

Vatican, 12th May 2025

Prot. N. 250083

Your Holiness, Most Blessed Father,

with profound gratitude, the General Secretariat of the Synod gives thanks to the Lord for Your election to the guidance of the Church. To You, who also preside over this Secretariat, we express from this moment our joy at walking together, supporting Your service to the communion among all the Churches.

The Synod is an ecclesial journey led by the Holy Spirit, the gift of the Risen Lord, who helps us grow as a missionary Church, constantly undergoing conversion through attentive listening to the Gospel. Convened by Pope Francis, it involves the entire People of God in a shared process, where each person contributes to discerning the steps to take, according to the charisms, vocations, and ministries received.

Having begun in 2021 with the phase of listening to the People of God, the synodal process has now completed the phase of discernment by the Pastors with the XVI General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops and with the approval of the *Final Document* by Pope Francis. The indications contained in this Document "can already now be implemented in the local Churches and groupings of Churches, taking into account different contexts, what has already been done, and what remains to be done so that the style proper to the missionary synodal Church can be ever-better learned and developed" (*Accompanying Note*). At the same time, study groups are working to submit proposals to Your Holiness with a view to making decisions that involve the entire Church.

Now that the journey continues under Your Holiness's guidance, we look with confidence to the directions You will indicate, to help the Church grow as a community attentive to listening, close to each person, capable of authentic and welcoming relationships—a home and family of God open to all: a missionary synodal Church. The General Secretariat of the Synod remains fully available to offer its service in a spirit of collaboration and obedience.

With filial affection and in prayer,

Mario Card. Grech Secretary General

Sr. Nathalie Becquart, X.M.C.J. *Undersecretary*

H.E. Msgr. Luis Marín de San Martín, O.S.A. *Undersecretary*