

Overview

Language – accessible and invitational

Purpose – a roadmap

- practical tools

The purpose of the synodal process is:

“to continue to animate the synodal process in the ordinary life of the Church”

“not to produce documents, but to open horizons of hope for the fulfilment of the Church’s mission”

“quest for a renewed, authentic presence to the world and for healing of past wrongs”

Context

The *Instrumentum Laboris* locates its vision and purpose

- ❖ in the context of the pressing challenges facing the world today, and
- ❖ the cry of local churches “*to be equipped to address urgent social realities...*”
- ❖ the starting point is what’s going on around the Church that impels a revitalised response

A set of characteristics of synodality

- Walking together is the unifying theme of all the characteristics of synodality
- Synodality is our core identity
- We live our way into being a synodal church

Characteristics

1. In a Synodal Church, we share a common dignity based in Baptism...

making us co-responsible for this Church and its mission – which is to make the Gospel alive and vibrant in today's world

Be adults in our relationship to Church

Characteristics

2. Co-responsibility is reflected in its structures, processes and procedures where authority is a form of service rather than exercise of power

Characteristics

3. A synodal Church listens...

“the experience of being listened to by the community, in some cases for the first time, offers a recognition of the person’s unique human worth”

Characteristics

4. A Synodal Church is humble, knowing that it must ask forgiveness and has much to learn

Characteristics

5. A SC is a place of encounter and dialogue, with other religions, cultures and societies; it values diversity without forcing uniformity

Characteristics

6. In the synodal process we begin to learn what it means to live unity in diversity – this a movement of authentic catholicity.

Characteristics

7. A synodal dynamic is to recognise the shared questions as well as shared tensions...

tensions as potential to be sources of energy rather than destructive polarisations.

Characteristics

8. A Synodal Church embraces a healthy restlessness of incompleteness, and is able to live the questions, listening with attention without rushing to solutions

Characteristics

9. In a Synodal Church members accept their own vulnerabilities as the space for the action of the Spirit

Characteristics

10. A Synodal Church as a place of discernment

Instrumentum Laboris Part 2

“A working tool for the second phase”

“Conversation in the Spirit” - part of a long tradition of ecclesial discernment

Discernment helps us face up to and address the barriers to synodality through self-awareness and the practice of non-reactivity.

Discernment means noticing the instincts driving me/driving us and,

encourages us to first reflect before responding, to avoid closing down to the ‘other’ or being reactive.

Preparation...

Prepare for dialogue:

- ❖ informing oneself,
- ❖ understanding the question/s at hand.

Step One

Each person takes the floor, starting from his or her own experience

Step Two

Others take the floor - not to react to or counter what they have heard or reaffirm their own position, BUT to express what has touched them most deeply and, what they feel challenged by most strongly...

A place of deep respect and self-awareness
in order to identify RESONANCE and RESISTANCE

A deeply spiritual process requiring all the virtues of the spiritual life.

Step Three

Identify the key points that have emerged to build a consensus on the work that might follow

NOT a report listing the most often mentioned points. Rather It pays attention to marginal and prophetic voices

Formation

Importance of *“formation in this method, and in particular of facilitators capable of accompanying communities in practising it*

How might you... we... respond?

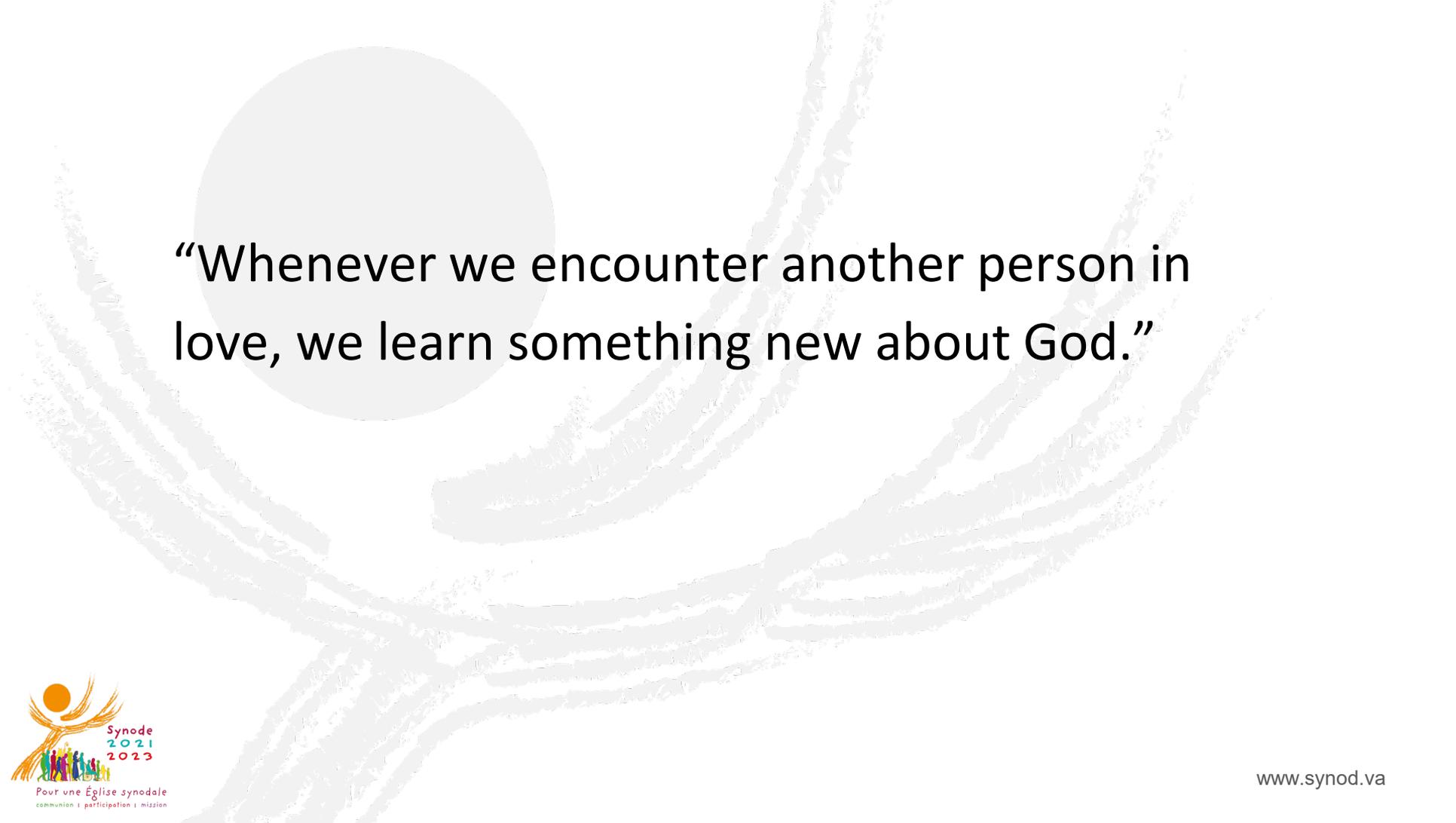
How contribute to becoming a Synodal Church?

Bring to these **steps** towards a meaningful encounter

along with the **disposition**

to our many touch points with the Church and the world

We are each responsible!



“Whenever we encounter another person in love, we learn something new about God.”