

ToolKit

01

Synodal Journey



World Union of
Catholic Women's
Organisations



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The Synodal Process towards 2028

PROCESS OF LISTENING,
ENCOUNTERING, DIALOGUING, DISCERNING



9-10 OCTOBER 2021

Worldwide Opening of the Synodal Process



17 OCTOBER 2021

Local Opening of the Synodal Process



PHASE 1 - The Consultation of the people of God

**LOCAL - NATIONAL
CONSULTATION**



CONTINENTAL STAGE

DIALOGUE AMONG THE CHURCHES OF A SPECIFIC REGION



PHASE 2 - The discernment of the Pastors

4-29 OCTOBER 2023
1ST SESSION XVI General Ordinary
Assembly of the Synod of Bishops

2-27 OCTOBER 2024
2ND SESSION XVI General Ordinary
Assembly of the Synod of Bishops



PHASE 3 - The implementation *For a Synodal Church*

2025

MARCH Announcement of the accompaniment and evaluation process

JULY Publication of the *Pathways for the Implementation Phase*

24-26 OCTOBER Jubilee of Synodal Teams
and participatory bodies

2025 JUNE - 2026 DECEMBER
Implementation paths in local Churches
and their groupings

2027

FIRST HALF

Evaluation Assemblies in Dioceses and Eparchies

SECOND HALF

Evaluation Assemblies in National and International
Episcopal Conferences, Eastern hierarchical
structures, and other groupings of Churches.

2028

FIRST FOUR MONTHS

Continental **Evaluation Assemblies**

OCTOBER

**Celebration of the Ecclesial
Assembly** in the Vatican

[Download the
Infographics](#)

The Synodal Process

LISTENING | ENCOUNTERING | DIALOGUING | DISCERNING

9-10 OCTOBER 2021

WORLDWIDE OPENING OF THE SYNODAL PROCESS



Opening Mass



Opening speech



Photos



Texts



WWOx

“

Without real participation by the People of God, talk about communion risks remaining a devout wish. In this regard, we have taken some steps forward, but a certain difficulty remains and we must acknowledge the frustration and impatience felt by many pastoral workers, members of diocesan and parish consultative bodies and **women, who frequently remain on the fringes**. Enabling everyone to participate is an essential ecclesial duty! All the baptized, for baptism is our identity card.

Pope Francis, 9 October 2021

As we initiate this process, we too are called to become experts in the art of encounter... Time to devote to prayer and to adoration... devoting time to adoration, and to hearing what the Spirit wants to say to the Church. **Time to look others in the eye and listen to what they have to say, to build rapport, to be sensitive to the questions of our sisters and brothers, to let ourselves be enriched by the variety of charisms, vocations and ministries**. Every encounter – as we know – calls for openness, courage and a willingness to let ourselves be challenged by the presence and the stories of others.

Pope Francis, 10 October 2021



From the Fringes to the Center

A Guide for Women in a Synodal Church

Name:



List three "charisms" (spiritual gifts) God has given you that you feel called to offer your parish or community.

01

02

03



"Time to devote to prayer and to adoration... to hearing what the Spirit wants to say to the Church."

Exercise: 5 Minutes of Silence before the Blessed Sacrament or in a quiet space at home. Ask: *"Holy Spirit, what are you saying to me today?"*

Write down one word or image that came to you during this silence:

.....



Think about your local parish. Where do you see women today?

.....

.....

Where are women missing? (e.g., teaching, praying, decision-making tables, financial planning, leadership councils).

.....

.....



WWOQ_x

The Synodal Process

LISTENING | ENCOUNTERING | DIALOGUING | DISCERNING

PHASE 1

THE CONSULTATION OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD



The Committee
and the
Commission

The diocesan
and national
stage

The
continental
stage



WWOx

Continental Stage



Synod 2021-24



**A time of listening,
encounter and discernment**

**Of all the People of God
and of all local Churches on a
continental basis from the
Document for the Continental
Stage (DCS).**

**A deepening
process**

For the people that represent
the local Churches in the
pre-assembly listening and
discernment processes prior to
each Continental Assembly.

[Continental Assembly Final Documents](#)



Have you read your region's Continental Report? How did its findings resonate with you?

In your group, identify a specific area of your local ecclesial community—such as finance, liturgy, or social outreach—where women's perspectives are underrepresented. Discuss practical ways you can offer your unique contributions to this area.

.....

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.....

Identify three 'SEEDS' of hope and three 'WEEDS' of resistance that impact our ability to 'walk together' in your local community.

01	01
02	02
03	03

Personal Reflection: "Enlarging the space of your tent requires dying to self out of love" (DCS, 28): What specific "old habits", such as gossip, clericalism, or fear, must die within your heart or your parish so that the community can bear "much fruit" in the Spirit?

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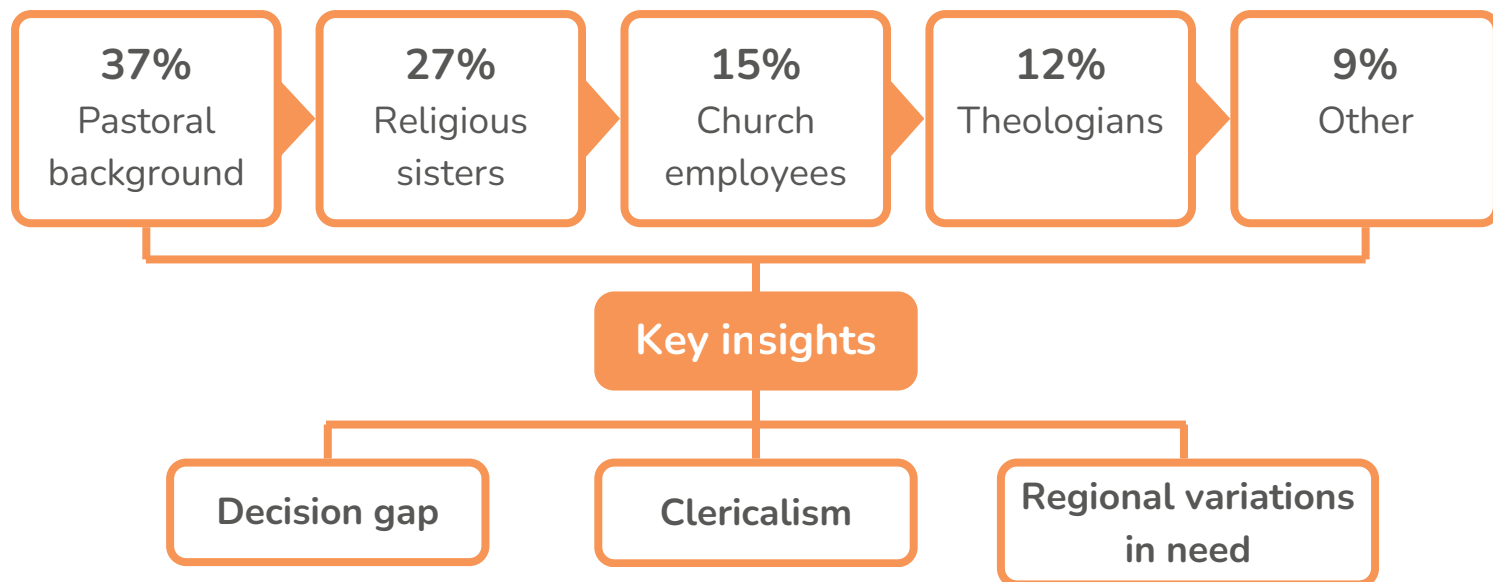
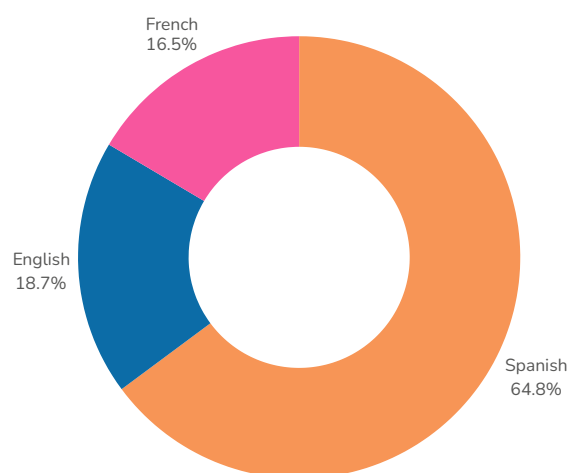
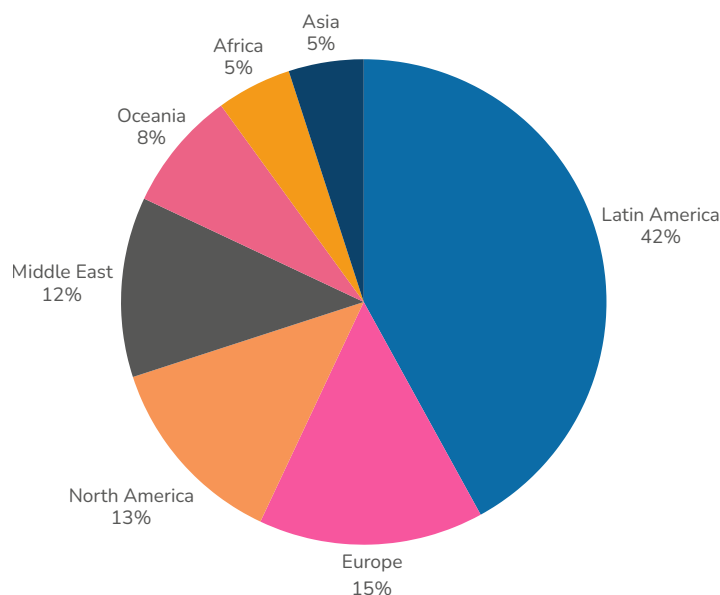
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Survey

The World Women's Observatory (WWO) of the World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations (WUCWO) conducted a **global survey** during this phase of the synodal journey. We **gathered insights from 459 women** directly involved in the process at **diocesan, national, and continental levels**. Below are key highlights from our findings. The full report and executive summary are available on our website.

Continental & language Distribution of Participants



[Full report](#)

[Summary](#)



WWOx

The Synodal Process

LISTENING | ENCOUNTERING | DIALOGUING | DISCERNING

PHASE 2

THE DISCERNMENT OF THE PASTORS

4-29 October 2023

SESSION 1

XVI General Ordinary Assembly
of the Synod of Bishops

2-27 October 2024

SESSION 2

XVI General Ordinary Assembly
of the Synod of Bishops



10 WORKING GROUPS



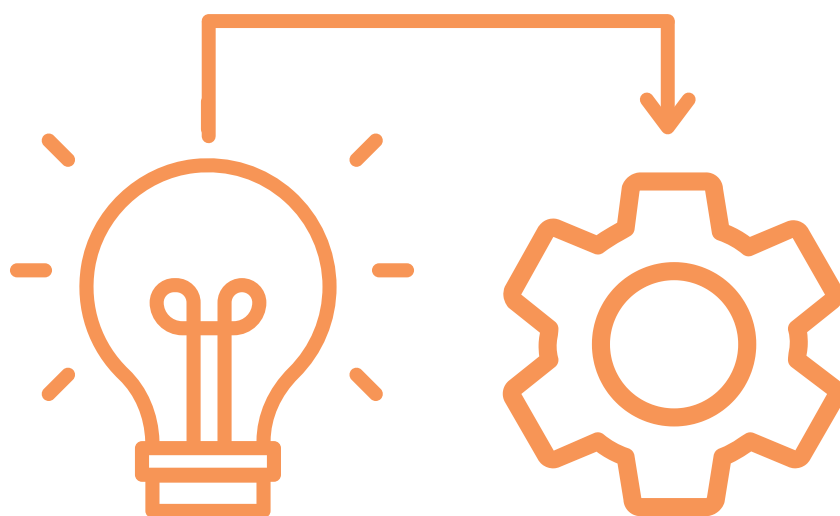
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The Synodal Process

LISTENING | ENCOUNTERING | DIALOGUING | DISCERNING

PHASE 3

THE IMPLEMENTATION



The pathways

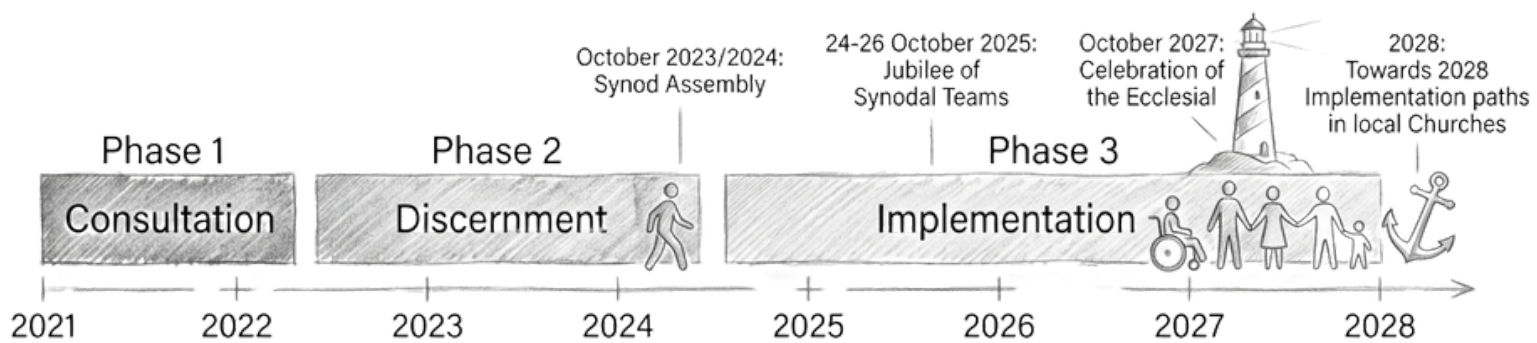


Final reports



WVOx

Where are you now on the Synodal Journey?



How will you mark your journey forward?



WWOQ

EXERCISE

Personal Roadmap to 2028

The path of conversion is gradual. (DCS, 32)



ENCOUNTER - I will commit to listening to one person in my parish whose experience is different from mine (e.g., a youth, a migrant, a person who has left the Church).

I commit to listening to:

Why this person?

When and where will this happen?

Lord, help me hear your voice in...



FORMATION - I will read one document from the 2024 Final Assembly to better understand the global Church.

The document I will read is:

My deadline to finish reading this is:

Who can I discuss these findings with?

Holy Spirit, enlighten my mind to read...



ACTION - I will support other women in my parish by:
(e.g., mentoring a younger woman, starting a synodal prayer circle).

☐

Mentoring

☐

Starting a prayer circle

☐

Other:

Jesus, I offer myself as an instrument for your work. Use me to serve...



WWOP

Help us grow together!

We would love to hear how you used this toolkit and the impact it had on your community.

By sharing your feedback, you help us refine our resources and better serve communities worldwide.

[Share feedback](#)





We **LISTEN** to **WOMEN** from all
cultures, religions and regions to:

CREATE a space for **DIALOGUE**

SHARE their **VOICES** and **STORIES...**

...Because every story has the power to
inspire change!