



Synod 2024

NEWSLETTER



Issue Nine: Sunday, October 27, 2024

‘Now let’s apply the spirit of synodality to every problem’

The Synod on Synodality was convened “not to solve particular problems but to imagine a new way of being Church” said Cardinal Fridolin Ambongo Besungu, Archbishop of Kinshasa, Congo, at a Synod briefing in Rome.

The cardinal expressed his satisfaction with the Synod as it draws to a close. “The Synod did not deviate from the objective it had set itself, laying a

foundation: starting from it, returning each one to his own house, as well as in the universal Church, we must apply this spirit of synodality to every problem that arises,” he said.

“Our country is still considered a missionary land, our Church was until recently a missionary one, and it must adapt to the reality of the socio-cultural context,” he said, so “the convocation to

the synod was seized as a *kairós*,” a moment of grace, and an opportunity to “see together how to imagine a new way of being Church”. He said: “Together with our African brothers and sisters, will try to enter into this new dynamic, how to be a Catholic Church differently.”

The final draft of the Synod’s concluding document was presented to delegates on the morning of Saturday, October 26. The final document is expected to be published shortly. Today, Sunday, October 27, the Synod on Synodality will close with a Mass with Pope Francis in St Peter’s Basilica.



Last week, Inés de Urquidi, daughter of Synod participant José Manuel de Urquidi, celebrated her 10th birthday in the Synod hall. Cardinal Grech said: “This week we have often highlighted the importance of family, and today we celebrate because one of our members is here with his wife and daughter, whose 10th birthday is today.” Pope Francis, above with José Manuel and Inés, after giving Inés birthday greetings, said to her: “Thank you for lending your daddy to the Church.”

A resource from the Dublin Diocesan Synodal Animation Team

*Voices from
the Synod*

'A new phase for ecumenism'

Sister Nathalie Becquart shared insights about the fraternal atmosphere among the ecumenical delegates during the Synod. The Synod gives us a new image of being Church, she said, referring to the image of the Pope sitting among participants, listening, and also to the image from the ecumenical prayer service, where participants prayed together, remembering the martyrdom of St Peter. This, she said, opened a new phase for ecumenical relations and Christian unity, as this Synod introduces a new way of understanding the exercise of papal primacy and the collegiality of bishops and the entire People of God.

Praise for Digital Synod's progress

Mgr Lucio Ruiz of the Dicastery for Communication announced the dates of the Jubilee for Missionaries and Catholic Digital Influencers. It will be held on July 28 and 29, 2025, ahead of the Jubilee for Youth. He praised the work of the Digital Synod and the listening process that emerged from it, and said significant progress has been made. He noted that a "Church that goes forth" is made up of disciples who seek out others to encounter, heal and proclaim.

University students' questions for leaders

Approximately 140 university students, mainly from North America, gathered on Friday, October 18, in the Paul VI Hall for a dialogue with some of the Synod participants. The event included a series of questions posed by the students and answered by a panel led by Cardinal Mario Grech.

Asia Chan from Trinidad & Tobago asked how the Church could improve future consultations to ensure more voices are heard. Cardinal Grech noted that while there is room for improvement, this Synod has involved more people than previous ones. He also noted that this time more than 20,000 people participated digitally.

Sondra, a student from San Francisco, raised concerns about how the emphasis on experience in the Synodal process might affect faithfulness to Tradition and Truth.

She was reassured that synodality does not compromise the Church's mission to proclaim the Gospel. Bishop Daniel Flores, Bishop of Brownsville, Texas, told Sondra: "The church has been messy for 2,000 years, but the Spirit keeps it together. I do not worry that the faith of the Church will be compromised if we listen to each other."

The full event can be watched on YouTube – search for "University Students in Dialogue with Synod Leaders".



Delegates at the "University Students in Dialogue with Synod Leaders" event.

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