

From: Joanna Helme joannahelme@gmail.com
Subject: Fwd: #SynodAssemblyNewsletter | Issue - 01 (EN)
Date: 12 October 2023 at 17:12
To: Tricia Carter triciacarter2691@gmail.com

Dear Tricia,
Is it possible to have a link to this Synod update on the website? Or would it be easier to forward it to parishioners?!!
Yours,
Joanna

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Media Team || 16th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops** <media@synod.va>
Date: Thu, 12 Oct 2023, 17:10
Subject: #SynodAssemblyNewsletter | Issue - 01 (EN)
To: Joanna Helme <joannahelme@gmail.com>



Newsletter - Issue 01 - Also available in [FR](#) - [PT](#) - [ES](#) - [IT](#)



Ecumenical Prayer Vigil Marks Eve of the Assembly of Synod

Thousands of faithful united with Pope Francis and the leaders of major Christian denominations joined in an ecumenical prayer vigil on the eve of the General Assembly of the Synod, at St Peter's Square, Rome, September 30.

The ecumenical meeting was attended by, among other religious leaders, Bartholomew I, Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, and Archbishop Justin Welby, Primate of the Anglican Church.

For further information visit
together2023.com



RETREAT DAYS - SYNOD

PRAY FOR THE SYNOD

The 16th
General Ordinary Assembly
of the Synod of Bishops

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Synod Assembly Kicks Off With Three-days Retreat

Following an ecumenical prayer vigil, members, delegates and special invitees for the XVI General Ordinary Assembly of the Synod of Bishops went for a three-days retreat, September 30-October 3, at *Fraterna Domus Retreat*

Centre, Sacrofano, Rome, where Fr. Timothy Radcliff of the Dominican Order and Sr Maria Ignazia Angelini, a Benedictine nun, led them through various reflections. On his part, Fr Radcliffe insisted on faith, hope and unity as the attitude necessary for a fruitful synodal assembly and as well as friendship and being at home with God and with one another. On her part, Sr Maria reminded the participants to put their trust in God and for the Church to extend her arms open like Jesus on the Cross.

You can find link to the reflections of Fr. Timothy Radcliff and Sr. Maria Ignazia Angelini [here](#).

The Synod of round tables



In this assembly, the synod hall has a different layout from what used to be in the other synods before. The amphitheatre format used in other synod assemblies has been abandoned and the use of round tables has been adopted, where 12 people at each table sit side by side, face to face, eye to eye, comprising of bishops, priests, Religious men and women and lay men and women. They are brought together by the common languages in which they can communicate, so that they can dialogue and discern together. The panel of the Risen Christ by Nervi and the Salus Populi Romani icon have been used to decorate the 'new' Synod Hall, where the Working Groups and the General Congregations will take place.

[More Photos](#)



Thank you!

Pope Francis

During the press conference on his return from Mongolia, the Holy Father said that the Synod "... is not a television program where we talk about everything." At the Ecumenical Vigil on September 29, silence was heard in an impactful way, for many minutes, between songs and intercessions, and it was also the theme of Pope Francis' meditation.

"Silence is essential in the life of the believer," said Pope Francis in the inaugural session of the Synod, calling on the synod participants for a "fast from public speaking". He asks all participants in the assembly for active silence, that which leads to serenity, which prepares to receive the spirit and which gives presence to the concrete word that seeks not only unity, but harmony.

Pope who acknowledges the importance role of the media and repeatedly thanks them for their service but he also urges them to do their job well by safeguarding the religious dimension of life, protecting the freedom of the people who speak and preserving the synodal atmosphere" of the assembly as a religious moment, a moment of religious exchange.

Opening Speech By Pope Francis

At the opening ceremony for the Synodal assembly at Paul VI Hall, October 4, 2023, Pope Francis welcomed the over 400 participants, experts and facilitators and reminded them that synod is an expression of the Church. According to the Holy Father, walking together is the Church's nature and mission. Therefore, a synod is an opportunity for the Church to show to the world her relationship with the Holy Spirit, an opportunity to become a listening Church, a church of closeness and compassion. It also a moment that as people of God, without leaving anyone behind, we let our problems come out in dialogue without fear, trying to hide or to justify ourselves.

For more information, see full text from the link [here](#)....



On October 9, Assembly Transits To Module 2

On October 7, 2023, the synod assembly finished the first module during which according to the *Instrumentum Laboris*, in working groups, for 3 days, participants shared their experiences of the synodal journey and what they considered as characteristic of a synodal church. On October 9, the assembly transited into the second module which took place for three days and half. During this time, participants have once again be in Working Groups but this time, groups of interest to delve into the questions on communion, participation and mission as raised in part B of the *Instrumentum Laboris*. Explaining the groups of interest, the Relator of the Synod Cardinal Jean Claude Hollerich said that these groups will be according to the participants preferred language and topic of interest, but using the same methodology of Spiritual Conversation.

For all texts of the first two module see: [here](#).

How to Follow What Is Happening at the Synod?

Together with the various Vatican media, the assembly's information and communication commissions have organized various moments to follow the work of the synod assembly. Everyone can follow the public session and briefings through the [VaticanNews](#)



Testimonies

Through the daily briefings and our social networks, participants tell you about their experience of the Synodal Assembly. Featured are the testimonies of

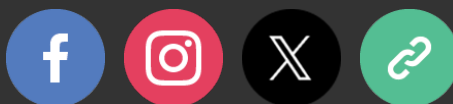


**Cardinal Fridolin Ambongo
Besungu, President of Secam; Sr
Leticia Salazar, ODN**



**Cardinal Joseph William Tobin,
Archbishop of Newark and Sr
Gloria Liliana Franco Echeverri,
President of CLAR**

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