



Synod 2021-2023.

"All the baptized, whatever their position in the Church or their level of instruction in the faith, are agents of evangelization, and it would be insufficient to envisage a plan of evangelization to be carried out by professionals while the rest of the faithful would simply be passive recipients."
(Papa Francisco, Evangelii gaudium, 120)

To the National Executive Council

Dear friends:

On 9-10 October 2021 in Rome, Pope Francis launched the Synod -walking together- whose theme is *"For a Synodal Church: communion, participation and mission"*. The journey presented for this process consists of three phases. The first phase, which we have begun, is aimed at consulting the entire People of God, listening to all the baptized who wish to contribute to this process. This is time for listening, reflection, contribution, and discernment.

From the World Executive Council, we would like to share with you this letter. We invite you to read this carefully, with its two parts: **A) Context and B) Consultation.**

A) Context

Pope Francis, at the opening mass on 10 October¹, dwelt on the importance of three verbs: *to encounter; to listen; to discern.*

"To encounter: The Lord always makes himself available for an encounter. He knows that someone's life can be changed by a single encounter. we too are called to become experts in the art of encounter. Time to devote to prayer and to adoration – that form of prayer that we so often neglect – devoting time to adoration, and to hearing what the Spirit wants to say to the Church. Every encounter calls for openness, courage, and a willingness to let ourselves be challenged by the presence and the stories of others

To listen: he Spirit asks us to listen to the questions, concerns and hopes of every Church, people, and nation. And to listen to the world, to the challenges and changes that it sets before us. How good is the "hearing" of our heart?

To discern: Encounter and listening are not ends in themselves, leaving everything just as it was before. he Synod is a process of spiritual discernment, of ecclesial discernment, that unfolds in adoration, in prayer and in dialogue with the word of God. That word summons us to discernment and it brings light to that process. It guides the Synod, preventing it from becoming a Church convention,, a parliament, but rather a grace-filled event."

¹ <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/homilies/2021/documents/20211010-omelia-sinodo-vescovi.html>



As a Christian Life Community, we celebrated at our last General Assembly in Buenos Aires, being a gift to the Church and to the world. This makes us co-responsible for the life of the Church and its mission. We are invited to respond with joy, generosity, and a willing heart, contributing to the joyful proclamation of the gospel.

B) Consultation

We acknowledge with gratitude that all the faithful, all dioceses and all associations are invited to participate in this synodal process and therefore assume that many CLC members will contribute through the various channels proposed in the local Church.

We as the World Executive Council, want to participate by sharing the World CLC's ongoing Synodal reflections, journeys, and experiences to the Synod Secretariat in Rome. Thus, we invite all national communities to develop this broader contribution from our world community, which we wish to send to the Synod Secretariat. **We want it to be a contribution that comes from national communities. That is the very dynamic that the synod proposes.** Therefore, contributions may neither come from National Executive Councils nor from only a selected group.

Our aim is to be able to contribute to the fundamental question posed by the synodal process: *How is this "journey together" which enables the Church to proclaim the Gospel, in accordance with the mission entrusted to her, being carried out today at various levels (from the local to the universal) and what steps does the Spirit invite us to take to grow as a synodal Church?*

How do we want to proceed?

1. We invite each National Executive Council to spend a few days reading the Preparatory Document² and the Vademecum for the Synod on Synodality³.
2. Ask yourselves whether, as a national community, you want to be part of this synodal process. That is, if you are willing to create the space, take the time to pray, reflect, dialogue, and share your experiences and responses to us. This process you are invited to undertake aims to draw ideas from all possible plural and diverse ways of thinking. The call is to a synodal process, as such, reflections may not be limited to a homogeneous or a few select individuals. This is not a process that aims at individual reflections, but rather that these spaces for listening, prayer and dialogue - from which to draw proposals - be from a plural and diverse logic.

We would like to know the response of each national community. Please let us know your choice from the following possible options:

- a. We want to carry out the process that the World Executive Council invites us to do;

² <https://www.synod.va/content/dam/synod/document/common/preparatory-document/pdf-21x21/Documento-Preparatorio-EN-21.pdf>

³ <https://www.synod.va/content/dam/synod/document/common/vademecum/Vademecum-EN-A4.pdf>



- b. We want to carry out the process, but we will only do it within the diocese(s) in which we are present.
- c. We will not be part of the process as a national community, but some of our members will participate in their churches in their diocese.

We hope to have your responses by Monday 20 December 2021 (whatever it is, please let us know).

3. If the answer is yes to **option a**, then we propose that the national community **chooses three (3)** of the ten (10) thematic nuclei of the Preparatory Document. The national community may deepen these three (3) themes, which it believes to be the most important for the Church in its country and/or in the universal Church.

Along with the answer to point two (2), please let us know if you would like to receive any support to participate in the process using the spiritual conversation, e.g. (prayer sheets, webinar, other)?

4. In addition to the deepening of the three themes, the national community will also carry out a process of prayer, encounter with the Lord and with others, listening, dialogue and discernment. The synthesis of the discussions and dialogues as a result from the questions raised in the document (or others that may emerge) will be sent to the World Secretariat. We expect that the synthesis of each theme to not exceed 800 words (per theme). It is valuable to send a clear, concrete, and profound synthesis).
5. The deadline for the submission of this material to the World Secretariat cannot be later than **Sunday, 13 June 2022**. We need time to make the global synthesis and present it to the Synod Secretariat.

During these months of work, we will try to hold some workshops with people who are working in the different commissions to add to our knowledge and formation on this path that we are being invited to walk as members of the Church. We will keep you informed.

Let us ask for the grace to listen to the Spirit to guide us in this synodal process and to Mary, Our Lady of the Way, to accompany us as we go on pilgrimage.

We remain at your disposal for any questions or comments and look forward to hearing from you.

On behalf of the World Executive Council,

Manuel Martínez Arteaga
Executive Secretary

Rome, 24 November 2021

(Original : Spanish)