



SECRETARIA GENERALIS
SYNODI



XVI General Ordinary
Assembly of the
Synod of Bishops

[Original text: French]

XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops Ecumenical Prayer

11 October 2024 - 7.00 p.m.

“Among the most significant fruits of the 2021-2024 Synod is the intensity of the ecumenical impulse and the promise that marks it” (*Instrumentum Laboris* 2, 107). In fact, throughout the synod process, in the local consultations, in the continental assemblies, and in the First Session of the XVI Assembly, the call to continue along the path of unity and ecumenical relationships has been increasingly strong.

For this reason, the Holy Father decided to increase the number of fraternal delegates: the Second Session in October 2024 will welcome **16 representatives** from other Churches and Christian Communion instead of last year's 12.

In the wake of the ecumenical prayer vigil ‘Together’, held on 30 September 2023 on the eve of the opening of the Synod and recognised by many as a historic moment, it has been decided to offer a moment of ecumenical prayer during this Second Session for all participants in the Synod, in the presence of the Holy Father and the fraternal delegates, as well as other ecumenical representatives present in Rome.

This ecumenical prayer will be held on **11 October 2024** from 7.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m. not far from the Synod Hall, in **Piazza of the Protomartyrs**, the place where, according to an immemorial tradition, the Apostle Peter was martyred.

The date chosen is also particularly symbolic, as it marks the anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council, which took place on 11 October 1962. This prayer will be an opportunity to give thanks for all the ecumenical fruits that have developed in the Council's wake, marking 60 years since the publication of the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church *Lumen Gentium* and the Decree on Ecumenism *Unitatis Redintegratio* (21 November 1964).

This prayer was prepared by a team from the General Secretariat of the Synod and the Dicastery for the Promotion of Christian Unity with brothers from the Taizé Community. The latter, as they did last year for ‘Together’, are also offering those who wish the opportunity to organise local ecumenical prayers in connection with this prayer during the Synod.

The prayer will be broadcast live by the Vatican media.