenical Prayer Vigil was held in Protomartyrs Square in the Vatican (where tradition holds that St Peter was martyred) to commemorate the anniversary of the Second Vatican Council. The date was chosen as the Council was solemnly opened on this same day 62 years ago.

Pope Francis and Synod members, together with thousands of believers from around the world, prayed alongside representatives of twelve churches and Christian communities in this historic moment.

Stating that “the journey of synodality is, and must be, ecumenical”, Pope Francis further expressed his hope that the ongoing Synod would



Pope Francis, led by candlebearers, at the Ecumenical Prayer Vigil in Protomartyrs Square.

provide an opportunity for Christians to overcome the divisions that continue to hinder our common witness, and to be faithful to our common mission as missionary disciples of Christ.

‘Adopt’ and pray for an assembly member

Would you like to pray for a particular member of the Synod for the remainder of October? A special online platform has been set up to allow you

to do this. The Synod prayer campaign also sends a daily email with a guide for how to pray for the “adopted” Synod delegate during the Vatican

assembly. Visit the website www.oremusprosynodo.org and give your email address – you will then see the name of a Synod delegate to pray for.

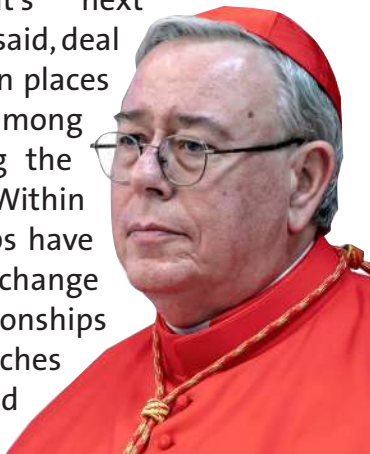
A resource from the Dublin Diocesan Synodal Animation Team

Cardinal: Continue work of Synod with decision and energy

As the General Assembly of the Synod entered its third week, Cardinal Jean-Claude Hollerich encouraged participants to not give in to fatigue. The General rapporteur's introduction to the fourth module – on the third and final part of the *Instrumentum Laboris* (the Working Document) – emphasised the need to engage the work “with the same decision and energy” that has characterized the assembly so far.

Cardinal Hollerich, *pictured below*, noted that this module is focused on “Places”, with the fundamental idea that “the Church cannot be understood without being rooted in a place and a culture” (Working Document, 80). Explaining each section of this part of the document, he said that now, more than in the past, the idea of place “has much less of a spatial and geographic connotation than in the past, not least due to globalism and the new digital reality”. He asked Synod participants to consider what this means for the Church's mission, and how we should “rethink” the organisational forms of the Church.

The Working Document's next paragraphs, Cardinal Hollerich said, deal with the relationships between places and cultures, and especially among the local Churches, including the Eastern Catholic Churches. Within the Church, these relationships have the character of a mutual exchange of gifts. He noted that relationships exist between the local Churches and the universal Church, and within each local Church.



Voices from the Synod

‘Action of Jesus is placed before us’

In Rome, Sister Gloria Liliana Franco Echeverri, *pictured below*, president of the Latin American Confederation of Religious Men and Women, said that the assembly's reflections “place before us the action of Jesus”, the evangelical values and style that must permeate Synodality. She highlighted the need for meaningful formation based on committed witness, undertaken with others in a way that “allows us to adopt the style of Jesus”. She spoke about discernment, which offers the possibility of determining what the Holy Spirit is asking of the Church. To this end, she emphasised the importance of participatory structures throughout the Church. Finally, Sister Liliana took note of the discussions around the concepts of transparency and culture, not so much as tools, but as a culture “that must exist in the Church” and that must permeate the methods and identity of the Church.



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