



Synod 2023

NEWSLETTER



Issue Four: Sunday, October 22, 2023

At the Synod in Rome, a focus on themes of women and co-responsibility

The presence of women in the Church and co-responsibility were two of the themes of the spiritual reflection given at the Synod in the Vatican by two religious sisters.

Mother Maria Ignazia Angelini, from the Convent of Viboldone in Milan, said: "It is not about recognition and promotion in a secular sense, but about the welfare of the Church. It is not about rights, but about the gifts received. It means understanding the mission of women in the Church."

Sister Gloria Liliana Franco Echeverri, a religious of the Company of Mary and current president of the Latin American Confederation of Religious Men and Women, also shared her testi-

mony on the mission of women in the Church.

Sister Gloria said: "At the heart of the desire and the imperative for a greater presence and participation of women in the Church is not an ambition for power or a feeling of inferiority, nor an egocentric search for recognition, but a clamour to live in fidelity to God's plan, who wants everyone to recognise themselves as brothers and sisters in the people with whom He made a covenant.

"It is a right to participation and equal responsibility in discernment and decision-making, but fundamentally it is a desire to live consciously and in coherence with the common dignity that baptism bestows on all."



The women delegates at the Synod in Rome

A resource from the Dublin Diocesan Synodal Steering Committee

Cardinal: We are half way through a journey

The reports of the working groups and of the individual interventions have focused on issues including the importance of the parish (“which is not a service station but a place of communion”) and of the community; lay ministries, which “are not stopgaps for the lack of priests” and “should not be clericalised”; and on the service performed by priests, whom the community of the baptised cannot do without.

Similar attention was paid on Tuesday morning to the ministry of the bishop, who can be seen as a fatherly figure who accompanies the faithful and expresses love, care, and concern, according to Sheila Pires, the secretary of the Commission for Information.

The assembly did not come to conclusions on these and other questions, at least not in this first phase. Cardinal López Romero, pictured, said we are half way through a journey that began in October 2021 and will continue in 2024. He said: “We still have at least a year of work, and I am almost certain that we will have homework to do. Then we will draw conclusions to arrive at more concrete proposals.”



Voices from the Synod

Dublin's Sister Patricia on joy of synodality

Sister Patricia Murray, a Loreto Sister born in Dublin, is the Executive Secretary of the International Union of Superiors General. At the Synod, she said: “Putting Jesus and the Spirit at the centre of our life and listening to the voice of everyone in a religious community to discern where God is calling one at this time, where God is calling the congregation, has been the practice of many congregations. So for me, it is an added joy to see this spread in the universal church, that this is the way we want to live and be together – those words of participation, communion, and mission.”



Stay up to date



You can follow the 16th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter/X. For links to these channels – and to extended versions of these articles – visit www.dublindiocese.ie/synod2023

Prayers for the Holy Land

On Saturday, Synod participants held a minute's silence remembering the tragic events in the Holy Land and the world's forgotten wars. The 340 members present at the Synod on Saturday renewed their prayers for peace.

SONG FOR A SYNODAL GATHERING

Baptised in water, sealed by the Spirit,
we walk together on the Way.
Love is our calling, as we journey,
may we continue from this day.

All of God's people filled with the Spirit,
walk with each other as we pray.
Mindful that Jesus calls us to reach out,
Sharing with others from today.

We are his Body, called to serve others.
We are his people, journeying all.
May we listen to the Spirit
and together answer His call.

(To the tune of Christ Be Beside Me.)

Please pray for the Synod! Prayer resources and more at dublindiocese.ie/synod2023