

SYNOD ON SYNODALITY

POINTING THE WAY FORWARD

THE PASSIONISTS OF THE
HOLY CROSS PROVINCE
PRE-CHAPTER MEETING

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“IT IS PRECISELY THIS PATH OF SYNODALITY WHICH GOD EXPECTS OF THE CHURCH IN THE THIRD MILLENNIUM”

– POPE FRANCIS, OCT. 17, 2015

- WHAT IS SYNODALITY? WHAT DOES IT MEAN? WHERE DOES IT COME FROM?
- “JOURNEYING TOGETHER” – COMMUNION, PARTICIPATION, MISSION
- ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM – “CHURCH AND SYNOD ARE SYNONOMOUS”
- SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL – COLLABORATION - SIGNS OF THE TIMES IN LIGHT OF THE GOSPEL (GS, 4)

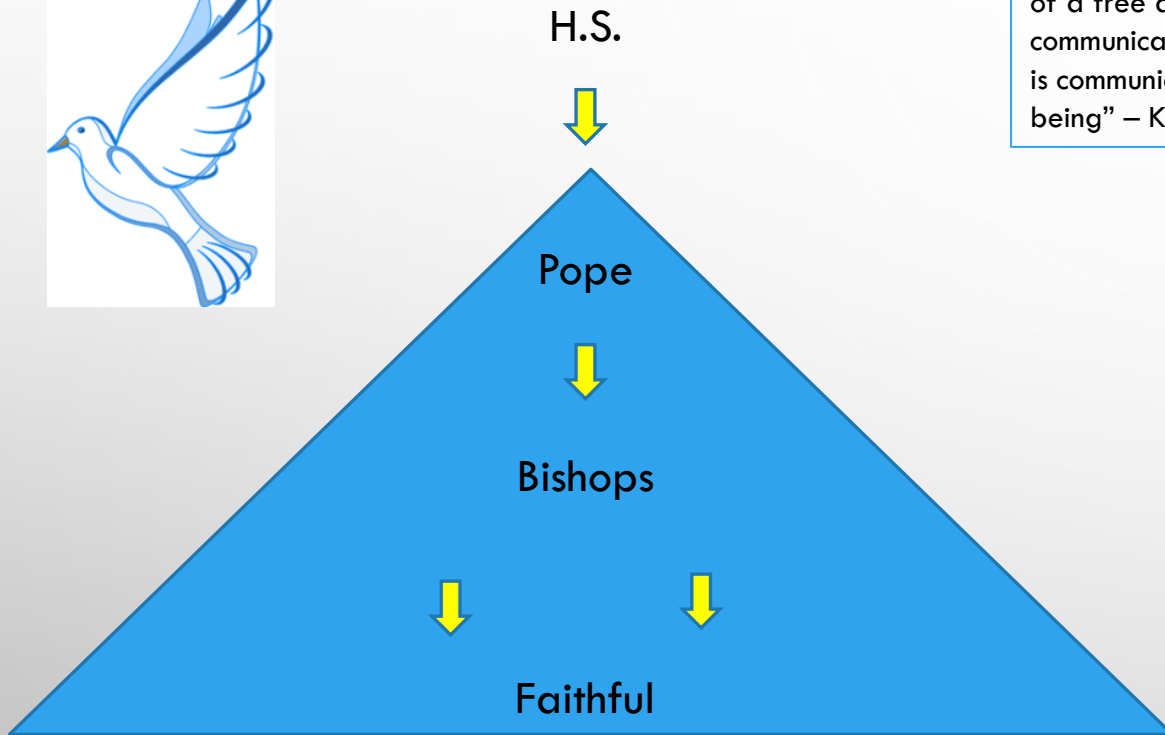
SYNODALITY DENOTES THE PARTICULAR **STYLE** THAT QUALIFIES THE CHURCH AS THE PEOPLE OF GOD.

WALKING TOGETHER IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY OF DEMONSTRATING THE NATURE OF THE CHURCH AS THE PEOPLE OF GOD.

HOW DOES THE CHURCH LEARN?

Our “Way of Proceeding” reveals what we believe

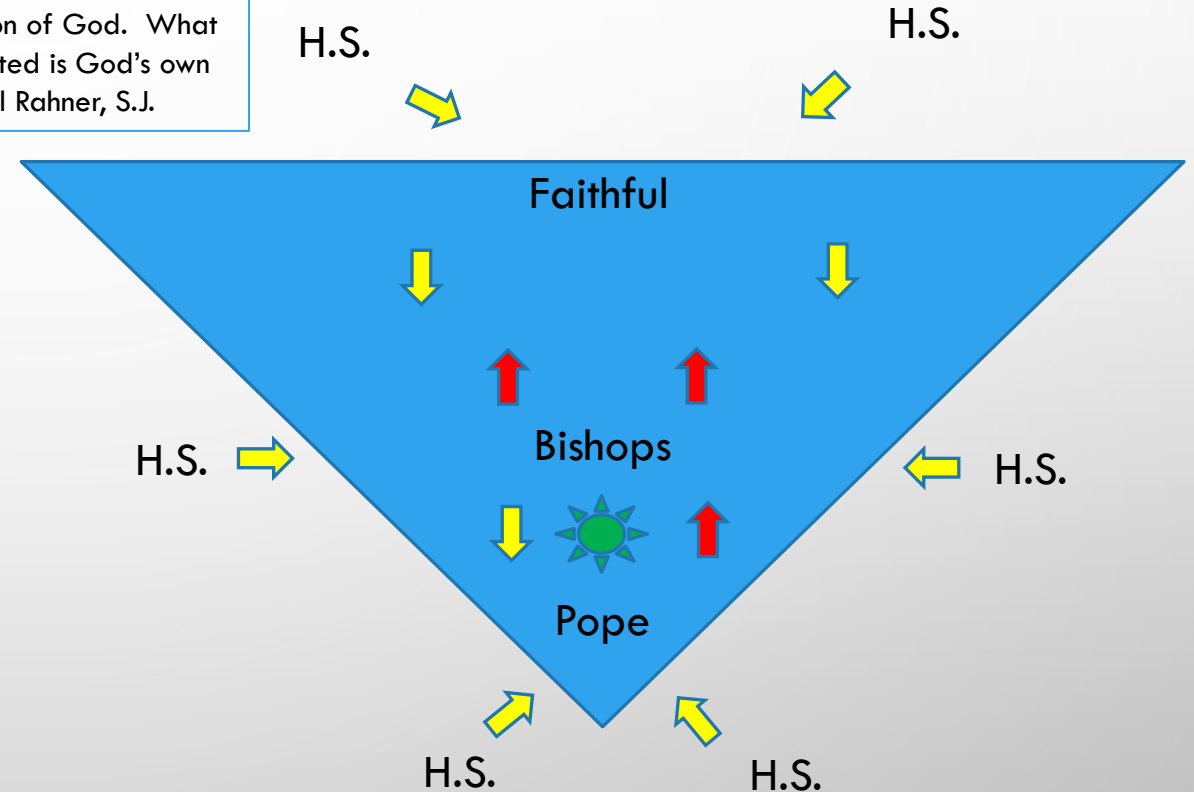
Imperial Model



What is the province of the laity? To hunt, to shoot, to entertain? These matters they understand, but to meddle with ecclesiastical matters they have no right at all – Msgr. George Talbot

“Human persons are the event of a free and absolute self-communication of God. What is communicated is God’s own being” – Karl Rahner, S.J.

Synodal Model



“The path of synodality seeks to make pastoral decisions that reflect the **will of God** as closely as possible, grounding them in the **living voice of the People of God.**”
(ITC, Syn., 68)

“THE *SENSUS FIDEI* PREVENTS A RIGID SEPARATION BETWEEN AN *ECCLESIA DOCENS* AND AN *ECCLESIA DISCENS*, SINCE THE FLOCK LIKEWISE HAS AN INSTINCTIVE ABILITY TO DISCERN THE NEW WAYS THAT THE LORD IS REVEALING TO THE CHURCH.”

The authority of the “**sensus fidei**” is “infallible’ in credendo” (EG, 119)

The totality of the Faithful “cannot err in matters of belief” (LG, 12)

All have been made sharer’s in Christ’s prophetic function” – Code of Canon Law, 204

“from the Bishops down to the last of the lay Faithful” (LG, 12)

“ “EVERYONE HAS SOMETHING TO LEARN. THE FAITHFUL PEOPLE, THE COLLEGE OF BISHOPS, THE BISHOP OF ROME: ALL LISTENING TO EACH OTHER, AND ALL LISTENING TO THE HOLY SPIRIT IN ORDER TO KNOW WHAT THE SPIRIT SAYS TO THE CHURCHES.”

– POPE FRANCIS, OCT. 17, 2015

All are Protagonists!

”Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances.

Test everything; retain what is good.” (1Thess 5:19-21)

DOES THE CHURCH CHANGE? HOW?

“The Tradition that comes from the Apostles **makes progress** in the Church, with the help of the Holy Spirit. There is a **growth in insight** into the realities and words that are being passed. This comes about through the contemplation and study of believers who ponder these things in their hearts. It comes from the intimate sense of spiritual realities which they **experience**. Thus, as the centuries go by, **the Church is always advancing** toward the plenitude of divine truth, until eventually the words of God are fulfilled in it. “

- *Dei Verbum*, 8 (Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation)

“The laity should openly reveal their needs and desires with that **freedom** and **confidence**. They are permitted and sometimes even **obliged** to express their opinion on those things which concern the good of the Church. A great many wonderful things are to be hoped for from this familiar dialogue.”

- *Lumen Gentium*, 37 (Dogmatic Constitution on the Church)

THE SYNOD AS A WAY OF MODELING SYNODALITY AND PREPARING FOR CHAPTER

TO PLANT DREAMS, DRAW FORTH PROPHECIES AND VISIONS, ALLOW HOPE TO FLOURISH, INSPIRE TRUST, BIND UP WOUNDS, WEAVE TOGETHER NEW RELATIONSHIPS.”

- POPE FRANCIS OPENING OF THE SYNOD OF BISHOPS ON YOUNG PEOPLE OCT. 3, 2018

Tender Ideal of
Church

NOT TO ABANDON OUR IDEAL, NOT JUST TALK ABOUT IT,
BUT TO ENACT IT.



An Experience of Encounter with Other and Spirit
An Experience of Church

“Where ever two or three are gathered in my name,
there I am in their midst.” (Mt. 18:20)

$1+1+1>3$

CONSULTATION OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

Grounding of the Synodal Way

Focus on maximum inclusion and participation, reaching out to involve the greatest number of people possible, especially those on the periphery and margins who are often excluded and forgotten.



Follows the Way of Jesus:

- Canannite woman (Mt. 15:21-28)
- Samaritan woman (Jn. 4:1-42)
- Man born blind (Jn. 9)



Radical inclusion of the Margins is the hallmark of Jesus

Peripheries Become the Center

“The joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the people of this age, especially those who are poor or in any way afflicted, these are the joys and hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the followers of Christ.” (GS, 1)

SYNOD PROCESS REVEALS SYNODALITY

Local Consultations → National Synthesis → Frascati → Continental Consultation

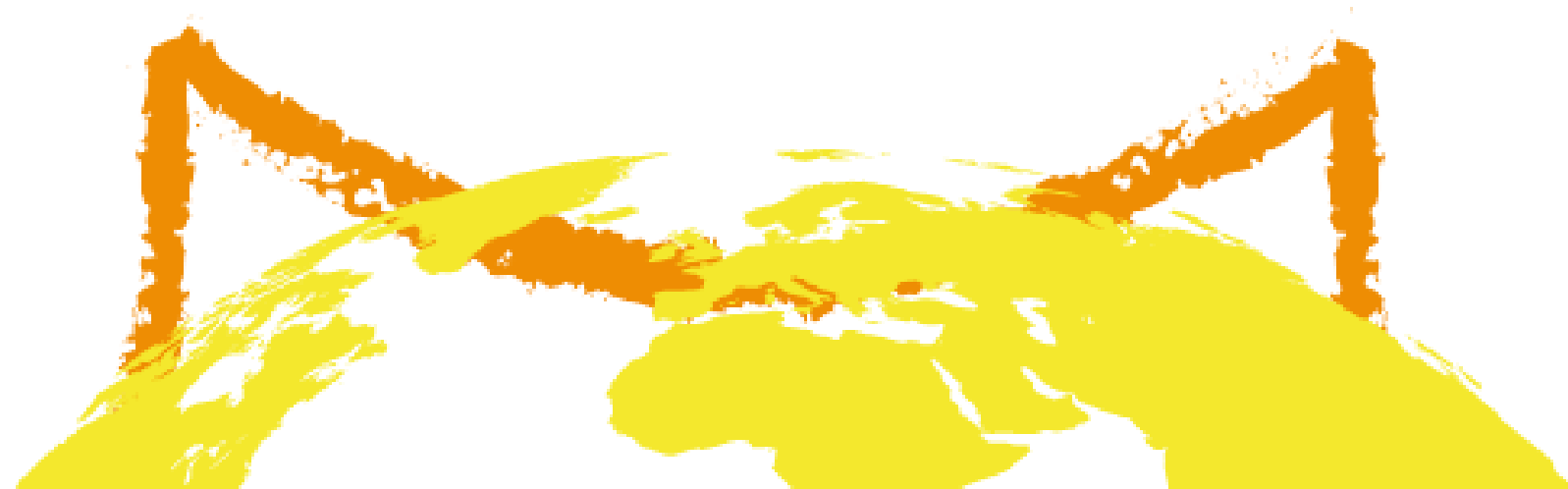
Listen → Reflect → Share → Listen Again → Reflect Again

- Voice of the *Sensus Fidei* reflected back to the Bishops and whole People of God
- Hearing and responding to one another, from the peripheries, widen our lens
- Seeking the voice of the Holy Spirit, the Will of God, together
- Not finished or definitive, but on the way, all learning, discerning together

“Enlarge the space of your tent”

(Is 54:2)

**WORKING DOCUMENT
FOR THE CONTINENTAL STAGE**



Tent of Meeting



Now Moses used to take a tent and pitch it outside the camp some distance away, calling it the “tent of meeting.” Anyone inquiring of the Lord would go to the tent of meeting outside the camp. The Lord would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend.

Exodus 33:7,10

They brought in the ark of the LORD and set it in its place within the tent which David had pitched. He blessed the people in the name of the LORD and distributed among all the people, the entire multitude of Israel, to every man and every woman, one loaf of bread, one piece of meat, and one raisin cake. Then all the people returned to their homes. 2 Samuel 6:17

The Word became Flesh and dwelt among us John 1:14 “
Eskenosen – Pitched his tent

“Enlarge the space of your tent, spread out your tent cloths unsparingly lengthen your ropes and make firm your pegs.”(Is 54:2)

Tent — Temporary, moveable, Functional

Cloths — Protection, Security, Place of Gathering
Open, Letting in and out freely

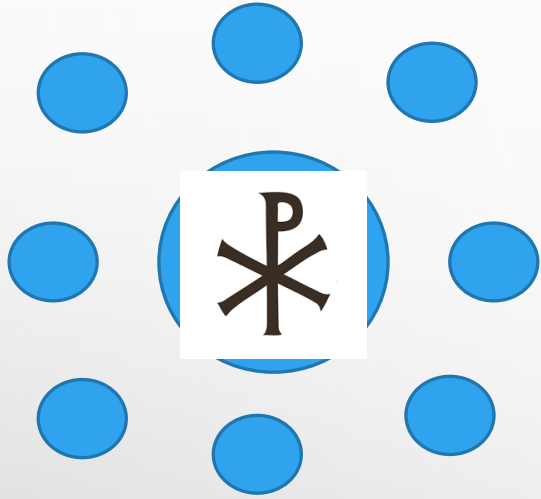
Unsparingly — Inclusion, Expansion to hold all

Ropes — Tensions (Polarities)
Too loose — sag and collapse
Too tight — snap and break
Requires Discernment

Pegs — Do not change but can be moved



SPIRITUAL CONVERSATION MODEL



- Recommended Synod listening process
- Communal Apostolic Discernment
- Inclusive - Lateral
- Active Listening – Non-judgmental
- Metanoia - Conversion of Heart
- Focused on future and dreams



- 3 rounds of listening and speaking
- Each person speaks and addresses question
- Silence
- Each person responds to what struck them
- Silence
- What is the Holy Spirit saying to us or calling us to?

ATTITUDES FOR GENUINE LISTENING AND DIALOGUE

- COURAGE AND HONESTY IN OUR SPEAKING AND SHARING
- HUMILITY IN LISTENING
- WILLINGNESS TO CHANGE OUR OPINIONS BASED ON WHAT WE HEAR
- OPENNESS TO CONVERSION
- LEAVE BEHIND STEREOTYPES AND PREJUDICES
- OVERCOME THE SCOURGE OF CLERICALISM
- WE ARE ALL IN THE SAME BOAT TOGETHER
- OVERCOME IDEOLOGIES
- GIVE RISE TO HOPE



What is emerging within you as you imagine becoming a more synodal Province, church and person?

Are there synodal words, images or ideas that are resonating with you? Why?



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CAIMc9Zbg5I>