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FOR A SHARED MISSION

OCTOBER

“Let us pray that the Church continue to sustain a synodal lifestyle in every way, as a sign of coresponsibility, promoting the participation, communion and mission shared by priests, religious and laity”



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PRAYER INTENTION REFLECTION

ADDRESS TO PARTICIPANTS IN THE CONFERENCE  
ORGANIZED BY THE DICASTERY FOR LAITY, FAMILY AND LIFE <sup>12</sup>  
Francis  
18 February 2023

[...] The title of your Conference speaks of a “call” to “move forward together”, thus setting the subject within the broader context of synodality. The path that God is indicating to the Church is precisely that of a more intense and concrete experience of communion and journeying together. He asks the Church to leave behind ways of acting separately, on parallel tracks that never meet. Clergy separated from laity, consecrated persons from clergy and the faithful; the intellectual faith of certain elites separated from the faith of ordinary people; the Roman Curia from the particular Churches, bishops from priests; young people from the elderly, spouses and families disengaged from the life of the communities, charismatic movements separated from parishes, and so forth. This is the worst temptation at the present moment. The Church still has a long way to go to live as a body, as a true people united by the same faith in Christ the Saviour, enlivened by the same Spirit of holiness and directed to the same mission of proclaiming the merciful love of God our Father.

This last aspect is critical: *a people united in mission*. This is the insight that we must always cherish: the Church is the *faithful holy People of God*, as [Lumen Gentium](#) affirms in nos. 8 and 12. The Church is neither populist nor elitist, but the faithful holy People of God. We cannot learn this theoretically, but through lived

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<sup>12</sup> See full message:  
<https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2023/february/documents/20230218-convegno.html>  
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experience. Only then may we seek to explain, as best we can; but if we do not live it we cannot explain it. A people united in mission, then. Synodality has its origin and ultimate purpose in mission: it is born of mission and directed to mission. Let us think of the earliest days, when Jesus sends the Apostles and they all return happy, for the demons “fled from them”: it was mission that brought about that sense of the Church. Sharing in mission brings pastors and laypersons closer together; it builds a unity of purpose, manifests the complementarity of the differing charisms and thus awakens in all the desire to move forward together. We see this illustrated in Jesus himself, who from the beginning surrounded himself with a group of disciples, men and women, and, with them, carried out his public ministry. Never alone. When he sent the Twelve to proclaim the kingdom of God, he sent them “two by two”. We see the same thing in Saint Paul, who always proclaimed the Gospel with co-workers, including laypersons and married couples. Not by himself. This has been the case at times of great renewal and missionary outreach in the Church’s history: pastors and faithful together. Not isolated individuals, but a people that evangelizes, the faithful holy People of God! [...]

### **The Pope Video - October 2022**

<https://thepopevideo.org/october-for-a-church-open-to-everyone/?lang=es>

### **The Pope Video - August 2021**

<https://thepopevideo.org/august-church-on-the-way/>

### **The Pope Video - October 2019**

<https://thepopevideo.org/missionary-spring-in-the-church/>

- **October 2021-2024 - Synod of Bishops**