



Together

Gathering of the People of God

29 September – 1 October 2023

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Why this Gathering?

As part of the synodal process of the Catholic Church, this 'Gathering of the People of God' is intended to manifest the desire to increase the visible unity of Christians 'on the way'. Here is an excerpt from the presentation of the project published on www.together2023.net:

“Through baptism and the Scriptures, are we not sisters and brothers in Christ, united in a communion that is still imperfect but nevertheless real? Is it not Christ who calls us and opens a way for us to go forward with him as fellow travellers, together with those who live on the margins of our societies? On this journey, in a dialogue that reconciles, we want to remember that we need each other, not so that we might be stronger together but as a contribution to peace in the human family. In gratitude for this growing sense of communion, we can find the momentum needed to meet today’s challenges faced with the polarisations that fracture the human family and the cry of the earth. In encounter and mutual listening, let us walk together as the people of God.”

Genesis of the project

In October 2021, Brother Alois, prior of Taizé, was invited to speak at the opening of the Synod of Bishops on synodality in Rome. Addressing the participants, he remarked amongst other things:

“It seems to me desirable that there should be on the synodal journey moments to breathe, like halts, to celebrate the unity already achieved in Christ and to make this visible. (...) Would it be possible that one day, in the course of the synodal process, not only delegates but the people of God, not only Catholics but believers from the various Churches to be invited to a large ecumenical gathering? For through baptism and the Scriptures, are we not sisters and brothers in Christ, united in a communion that is still imperfect but nevertheless real, even when theological questions remain unanswered. (...) We would discover that by being united in Christ, we can become peacemakers.”

Partners involved in the preparation

The initiative of this “Gathering of the People of God” is realised in collaboration with more than fifty ecclesial partners (such as churches and ecclesial federations, communities and movements, youth ministry services) of all denominational origins involved on the initiative of the Taizé community and in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Synod of Rome, the Dicastery for the Promotion of Christian Unity, the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life and the Vicariate of Rome. The full list of partners involved is available via the event website: www.together2023.net.

The Gathering in brief

Young people aged 18 to 35 from different European countries, and from all Christian traditions, are invited to come to Rome from the afternoon of Friday 29 September to the afternoon of Sunday 1 October for a weekend of sharing.

At the centre of this weekend of sharing, an ecumenical prayer vigil will take place in Rome on 30 September 2023, in the presence of Pope Francis and representatives of various Churches.

As of 4 September, more than 3,000 young adults aged 18 to 35 have registered to participate. Among the most represented European countries: Poland (470), France (400), Spain (280), Hungary (220), Germany (120), Austria (110) and Switzerland (100).

Smaller delegations will come from a total of 43 countries, including Egypt, Vietnam, Malaysia, Korea, the United States, the Dominican Republic. You can still register online at www.together2023.net until September 10.

Many Italians from Rome, Lazio and other regions of Italy will also be present.

Programme

• Friday September 29

Friday will be dedicated to welcoming young people to the communities and families in the diocese of Rome.

• Saturday September 30

09:00 > 11:00 Workshops in the centre of Rome. Participants will take part in several meetings in various locations in Rome. The main languages used will be Italian and English.

11:30 > 12:30 Packed lunch in the Lateran

13:00 > 14:30 Praise and worship in the Basilica of San Giovanni

14:30 > 16:00 Walk toward St. Peter's Square

15:00 > 17:00 Singing and music from all continents in St. Peter's Square

17:00 > 19:00 Ecumenical Vigil of Prayer

• Sunday October 1st

Participants will take part in Sunday celebrations in the various parishes of Rome, followed by lunch in the communities and/or with host families.

List of Workshops

Journalists interested in attending one or more workshops are requested to contact the media team (see end of document) by 27 September 2023 in order to receive special authorisation. If not authorised, journalists will not be granted entry.

1. Together, journeying and recognising Christ in the diversity of our traditions

1A | Rekindling our Christian identity as a minority Church in a challenging context

Place: Sta Maria delle grazie al Trionfale, Piazza Santa Maria delle Grazie, 5

1B | Listening to those who have no voice, so that we can hear each other and speak to the world

Place: Chiesa Valdese di Roma, piazza Cavour, Via Marianna Dionigi, 59

2. Together, building fraternity with believers of other religions...

2A | What can we experience and share with believers of Islam?

Place: PISAI, Viale di Trastevere, 89

2B | The search for fullness of life. Christian and Buddhist paths in dialogue

Place: S. Giuseppe Moscati, Via Libero Leonardi, 41

3. Together, welcoming each other across borders for a life which is more beautiful and more just...

3A | In the shoes of refugees

Place: Chiesa del Gesù, Piazza del Gesù

3B | Rome through the eyes of a refugee

Place: St Paul's within the walls, Via Napoli 58

4. Together, receiving and caring for the gift of creation

4A | Everyone alive, everyone dependent

Place: Suore della Carità di Sta Jeanne Antide, Via di Santa Maria in Cosmedin 5

5. Together, growing in humanity, whatever our gifts or vulnerabilities

5A The richness of frailty

Place: Basilica dei Santi XII Apostoli, Piazza dei Santi Apostoli, 51

5B | Together, meeting the other

Place: St. Andrew's Church of Scotland, Via Venti Settembre 7

5C | Together, growing in humanity

Place: Santa Maria in Trastevere, Piazza di Santa Maria in Trastevere

5D | Walking together along the path of dignity. Meeting with young people working to combat trafficking and exploitation.

Place: All Saints Anglican Church, Via del Babuino, 153

5E | Feeding the hungry

Place: Mensa "Giovanni Paolo II" a Colle Oppio, Via delle Sette Sale, 30

5F | Putting a roof over the heads of the homeless

Place: Ostello "Don Luigi di Liegro", Via Marsala, 109

5G | Together, taking care of the forsaken Jesus

Place: Focolare Point a Roma presso Santa Maria del Carmine, Via del Carmine, 4

6. Together, announcing Christ at the new frontiers of mission...

6A | Different perspectives on the proclamation of the Good News

Place: Chiesa della Trinità dei Monti, Piazza della Trinità dei Monti, 3

7. Together, reflecting on our faith

7A | Imagining the Church in the world today (de Lubac colloquium at the Gregorian University)

Place: Aula magna Pontificia Università Gregoriana, Piazza della Pilotta, 4

7B | Together, witnessing to the Gospel in a believable way today

Place: Chiesa dell'Ara Coeli, Scala dell'Arce Capitolina, 12

8. Together, seeking the source of communion in God in prayer

8A | Unity and fraternity in diversity

Place: Natività della Madre di Dio, Via Gallia, 162

8B | Why should we pray and how...?

Place: Santa Maria ai Monti, Via della Madonna dei Monti, 41

8C | Together, let's build peace by uniting our voices!

Place: S. Vitale, Via Nazionale, 194/b

9. Together, let us build Europe...

9A | Does synodality offer a resource for building Europe?

Place: Sede Centrale Commissione Europea, Palazzo dei Campanari, Via IV Novembre, 149

10. Together with believers from throughout the centuries through cultural journeys in Rome...

10A | San Vitale, the first church open to the public built in Rome in the early 5th century

Place: S. Vitale, Via Nazionale, 194/b

10B | The Lateran Baptistry

Place: Battistero Lateranense, Piazza di S. Giovanni in Laterano, 4

10C | Church of St Ignatius

Place: S. Ignazio, Via del Caravita, 8a

11. Together, shaping ourselves as people, as Christians

11A How can we keep moving forward in the face of uncertainty and complexity?

Place: Santa Maria degli Angeli, P.za della Repubblica

Together in the diocese of Rome

The Diocese of Rome is participating in the "Gathering of the People of God" in these ways:

Through the hospitality network that has been created thanks to some 80 parishes and religious communities opening their doors to more than 3,000 participants coming from outside Rome and abroad.

These participants will be welcomed on Friday 29 September in different host communities, where prayer vigils will be held in the evening.

On Saturday 30 September, all the parishes of Rome are invited to participate in the "Gathering of the People of God".

On Sunday, 1 October, the young people will take part in the parish celebration. This will be followed by lunch in the community or in the host families.

The invitation is extended to the 600 young Romans who participated in the WYD, to live the Together experience as an event in continuity with the WYD in Lisbon 2023.

The "Ufficio per la Pastorale giovanile" will lead one of the workshops on offer on the morning of Saturday 30 September in the centre of Rome.

For information on aspects involving the diocese of Rome:

Ufficio per le Comunicazioni Sociali

Don Stefano Cascio, collaborator +39 3402279836

Ufficio per la Pastorale Giovanile

Don Alfredo Tedesco, director +39 3284123639

The list of Roman host parishes is attached as annex file.

Website and Press contacts

For more information on the initiative **Together**

- Official event website: www.together2023.net
- Facebook / Instagram: @30Sept2023 | #Together2023
- Twitter: @Together2023

Press Contacts

- media@together2023.net / +33 7 68 89 30 10

Accreditation procedures for the press

Journalists and media operators wishing to participate in the time of Praise & Worship in the Basilica of St. John Lateran and the Ecumenical Prayer Vigil must send a request, within 24 hours of the event, through the Holy See Press Office's online accreditation system at: press.vatican.va/accreditation.

QR code for attached files

