

CANADIANS FOR A SYNODAL CHURCH



Adventures in Synodality
Fr. Raymond Lafontaine
20 November 2024



For a synodal Church
communion | participation | mission

Jubilee Prayer for Hope

Father in heaven,
may the faith you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of charity enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed hope
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators
of the seeds of the Gospel.

May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth.

May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever.

Amen.

**Our Call:
To Be Missionary Disciples &
Apostles of Synodality
in a Church of Mercy**

Local Context: A Sabbatical Journey (May-Dec 2024)

1. 33 years of priestly ministry, 8 years as episcopal vicar / director of Office of English Pastoral Services, Archdiocese of Montreal
2. Passion for pastoral vision of Pope Francis, embodied in the 2021-2024 Synodal Journey: Communion, Participation, Mission
3. Church in Saskatchewan: “walking together” as a mode of pastoral ministry and accompaniment, openness to synodal forms of governance and pastoral decision-making.
4. Working closely with Archbishop Don Bolen, diocesan staff, pastors, parish leadership teams, outreach ministries

Particular areas of growth and learning: how to become a “synodal, missionary, merciful Church”

- a) Reconciliation with Indigenous peoples
- b) Outreach to survivors of clergy sexual abuse
- c) Evangelization and parish revitalization
- d) Ecumenical and interfaith initiatives
- e) “Integral and shared formation”: initial and ongoing formation for priests, deacons, and lay ministers
- f) Catholic education and health care in a secular context
- g) Parish and diocesan re-structuring

Global Context:

April 28-May 2: Parish Priests for the Synod

**June 17-21, Nov 18-22: Formation in Communal
Apostolic Discernment, Montreal**

**July: Invitation from Synod Secretariat to serve as
Facilitator at 2nd Synodal Assembly**

Experiencing the Synod – Testimony





















#WalkingTogether



#10thSynodAssembly

#SynodOnSynodality
<https://www.synod.va>

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SYNODI



Walking Together





"A synodal church
is a listening church."







XXI Asamblea General Ordinaria
del Sínodo de los Obispos
del 2018 - 2019
2-7 octubre 2018

Rev.
**Raymond
LAFONTAINE**

ESPERTO Facilitador

sesión	R - 1 - 5	horario	ING 14-12
sesión	2 - 3 - 4	horario	ING 14-12

XXI Asamblea General Ordinaria
del Sínodo de los Obispos
del 2018 - 2019
2-7 octubre 2018

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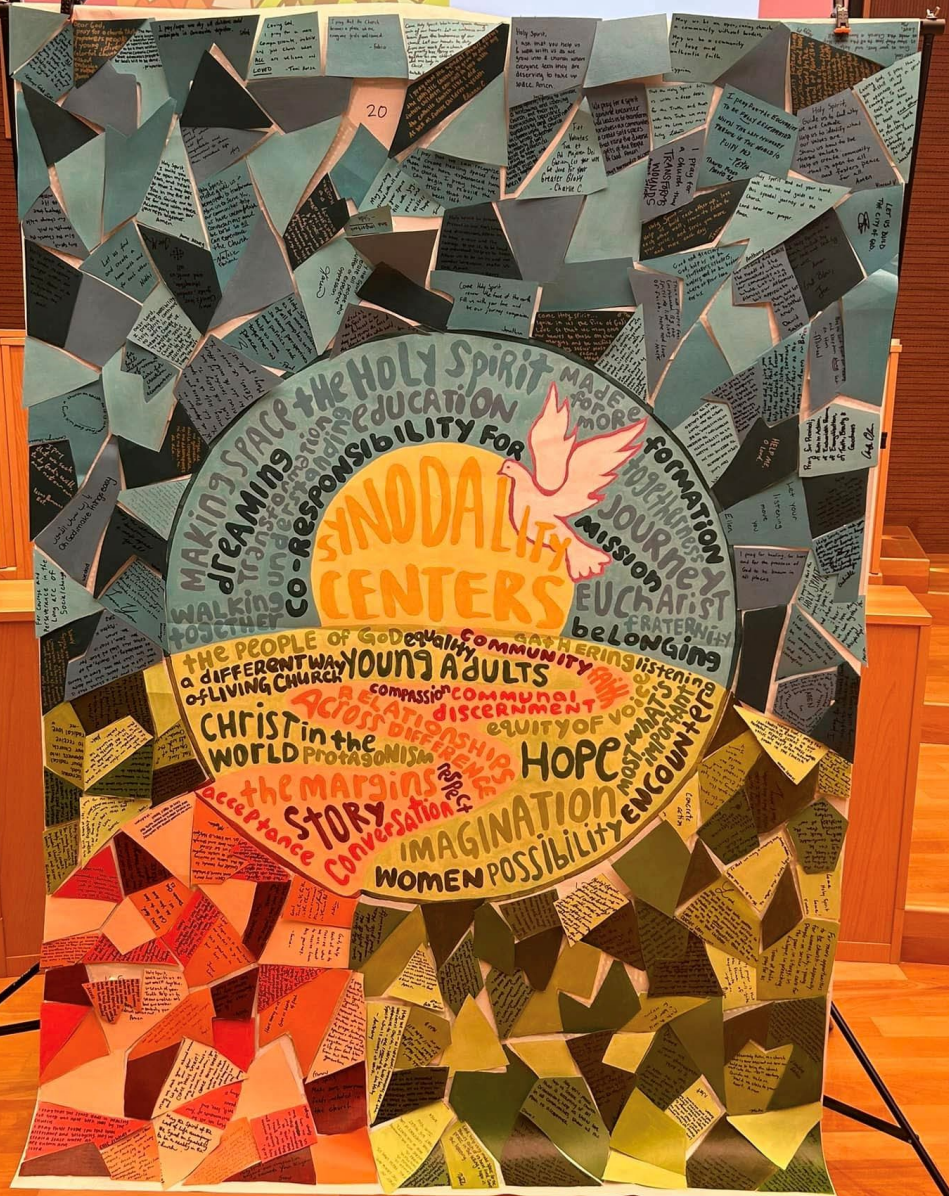








You invite us to center our dreams for a Church where we are all co-responsible for mission.
Journey with us. Lead us to trust. Show us what is right and just. Shed light when the murkiness of our present moment obscures what is truly possible.
Draw us forward - help us feel your invitation to imagine a future full of hope.



20

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What is the experience of LGBTQ Catholics?

A private, invitation-only conversation to help Synod Delegates and others understand the lived experience of this community in our church

Tuesday, 8 October 2024

Curia Generalizia della Compagnia di Gesù, Rome



















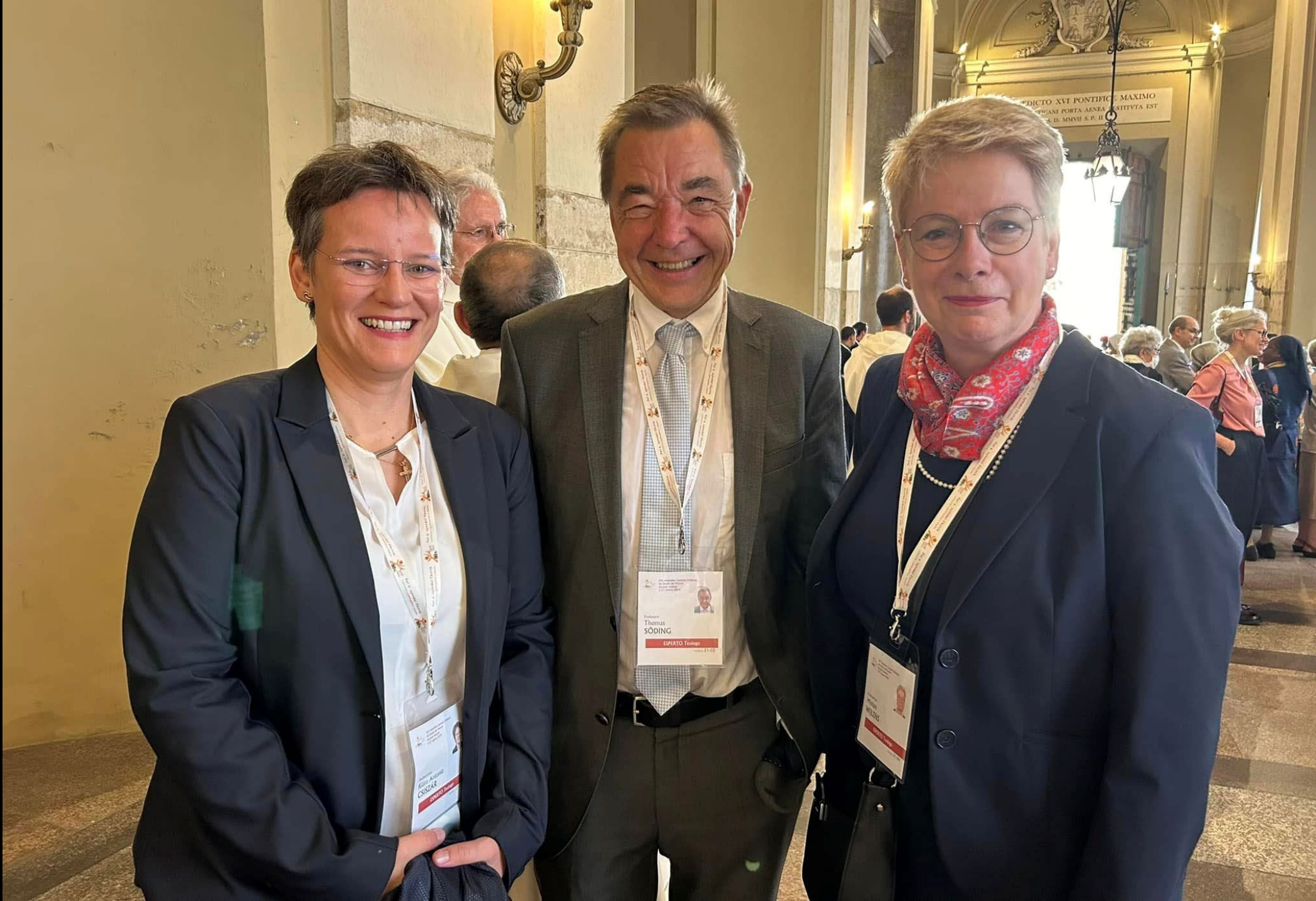














September 27-29: Training for Facilitators

**September 30 – October 1:
Retreat led by Fr. Timothy Radcliffe OP
& M. Maria Ignazia Angelini OSB**

October 1: Penitential Vigil

Penitential Vigil: Repentance & Healing

- Three testimonies of persons who have suffered from the sins of the Church and the world:
 - clergy sexual abuse (Laurence, South Africa)
 - war and devastation (Sr. Deema, Syria)
 - inhospitality to refugees and migrants (Solange, Ivory Coast)
- Confession: acknowledge our common responsibility as a Church- leaders, members, structures - for evils inflicted on the innocent and defenceless: seven groups named.
- Expression: Shame and sorrow, repentance and amendment

Oct 2: Synod Opening Mass (St. Peter's)

First General Congregation

Pope Francis: Opening Message

The synodal process is a learning process, in course of which the Church comes to know herself better and to identify the forms of pastoral activity best suited to the mission entrusted to her by her Lord.

Pope Francis: Opening Message

In convening as full members of this 16th Assembly of the Synod of Bishops a significant number of lay and consecrated persons (both men and women), deacons and priests ... I acted in continuity with the understanding of the exercise of the episcopal ministry set forth by the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council.

The Bishop ... cannot carry out his ministry except within the People of God and with them: preceding, standing in the midst of, and following that portion of God's People, entrusted to his care.

Synod Methodology: Modules 1-4

Opening Mass

Introduction: Cardinal Hollenbach, General Relator

Circuli Minores: Conversation in the Spirit (3 rounds)

Guiding question: In the section of the IL under consideration:

Round 1: Personal Reflection: which are the most positive elements?
which are in need of revision, clarification, or removal?

Round 2: Resonance: what moved us / struck us in the sharing of other
members of the table

Coffee break!!

Round 3: Identification of 4-5 emergent themes to be discussed in the
General Congregations

Methodology for Each Module

General Congregation:

- Summary of Table Reports based on Linguistic Groups
- Members Vote on which themes to be prioritized
- Individual Interventions from the Delegates on the Theme

Return to Table Groups

- Review Module Report in light of GC discussion
- Group Secretary and Rapporteur present 2 page report
- Report voted on by table and submitted to the drafters

Oct. 3-5: Module 1: Foundations

Oct. 7-10: Module 2: Relations

**Oct 11: Feast of St. John XXIII: Ecumenical
Vigil**

Ecumenical Vigil: Praying for Unity

Context:

- Liturgical Feast of St. John XXIII
- 62nd anniversary of beginning of Vatican Council II

Candlelight Procession accompanied by Taize chant

Participation of children and of fraternal delegates

Reading of the Word of God and key texts from Vatican II

Seeking Unity: an unexpected grace; an ongoing journey;
harmony; source of mission

Oct. 14-16: Module 3: Pathways

Oct. 17-19: Module 4: Places

**Oct 20: Canonization Mass for Mother Marie-
Leonie Paradis**

**Oct 21-23: Module 5: Mini-Retreat
Reading, Reviewing, Amending
Draft Final Document**

**Oct 24-25: Preparation of Final Document by
Drafters, Reviewed by Elected Commission**

**Oct 26: Reading the Final Document and
Approval Chapter by Chapter**

Oct 27: Synod Closing Mass – St. Peter's Basilica

Fr. Raymond Cozzolino

XVI ORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE SYNOD OF BISHOPS

Second Session

(2-27 October 2024)

**For a Synodal Church:
Communion, Participation, Mission**

Final Document

to be approved by the Assembly

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

WORKING TRANSLATION

26 October 2024

Approval of Final Document: Closing Remarks by Pope Francis

- In light of what has emerged from the synodal journey, there are and there will be decisions to be made.
- I do not intend to publish an Apostolic Exhortation; what we have approved is sufficient. There are already highly concrete indications in the Document that can be a guide for the mission of the Churches, in their specific continents and contexts.
- This is why I am making it immediately available to everyone. In this way, I wish to recognize the value of the synodal journey accomplished, which by means of this Document I hand over to the holy faithful people of God.

Closing Remarks by Pope Francis

- This Final Document is a gift to all the faithful people of God ... Not everyone will set out to read it. It will largely fall to you, together with many others, to make what it contains accessible in the local Churches.
- Without the witness of lived experience, the text loses much of its value. What we have experienced is a gift that we cannot keep to ourselves. The impetus that comes from this experience, of which the Document is a reflection, gives us the courage to witness that it is possible to walk together in diversity.

Approval of Final Document: Closing Remarks by Pope Francis

- To set out on mission, the synodal Church now needs its shared words to be accompanied by actions. This is our journey. All this is the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- May harmony continue even as we leave this hall, and may the Breath of the Risen One help us to share the gifts that we have received.
- Remember – in Madeleine Delbrêl’s words – that “there are many places in which the Spirit breathes, but there is only one Spirit who breathes in all places”. Grazie!







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