

Religious Formation Conference, October 23, 2025

Workshop Agenda

09:00 – 10:00 Input

The Ecclesial Foundations of Synodality

10:00-10:30 Processing in small groups

What did you hear? One thing that struck you. Any questions?

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee Break

11:00 Sharing in small groups

In every change of era, religious have been a prophetic voice. How can religious be real prophets in our era?

What are the greatest ills of church and society? What balms can religious apply?

11:30-12:30 Input

Synodality and Formation Ministry in a Time of Change

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch

13:30-14:00 Sharing in small groups

Religious formation for today - proposals, best practices, questions

14:30 Stand-up Break – includes restroom

Turn to a partner and share one thing you are mulling

14:50 – 15:20 So What? (someone takes notes)

Impact on religious formation and leadership today?

Key ideas, best practices, next steps

15:20 Thank You's

Synod on Synodality: Timeline

October 9-10, 2021: Pope Francis convoked a Synod on Synodality to meet in Rome in October 2023:

The 16th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops

October 16, 2022, Pope Francis, in Angelus Message, announced that the synod would meet in two sessions:

October 2023 and October 2024.

October 4-28, 2023: The First Session, 2023 met in Rome.

Preceded by a 3-day retreat, preached by Fr. Radcliffe, OP (now Cardinal).

Documents of the synod were:

The Preparatory Document for the 16th Ordinary General Assembly;

Vademecum for the Synod on Synodality;

Working Document for the Continental Phase;

Instrumentum Laboris (Working Document), and

Synthesis Report: A Synodal Church in Mission (Oct 28, 2023).

The Assembly consisted of 464 persons, of whom 79% were bishops.

Parish Priests Synod: Rome, April 28 to May 02, 2024.

March 14, 2024, the General Secretariat of the Synod announced the work outline of the ten topics:

assigned to Ten Study Groups; they are to report, if possible, by June 2025.

March 2024, Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity,

The Bishop of Rome, Primacy and Synodality in the Ecumenical Dialogues and in the Responses to the Encyclical Ut Unum Sint. A Study Document.

October 2-27, 2024: Second Session met in Rome. Documents of this session were:

Instrumentum laboris for the Second Session of the 16th Ordinary Assembly of the Synod of Bishops (2024);

Final Document, For a Synodal Church; Communion, Participation, Mission (October 26, 2024).

October 26, 2024. Pope Francis in Final Address made the Final Document of the Synod available. No Apostolic Exhortation to follow.