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GIUBILEO delle *Equipe sinodali*
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Rapporto dell'Asia (FABC)

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The praxis of synodality, walking together as a Church in communion, participation, and mission, has found fertile ground in Asia, a continent marked by religious pluralism, cultural diversity, and complex socio-political realities. While the Synod on Synodality has global significance, its impact in Asia is particularly profound due to the region's unique ecclesial and societal contexts.

Impact of Synodality in Asia

1. Renewed Emphasis on Dialogue

In a region where Christians are often minorities, synodality has deepened the Church's commitment to interreligious and intercultural dialogue. Dialogue is not optional but essential for peaceful coexistence. The synodal process has encouraged local churches to engage more deeply with their neighbors, fostering mutual understanding and harmony.

2. Empowerment of the Laity

Synodality has elevated the role of laypeople, especially women and youth, in Church leadership and decision-making. By affirming baptismal dignity and charisms, it promotes inclusive participation at all levels of ecclesial life.

3. Strengthening Local Churches

The synodal journey has encouraged local churches to articulate their unique challenges and experiences, leading to more contextualized theology and pastoral approaches rooted in the lived realities of Asian communities.

4. Spiritual Renewal

Listening and discernment have sparked spiritual awakenings in many dioceses. Basic Christian Communities are embracing a spirituality of communion, integrating into Basic Human and Ecological Communities. Positive feedback from Conversations in the Spirit continues to emerge during this implementation phase.

5. Digital Engagement

Digital platforms have become vital tools for consultation, catechesis, and community building, especially among youth. These technologies enable broader participation and amplify voices from diverse contexts.

6. Walking together as the Church in Asia:

The synodal process has unfolded alongside the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences (FABC) 50th anniversary, strengthening continental bonds and inspiring deeper collaboration across Asia.

Challenges of Synodality in Asia

1. Conceptual Ambiguity

The term “synodality” remains difficult to translate and communicate across Asia’s diverse linguistic and cultural landscapes, leading to confusion and uneven understanding. Clericalism and Resistance to Change

Some clergy perceive synodality as a threat to traditional authority, creating resistance that hinders effective implementation and inclusive participation.

2. Formation and Capacity Building

There is a pressing need for trained facilitators and broader formation among clergy, religious, and laity. Without this, synodal engagement risks being superficial or misunderstood.

3. Minority Status and Political Pressures

In areas facing religious extremism or political constraints, public expressions of synodality are limited, affecting the Church’s ability to fully live out its mission.

4. Structural Limitations

Many dioceses lack the infrastructure to sustain synodal practices. Embedding synodality into parish life requires structural renewal and a shift in mindset toward participatory leadership.

5. Inequality

Economic and technological divides risk excluding the poor and marginalized. Some synod reports reveal that these groups feel the Church is not walking closely enough with them.

Synodality in Asia is both a gift and a task. It offers a transformative vision for the Church, rooted in communion and mission, while also demanding courage, creativity, and commitment to overcome deep-seated challenges. As Asian churches continue this journey, their experiences will enrich the global Church’s understanding of what it truly means to walk together in faith.

Synodal Experiences from the Implementation Phase

1. Long-term Pastoral Planning

Dioceses are developing long-term pastoral roadmaps inspired by synodal principles. Examples include India’s *Mission 2033 and Pilgrims of Hope*, Thailand’s national framework, and the Philippines’ Synodal Implementation Framework, all reflecting strategic clarity and shared mission.

2. Engaging Key Stakeholders

Key gatherings with seminary rectors (Bangkok, April 2025), religious formators (Kuala Lumpur, August 2025), and youth ministers (Vietnam, September 2025) show a commitment to deepening formation and cultivating leadership that embodies synodality.

Question to the Holy Father

Holy Father, what message would you like to share with the Churches of Asia to encourage their synodal conversion?