

ENGLISH

Towards a constitutively synodal and missionary Church. *Synodality is missionary and the mission is synodal.*

(Rafael Luciani)

Content

1. The *People of God* as a synodal and missionary subject
2. The Sacramental Character of a *Synodal Church in Mission*
3. The *People of God* in one place and within the global ecclesial polyhedron
4. New co-responsible relational modes for a shared mission
5. Communicative dynamics that make Church in the light of the *sensus fidei* of the People of God.

Abstract

Synodality is missionary and mission is synodal. Inspired by this relationship, the conference offers some criteria that help to understand and build a *Church that is constitutively synodal and missionary*. The ecclesiology of the People of God, stemming from the Second Vatican Council, which recognizes the fundamental equality of all the faithful by virtue of their baptismal dignity, is explored in depth. Two key concepts emerge from this: the participation of the entire People of God and the co-responsible exercise of each vocation in the mission of the Church. The figure of a *synodal Church in mission* emerges, activating in synergy the ministries, gifts and charisms of all to discern the new paths of the evangelizing mission, especially in the peripheries of our time.

Today, the maturation of the ecclesiology of the People of God that has been lived in the synodal journey puts into practice the theology of the *sensus fidei fidelium*, with communicative and relational dynamics that allow us to listen and discern what the Spirit is asking of us. These include consultation, listening, dialogue, common discernment, counsel, decision-making and accountability. This ecclesial model is based on the coexistence of a diversity of subjects, modes of relationship, communicative dynamics, genres, ministries and charisms, discerning together the mission of the People of God.

Another aspect of a synodal and missionary Church is its sacramental nature, being a sign and instrument of unity among all human beings and cultures in order to make present the Kingdom of God, especially among the poor. In a world marked by exclusion, inequity, polarization and deinstitutionalization, synodality is perhaps the best contribution the Church can make to society, being a prophetic sign of communion in diversity and of building the common good. Discernment of the new epoch in which we live is essential to configure the evangelizing mission of the Church today, placing synodality at the service of mission as a sacrament of unity of the human race.

From all this arise great challenges for the realization of the Church's evangelizing mission today, since many ecclesial institutions and mentalities, which arose from an earlier cultural world, no longer fit into the new emerging cultural context. The current institutional form of the Church must evolve in order to avoid new breakdowns in the transmission of the faith. In this context, we ask ourselves if we want to make the dream of a *synodal Church in mission* a reality. We must be aware, as Pope Francis reminds us, that "synodality expresses the nature of the Church, its form, its style and its mission (...), thus avoiding that we consider it to be one title among others". This transformation is essential for the Church to be able to continue her evangelizing mission with prophecy in this third millennium.

Brief abstract for Conferences

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