



SECRETARIA GENERALIS
SYNODI



XVI General Ordinary
Assembly of the
Synod of Bishops

[Original text: Italian]

**Four “theological-pastoral forums”
to deepen some themes
addressed by the Assembly of the Synod of Bishops**

ON WEDNESDAY 9 and WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER 2024, as part of the work of the Second Session of the XVI General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, four “theological-pastoral forums” will be held **from 6:00 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.** The four meetings, **open to the public**, will address, from different perspectives, various aspects of four themes relevant to the Assembly's journey.

On each of the days indicated, two forums will be held simultaneously, in two different venues:

- **Aula Magna of the Pontifical Patristic Institute *Augustinianum***, Via Paolo VI, 25 - 00193 Rome.
- **Aula Magna of the Generalate of the Society of Jesus**, Borgo Santo Spirito, 4 - 00193 Rome.

The four topics chosen for the forums are of particular relevance for understanding the Church’s missionary, synodal life. Present at each forum will be: two theologians (a man and a woman), a man or woman expert in canon law, and a bishop. Each Forum will unfold in two parts: a) short presentation by the speakers (four or five, each for 10/15 minutes); b) questions from the audience and answers by the speakers.

The names and profiles of the speakers will be published in due course on the synod.va website

Wednesday 9 October, 6-7.45 p.m.

- 1. People of God as Subject of the Mission** (Venue: Augustinianum)
- 2. The Role and Authority of the Bishop in a Synodal Church** (venue: Jesuit Curia Hall)

Wednesday 16 October, 6-7.45 p.m.

- 3. The Mutual Relationship Local Church-Universal Church** (Venue: Jesuit Curia Hall)
- 4. The Exercise of the Primacy and the Synod of Bishops** (venue: Augustinianum)

The forums are intended to be moments of in-depth study for the participants of the XVI Assembly, offering them a synthetic yet sufficiently documented understanding of the four theological-pastoral themes mentioned above. They will also indicate the varied approaches and sensitivities with which, from the perspective of Catholic theology, they can be interpreted and developed.

The forums also respond to the need, which emerged at the *First Session* of the XVI Assembly, to continue the theological, canonical and pastoral deepening of the meaning of synodality for the different aspects of the Church’s faith (cf. *Synthesis Report*, 1.j) and to offer theologians and canonists the opportunity to contribute to the work of the Assembly (cf. *Synthesis Report*, 20.g).

The forums are intended, first and foremost, for all participants in the Assembly (members, special guests, fraternal delegates, experts). Journalists accredited to the Holy See Press Office are also invited. Other interested persons may attend, according to available space. Registration, in the manner that will be indicated in due course, will be required for anyone who wants to participate.