

The urgency of the present time: LIVING SYNODALITY

As members of the Church, we are part of the faithful and believing people of God, pilgrims who walk together in the same direction, as missionary disciples of Jesus, who is our Way, Truth and Life, called to proclaim with our lives, to all men and women of our time, the Kingdom present in our midst.

The word synodality is part of the vocabulary of Pope Francis and it expresses a renewed vision of the Church. "It is precisely this path of synodality which God expects of the Church of the third millennium. What the Lord is asking of us is already in some sense present in the very word "synod". Journeying together — laity, pastors, the Bishop of Rome — is an easy concept to put into words, but not so easy to put into practice." (Address of Pope Francis at the ceremony commemorating the 50th anniversary of the institution of the Synod of Bishops Oct 17, 2015)

Pope Francis called a new World-Synod of Bishops on the theme: **For a Synodal Church; Communion, Participation and Mission.**

The novelty of the last synods since *Amoris Laetitia* or the Amazonia Synod has been the participation of all the baptized who, gathered as the people of God, listen together and talk to each other, discern in the spirit the will of God and renew their missionary zeal.

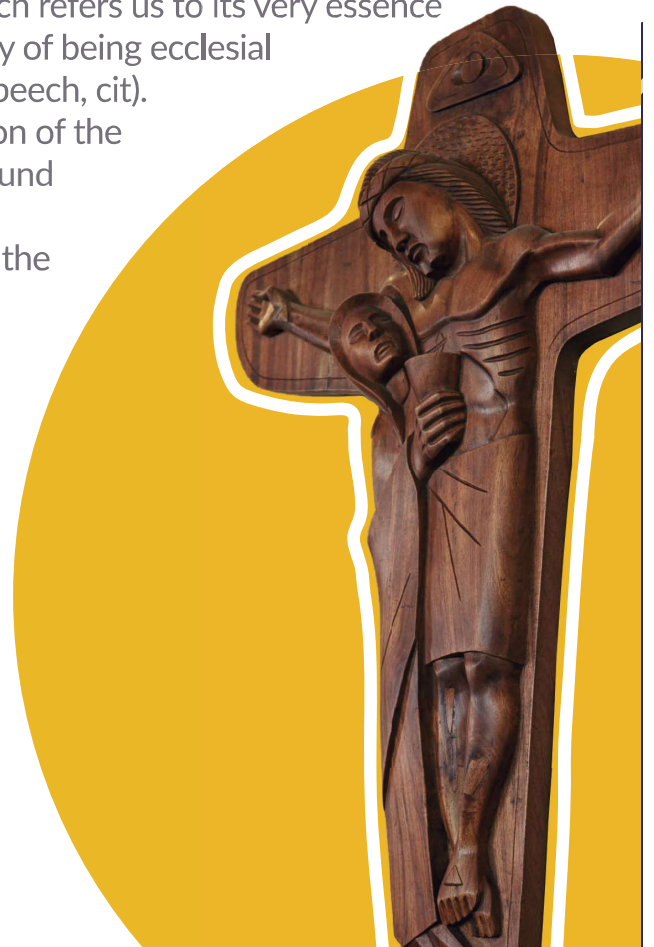
Synodality as a constitutive element of the Church refers us to its very essence and is oriented towards evangelization. It is a way of being ecclesial and a prophecy for the world (cf. Pope Francis' speech, cit).

We experience in the Church a *kairos*, an irruption of the divine, an event of grace that urges us to a profound personal and communal conversion.

In this sense, synodality is first of all an action of the Spirit that profoundly renews the Church, that transforms each one of us in our attachments, in our social life together, and that influences our criteria, feelings and choices.

Let us open our minds and hearts to this impulse that will lead us to a communal process of humble and open listening to one another in search of God's will to truly respond to the cry of humanity.

Our international chapter is an opportunity to live the hour of synodality, to journey together in fraternal communion and to gain insights in the Spirit that will fill us with a new missionary zeal.



Some contributions for our General Chapter:

- Let us listen to life through the participation of all (federation couples, communities, territorial leaders, etc.) not only through motions, but also through experiences, desires and needs with the conviction that this is an expression of the "sense of faith" that helps to discern what really comes from God.
 - A Chapter that will be a celebration of encounter and fraternal connectedness overcoming the barriers of language and cultural distances.
 - A true Cenacle, an irruption of the Spirit that gives us the experience of valuing the richness of the different originalities and of living communion in all the discussions and decisions that will be taken.
 - May we return to our homes transformed because we have become more brothers and sisters, more disciples of the Lord, so that, moved by concrete charity, we can go out to meet all people.
 - May we never stop walking towards a constant conversion that yearns for and opens itself to the transforming and sanctifying action of God's presence.
- Mary of the Covenant, Mother of our Family Federation, gather us in fraternal community in the expectation of the Holy Spirit.

Mario and Marines Martínez, Territorial Leader Couple Argentina

