

## Synodality Reflection by Faith Offman

Synodality means adopting a new mindset. Synodality is about journeying together, listening to one another in order to hear what God is saying to all of us....the ‘synodal path’ is a way of being and a way of working that takes a more inclusive and collaborative approach....”it is a mutual listening in which everyone has something to learn...all listening to each other, and listening to the Holy Spirit...in order to know what God is saying to all of us.

We listen to each other, to our tradition, and to the signs of the times in order to discern what God is saying to all of us **and** not only to hear it, but to put it into practice in and through our lives.

We must make a special effort to listen to those we may be tempted to see as unimportant and those who force us to consider new points of view that may change our way of thinking.

The synodal way is a structured conversation for the sake of hearing the voice of the Spirit. The Spiritual Conversation method promotes active participation, attentive listening, reflective speaking, and spiritual discernment.

I invite us to follow the pathway of Synodality which is not just a method, but the mode. Pope Frances said in his message for our Jubilee: “For a charism to endure over time, it is necessary to adapt it to new needs, keeping alive the creative power of its beginnings.”

Our specific mission is “to preach the Gospel of the Passion by our life and apostolate” and, to fulfil this mission, “we come together in apostolic communities...” (Const. 2). Therefore, our mission is integrally connected with our life in community. Our community life and our mission cannot be separated; they are two sides of the one coin. Our life is our mission (by witness), and our mission is our life (by action). Together, they both shape us and give us our identity and authenticity as Passionists. Who we are and what we do are interconnected and interrelated. “Our involvement in the apostolate flows directly from our life in community.” (Const. 67)

As our community expands into the Passionist Family, the synodal approach helps us deepen, grow and better integrate our mission.