



Synodality

“Enabling everyone to participate is an essential ecclesial duty!”
(Preparatory Document for the Synod)



The vademecum and preparatory document described the Synod’s “act of discerning” as entailing listening to:

- people who have left the practice of the faith
- people of other faith traditions
- people of no religious belief, etc.”

(Preparatory Document 11th Oct 2021)

“Religions at the service of fraternity in our world”



“Synodality (Walking Together) at the service of fraternity in our world”

Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.”

Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

Rachamim (rechem) :
compassion (from the
intestines)

רַחֲמִים

Rachamim



- He felt sorry for them because they were harassed and rejected....(Matt.9:36)
- He took pity on them and healed those who were sick (Matt.14:14)
- I feel sorry for these people; they have been with me for three days now and have nothing to eat. (Matt.15:32)
- Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him and said to him, "I am willing. Be cleansed" (Mark 1:41)
- When the Lord saw her he felt sorry for her and said to her, "Don't cry". Then he went up and touched the bier and the bearers stood still, and he said "Young man I tell you: get up". (Luke 7:13)
- The Good Samaritan and the Prodigal Son



As the chosen of God, then, the holy people whom he loves, you are to be clothed in heart felt compassion, in generosity and humility, gentleness and patience (Col:3:12)

Belonging to a people has a strong theological value. In the history of salvation, God has saved a people. There is no full identity without belonging to a people. No one is saved alone, as an isolated individual, but God attracts us looking at the complex web of relationships that take place in the human community. God enters into this dynamic, this participation in the web of human relationships.

August 2013, INTERVIEW WITH POPE FRANCIS

by Fr Antonio Spadaro

How then are we to encounter others?

How do we listen for God in the complex web of human relationships?



Field hospital

I see clearly," the pope continues, "that the thing the church needs most today is the ability to heal wounds and to warm the hearts of the faithful; it needs nearness, proximity. I see the church as a field hospital after battle. It is useless to ask a seriously injured person if he has high cholesterol and about the level of his blood sugars! You have to heal his wounds. Then we can talk about everything else. Heal the wounds, heal the wounds.... And you have to start from the ground up.



The Church's synodal life presents itself, in particular, as diakonia in the promotion of a social, economical and political life of all peoples under the banner of justice, solidarity and peace. "God, in Christ, redeems not only the individual person, but also the social relations existing between them". The practice of dialogue and the search for effective joint solutions by which we commit ourselves to peace and justice are an absolute priority.

(ITC, Synodality , 119)



Learning Together as we walk together

How can we hear those who have left the Church, those of other faiths and those of no faith?

How can we extend our practise of synodality (walking together) beyond the Church?

What practical steps might we take?