



SECRETARIA GENERALIS SYNODI  
DICASTERIUM PRO CLERICIS  
DICASTERIUM PRO ECCLESIIS ORIENTALIBUS  
DICASTERIUM PRO EVANGELIZATIONE

**International Meeting of Parish Priests  
Sacrofano (Rome), 29 April - 2 May 2024**

## **Parish priests for the Synod**

**HOW TO BE A SYNODAL *LOCAL* CHURCH ON  
MISSION?**

Meeting coordinator

**H.E. Monsignor Luis MARÍN DE SAN MARTÍN, O.S.A.**  
*Undersecretary of the General Secretariat of the Synod*

Experts accompanying the work

H.E. Msgr. Pablo Virgilio DAVID (Philippines)  
Rev. Benedict NDUBUEZE EJEH (Nigeria)  
Most Rev. Mons. Tomáš HALÍK (Czech Republic)  
Rev. Gilles ROUTHIER (Canada)  
Dr María Lía ZERVINO (Argentina)

**PROGRAM**

**Sunday 28 April**

**DAY OF ARRIVAL**

**Shuttle departures for Sacrofano**

*From Fiumicino airport (in front of the State Ceremonial, at the end of Terminal 3) at various times.*

*From the square in front of the Aula Nervi in the Vatican (Entrance of the Petriano - Sant'Uffizio) at 4.30 p.m.*

6:30 p.m.

**Celebration of the Eucharist**

*Those who will have been unable to celebrate because of the journey will be able to celebrate the Eucharist together.*

*Priests are asked to bring an alb and stole.*

7:30 p.m.

**Dinner**

*A buffet will be available from 7:30-10 p.m.*

9.30 p.m.

**Short Welcome**

**Monday 29 April**  
**THE FACE OF THE SYNODAL CHURCH**

*Experiences and understanding of synodality  
in the life of the parish and diocese/eparchy*

"Synodality can be understood as Christians walking in communion with Christ toward the Kingdom along with the whole of humanity. Its orientation is towards mission, and its practice involves gathering in assembly at each level of ecclesial life. It involves reciprocal listening, dialogue, community discernment, and creation of consensus as an expression that renders Christ present in the Holy Spirit, each taking decisions in accordance with their responsibilities." (*Synthesis Report*, hereafter SR, 1, h). "The many expressions of synodal life in cultural contexts where people are used to walking together as a community" (SR 1, l).

***What experiences of a synodal Church have I had in my ministry as a parish priest? Which ones have been happy and which ones less so? What understanding of synodality have I been able to mature through them?***

- From 7:00 a.m.      *Breakfast*
- 8:00 a.m.      **Opening prayer** (*in the hall*)
- 8:15 a.m.      **Opening greetings**  
Moderator: Cardinal Mario GRECH, *Secretary General of the General Secretariat of the Synod*
- Cardinal Lazarus YOU HEUNG-SIK, *Prefect of the Dicastery for the Clergy*
  - Cardinal Luis Antonio TAGLE, *Pro-Prefect of the Section for First Evangelisation and the New Particular Churches of the Dicastery for Evangelisation*
  - Cardinal Claudio GUGEROTTI, *Prefect of the Dicastery for the Oriental Churches*
- 8:30 a.m.      **Presentation of the meeting**  
H.E. Monsignor Luis MARÍN DE SAN MARTÍN, O.S.A., *Under-Secretary of the General Secretariat of the Synod*
- Where are we on the synodal path?**  
P. Giacomo COSTA, S.I., *Special Secretary of the 16th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops*
- 9:00 a.m.      **Introduction to the issue of the day: *The face of a Synodal Church*** (RdS, Part 1)  
*Various expert-accompanists intervene with a spiritual or theological contribution.  
Best-practices related to the theme of the day are presented.*
- 9:45 a.m.      **Introduction to Conversation in the Spirit**  
Sr. Nathalie BECQUART, X.M.C.J., *Under-Secretary of the General Secretariat of the Synod*
- 10:15 a.m.      *Coffee Break*
- 10:45 a.m.      **Synodal conversation in working groups**  
*Participants will be divided into small working groups, each led by a facilitator.*
- 1:00 p.m.      *Lunch*
- 3:00 p.m.      **Plenary presentation of group work**  
Moderator: Rev. Riccardo BATTOCCHIO, *Special Secretary of the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops*
- Some groups will share their work followed by a dialogue with the expert-accompanists.*
- 4:30 p.m.      *Coffee Break*
- 5:00 p.m.      **Plenary presentation of group work continues**
- 6:00 p.m.      **Return to the small groups**
- 6:45 p.m.      **Celebration of the Eucharist in Spanish**  
*Priests are asked to bring with them an alb and stole.*
- 8:00 p.m.      *Dinner*
- 9:00 p.m.      **Recreation / community sharing:** *Each participant is invited to bring typical products from their own country to share with the group.*

**Tuesday 30 April**  
**ALL DISCIPLES ALL MISSIONARIES**

*The participation of different charisms, vocations, ministries  
in the life of the parish and diocese/eparchy*

"Rather than saying that the Church has a mission, we affirm that Church 'is' mission. [...] The sacraments of Christian initiation confer on all the disciples of Jesus the responsibility for the mission of the Church. Laymen and laywomen, those in consecrated life, and ordained ministers have equal dignity. They have received different charisms and vocations and exercise different roles and functions, but all are called and nourished by the Holy Spirit to form one body in Christ (1 Cor. 4-31). They are all disciples, all missionaries, in the reciprocal vitality of local communities who experience the delightful and comforting joy of evangelizing. The exercise of co-responsibility is essential for synodality and is necessary at all levels of the Church. Each Christian is a mission on this earth." (RdS 8, a-b).

***In my ministry as a parish priest, how have I experienced the participation of different charisms, vocations, ministries in the life of the parish and diocese/eparchy? What insights and questions have they occasioned in me? In my local context, what significant experiences have we had of parish communities contributing to the life and mission of the local Church (diocese or eparchy) to which they belong? What have we learned from these experiences?***

*From*

7:00 a.m. *Breakfast*

8:00 a.m. **Prayer**

8:30 a.m. **Introduction to the issue of the day: *All disciples all missionaries*** (RdS, Part 2)

*Various expert-accompanists intervene with a spiritual or theological contribution.  
Best-practices related to the theme of the day are presented.*

9:30 a.m. **Time for meditation and personal prayer**

10:00 a.m. **Synodal conversation in working groups**

12:45 p.m. *Lunch*

3:00 p.m. **Plenary presentation of group work**

Moderator: Rev. Dario VITALI, *Consultant to the General Secretariat of the Synod*

*Some groups will share their work followed by a dialogue with the expert-accompanists.*

4:30 p.m. *Coffee Break*

5:00 p.m. **Plenary presentation of group work continues**

6:00 p.m. **Return to the small groups**

6:45 p.m. **Celebration of the Eucharist in the Armenian rite**

*Priests are asked to bring an alb and stole.*

8:00 p.m. *Dinner*

9:00 p.m. **Moment of dialogue on the Synod and Synodality**

*In this question/answer session, participants will be able to freely submit their questions and comments to Cardinal Mario GRECH, Secretary General of the Synod and the other collaborators of the General Secretariat.*

**Wednesday 1 May**  
**TEACHING Ties, BUILDING COMMUNITIES**

*Discernment dynamics for mission and participation bodies  
in the life of the parish and diocese/eparchy*

"As members of the faithful People of God, all the baptised are co-responsible for mission, each according to his or her vocation, competence and experience. Therefore, all contribute to imagining and discerning steps to reform Christian communities and the Church as a whole. In this way, the Church experiences "the sweet and comforting joy of evangelising." The purpose of synodality, in the composition and functioning of the bodies in which it takes shape, is mission. Co-responsibility is for mission: this attests that we are truly gathered in the name of Jesus, this frees the bodies of participation from bureaucratic limitations and worldly logics of power, and makes gathering fruitful." (RdS 18 a).

***In my ministry as a parish priest, how have I experienced of the dynamics of ecclesial discernment? Which ones have been happy and which ones difficult? What lessons do I draw from them?***

***In my local context, how do participatory bodies function at the parish level? And at diocesan or eparchy level? What signs of hope do I recognise there?***

*From*

7:00 a.m. *Breakfast*

8:00 a.m. **Prayer**

8:30 a.m. **Introduction to the issue of the day: *Weaving ties, building community* (RdS, part 3)**

*Various expert-accompanists intervene with a spiritual or theological contribution.  
Best-practices related to the theme of the day are presented.*

9:30 a.m. **Time for meditation and personal prayer**

10:00 a.m. **Synodal conversation in working groups**

12:45 p.m. *Lunch*

3:00 p.m. **Plenary presentation of group work**

Moderator: Rev. Giuseppe BONFRATE, *Consultant to the General Secretariat of the Synod*

*Some groups will share their work followed by a dialogue with the expert-accompanists.*

4:30 p.m. *Coffee Break*

5:00 p.m. **Plenary presentation of group work continues**

6:00 p.m. **Return to the small groups**

6:45 p.m. **Celebration of the Eucharist in English**

*Priests are asked to bring an alb and stole.*

8:00 p.m. *Dinner*

9:00 p.m. **Free evening**

**Thursday 2 May**  
**DIALOGUE WITH POPE FRANCIS**

"As an older brother and a father, I too would like in this letter to thank you in the name of the holy and faithful People of God for all that you do for them, and to encourage you never to forget the words that the Lord spoke with great love to us on the day of our ordination. Those words are the source of our joy: "I no longer call you servants... I call you friends" (Jn 15:15)." (*Letter of Pope Francis to Priests on the occasion of the 160th anniversary of the death of the holy Curé d'Ars*).

***In my ministry as a pastor for a missionary synodal Church, what do I wish to share and ask of the Holy Father?***

*From*

6:30 a.m.     *Breakfast*

7:30 a.m.     **Departure from Sacrofano**

*Participants vacate their rooms, taking their luggage with them.*

10:00 a.m.   **Meeting-dialogue with the Holy Father** (New Synod Hall, Vatican)

12:00 p.m.   **Celebration of the Eucharist at the Altar of the Chair in St. Peter's Basilica**

Cardinal Mario GRECH presides. Cardinal Lazzaro YOU HEUNG-SIK, Cardinal Luis Antonio TAGLE and Cardinal Claudio GUGEROTTI concelebrate.

*Priests are asked to bring an alb and stole.*

1:30 p.m.     *Packed lunch*

2:00 p.m.     **Visit** (advance booking required) to St Peter's Basilica and the Vatican Gardens

**DEPARTURES**

After the visit, some shuttles will leave from the square in front of Casa 'Santa Marta' bound for the airports in Rome.