

Walking the Path of Synodality in the Footsteps of Pope Francis



A Six-Session Synodal Leadership Formation Course



But the Spirit turns our empty yearning into prayer.

What is Synodality?



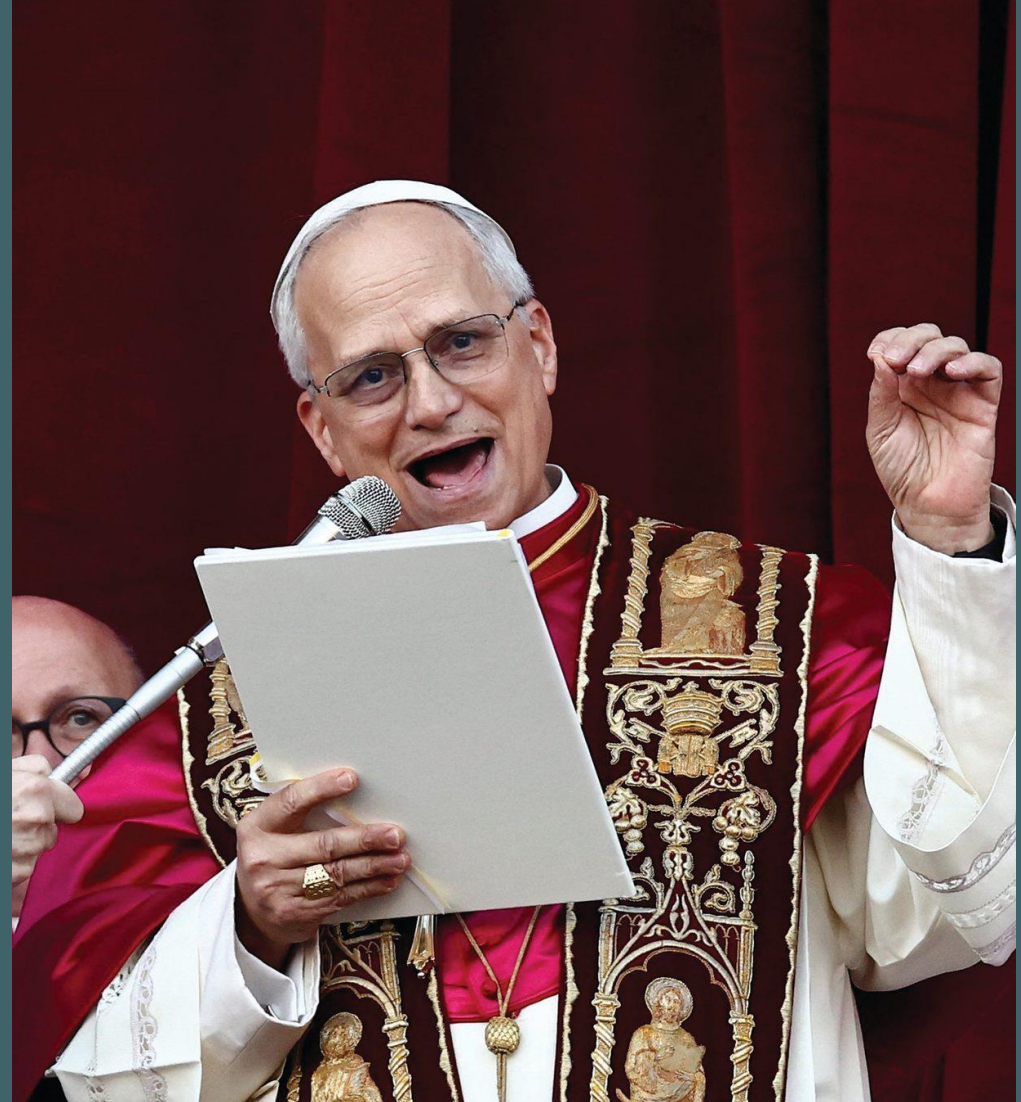
“To walk together
is the constitutive
way of the Church
... only in this way
can we address the
complexity of this
time.”

-Pope Francis (2017)



“We want to
be a synodal
Church”

-Pope Leo XIV



“Synodality is learning by doing.”

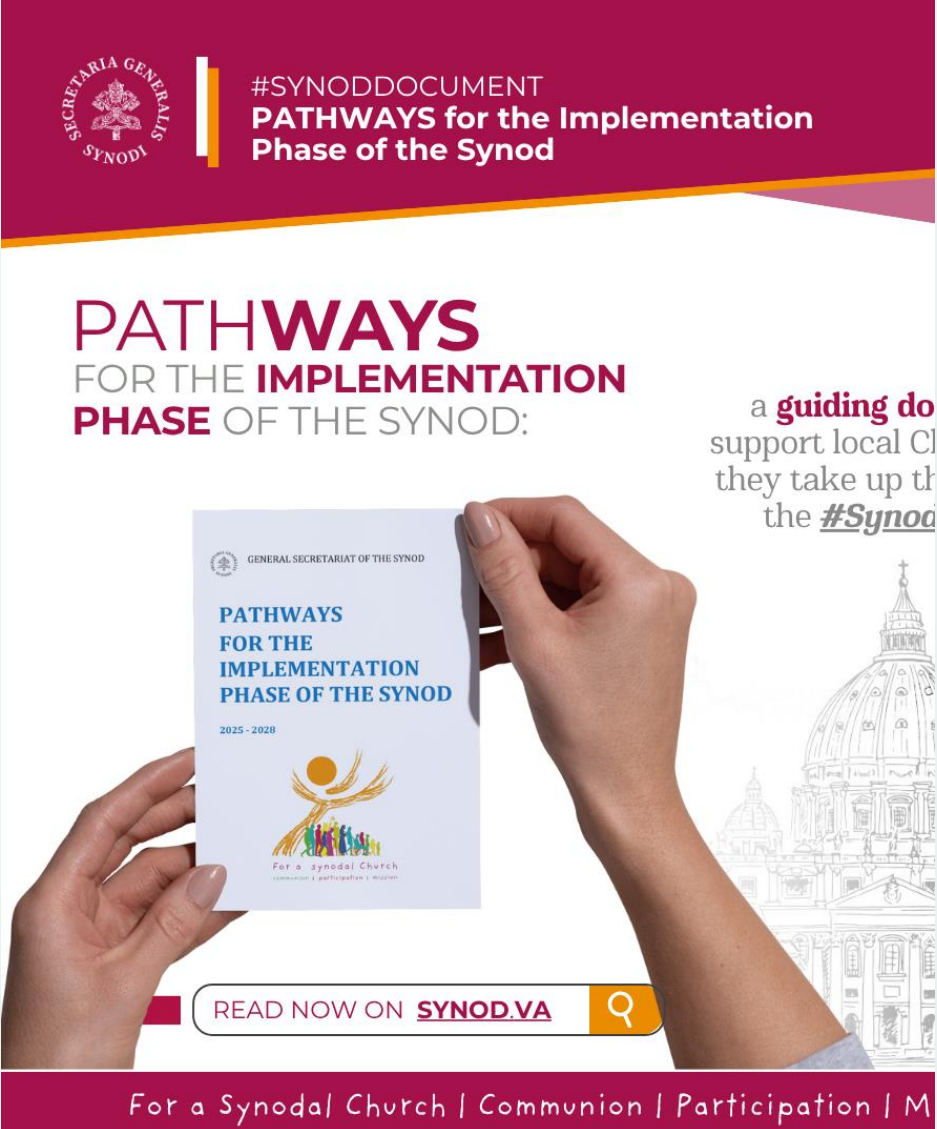
Nathalie Becquart, XMCJ

Undersecretary of the General Secretariat of the Synod



“We live in a world that is caught up in a spiral of violence and endless war, which increasingly struggles to create opportunities for encounter and dialogue, with a view to the common good and peace.”

-Cardinal Grech



The graphic features a maroon header with the General Secretariat of the Synod logo and the text "#SYNODDOCUMENT PATHWAYS for the Implementation Phase of the Synod". Below this, the title "PATHWAYS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION PHASE OF THE SYNOD:" is displayed in large, bold letters. To the right, a quote reads: "a **guiding document** to support local Churches as they take up their journey in the **#Synod**". In the center, a pair of hands holds a small version of the document cover, which includes the title, the years "2025 - 2028", and a logo of a dove with olive branches. At the bottom, a maroon bar contains the text "For a Synodal Church | Communion | Participation | Mission" and a button that says "READ NOW ON [SYNOD.VA](https://synod.va)" with a magnifying glass icon.

SECRETARIA GENERALIS
SYNODI

#SYNODDOCUMENT
PATHWAYS for the Implementation
Phase of the Synod

PATHWAYS
FOR THE **IMPLEMENTATION**
PHASE OF THE SYNOD:

a **guiding document** to support local Churches as they take up their journey in the **#Synod**

GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE SYNOD

**PATHWAYS
FOR THE
IMPLEMENTATION
PHASE OF THE SYNOD**

2025 - 2028

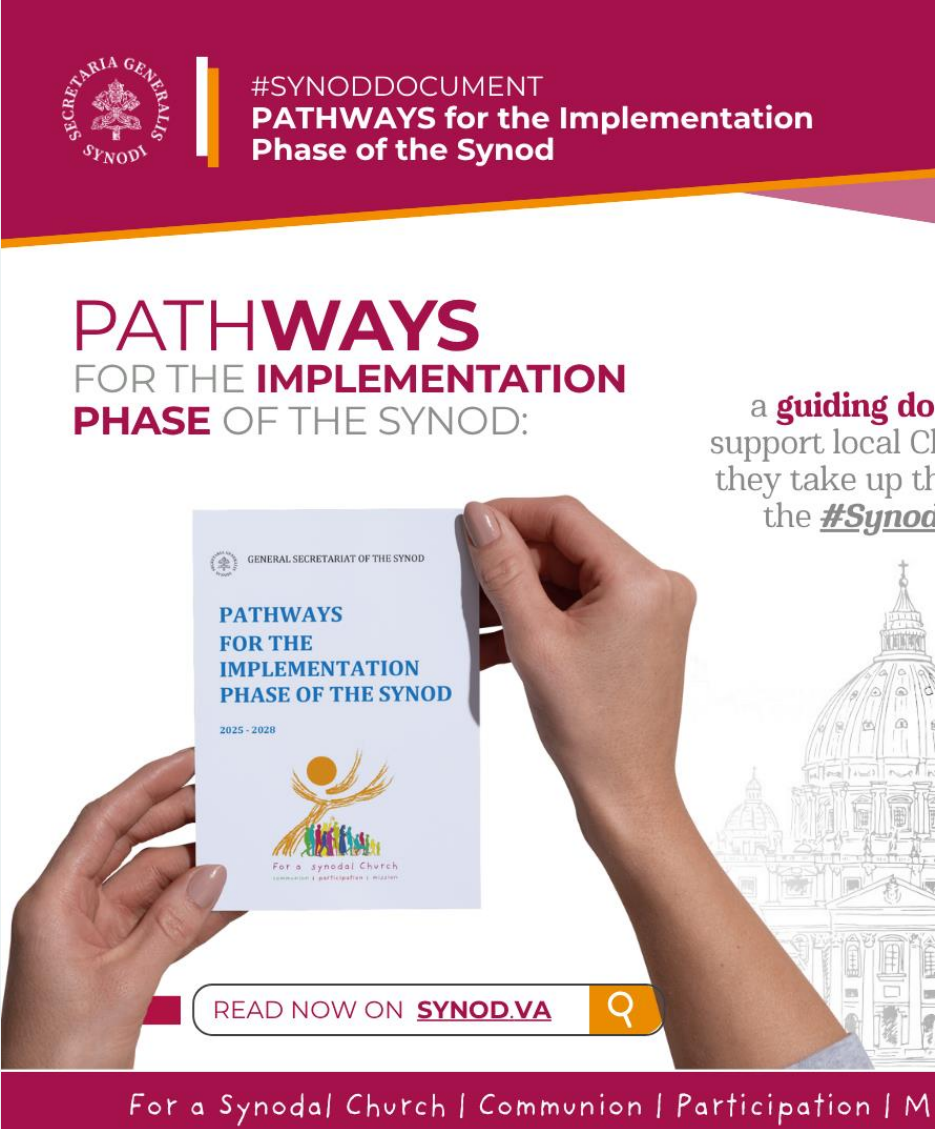
For a synodal Church
communion | participation | mission

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For a Synodal Church | Communion | Participation | Mission

“In the variety of settings in this world, the Synod constitutes a further act of reception of the Council, thus deepening its inspiration and reinvigorating its prophetic force for today’s world.”

-Cardinal Grech



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Global Formation & Education in Synodality

Permanent Schools of Synodality

- Senegal, UK, World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations

Theological & Academic Formation

- Austria, France, Lebanon, Santa Clara

Intensive Formation Programs & Workshops

- Hong Kong, Bangalore, India, Uganda, Botswana

Specialized Formation by Sectors

- Ireland (parish councils), Phillipines (indigenous youth), **USA (Leadership)**

Synodal Leadership Formation Course:

Facilitator
Guide
and Session
Content



What is
synodal
leadership?



About the Synodal Formation Course

a collaboration of Catholic Leadership Initiative LCWR, Leadership Roundtable, Discerning Leadership, and Porticus Foundation



September 2023 Religious Life Cohort Pilot



Create a Transformational Experience through:

- Prayerful discernment
- Adult learning principles
- Faith Sharing and Spiritual Conversations
- Participants getting to know/trust one another, so they are able to be vulnerable and experience growth

Course Overview



For a synodal Church
communion | participation | mission

1

Introduction to Synodality

2

Active Listening for Synodal Leadership

3

Communal Discernment & Participatory Decision-Making

4

Paths to Transformation: Overcoming Biases and Assumptions

5

A Framework for Leading Change: Adaptive Leadership

6

Building Bridges in the Church

Resources Available for Facilitators

Facilitator's Guide

Participant Handouts

Slide Decks (tailored for religious
life/mission settings)

"Out of the box" design



Components of each session

- Preparation materials (articles, videos)
- Welcome, Overview, Review of prior session
- Scripture Reflection
- Content presentation
- Silent Reflection & Discussion groups
- Concluding Commitment
- Closing Prayer
- Looking toward next session and additional resources

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Variety of Formats – Schedules to Adapt

- In Person
- Online
- Hybrid
- Weekly/monthly or a 3 day retreat
- Adaptable!

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Train-the-Trainer Webinar

September 17, 2025 – 2 to 4 PM Eastern

- Open to your sisters, associates, ministries, lay leaders who might feel called to use this resource
- Ask participants to watch recording of this video
- Experience an adapted version of a session
- Call to Action: invitation to form a group in their circle of influence (community, ministry, parish, etc...)

An invitation

How might you use this curriculum?

Who will you invite to the Train-the-Trainer Webinar in September?

- Community: sisters and/or associates
- Partners in mission – Lay Leaders
- Parish, school, community leaders
- Others?





Questions

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Answers

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But the Spirit turns our empty yearning into prayer.