

Disciples India



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Synod on Synodality

The month of October is very special for the Catholic church and to us Sister Disciples. The church which was preparing the clergy and the laypeople for the past two years will gather at the Vatican from Oct. 4-29, 2023 for the synod, to discuss synodality, with an emphasis on communion, participation, and mission. The term synodality under Pope Francis has expanded to reflect his vision for dialogue and decision-making in the Church.

The present synod is the result of a two-year process that started in September 2021, when the Vatican released a preparatory document and instructions on how to prepare for the synod. Catholic faithful around the world then met in their parishes to discuss the questions posed by the synod. The syntheses of those conversations were then sent to their respective bishops' conferences.

Once the bishops had the opportunity to discuss and debate the syntheses, they sent their conclusions to the Vatican, where a group of some 30 experts, theologians, and pastoral workers met in the town of Frascati near Rome in September 2022 to draft a document that would guide the next phase. This document, titled "Enlarge the Space of Your Tent," was sent to the Continental Assemblies or groups of bishops divided by continents. The Eastern churches and Catholic advocacy groups also had a chance to submit their reflections on the synodal topics.



The results of those continental discussions were sent again to the Vatican, where officials at the synod office drafted another document namely the "Instrumentum Laboris 2," that will be a guide to the discussions at the upcoming synod. This summit will bring 464 participants to the synod, and 365 will have the right to vote. For the first time, laypeople will be voting members of the synod, compared with earlier synods where only bishops had the right to vote. An unprecedented number of 54 women, will also be attending the synod.

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At the root of this process is the acceptance, both personal and communal, of something that is both a gift and a challenge: to be a Church of sisters and brothers in Christ who listen to one another and who, in so doing, are gradually transformed by the Spirit.

Thanks be to God that guided and led by the Spirit, the church has decisively taken the road towards women's empowerment. Let us continue to pray for the outpouring of God's Spirit on all the participants.

THE PROCESS

The work of the Assembly develops as a prayerful pathway of spiritual discernment. The true protagonist is the Holy Spirit.



Pope's intention for the month of October: "Let us pray for the Church, that she may adopt listening and dialogue as a style of life at every level, allowing herself to be guided by the Holy Spirit towards the world's peripheries."

"This synod is something truly important for the church," says Pope Francis.

Journeying Together



Journeying together in order to discern God's ways involves time. But I think this is the finest way that Pope Francis proposes to the Church, as a way of synodality for encountering, listening, and discerning. Celebrating our 10th General Chapter in a synodal style, we the Sister Disciple had a yearlong preparation with personal and communitarian reflections which included the provincial/delegation chapters. During this first phase of the chapter, we were able to verbalize our dreams and vision for the Congregation in view of 2030 and came to a consensus on two priorities in each of the

provinces/delegations. The preparatory committee working on those priorities brought out a working document.

During the celebration of the General Chapter, the chapter members reflecting on the working document were able to draft the final document with the following four stars namely, Interculturality, Mission, Discernment as lifestyle, and Integral and ongoing formation to guide the Congregation for the following six years.



This was followed by the second phase of the provincial/delegation chapters in order to prepare a plan of action for the province/delegation taking into consideration the local context in which we are inserted and carry out our mission. As we have just completed the 2nd phase our Provincial Chapter, let us continue to dream of an Indian Province that is marching towards the path of progress, in a spirit of discernment and dialogue, in a spirit of creative fidelity to face the challenges of our time, with openness to assimilate the wisdom of the aged, with courage to listen to the young to give wings to our mission in order to proclaim Christ boldly and his values with conviction as disciples with our gaze on 2030.

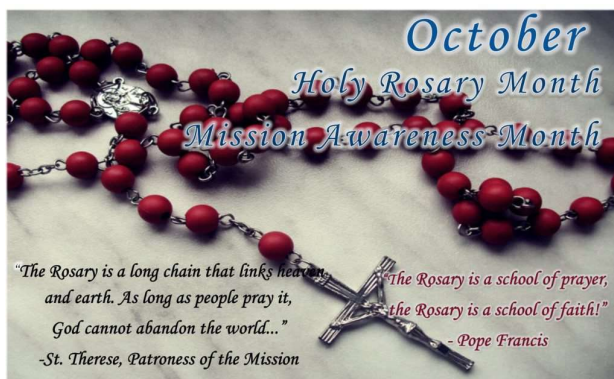


The Month of Rosary

The Rosary, when it is prayed in an authentic way, not mechanical and superficial but profoundly, it brings, in fact, peace and reconciliation.

It contains within itself the healing power of the Most Holy name of Jesus, invoked with faith and love at the centre of each "Hail Mary"

- Pope Benedict XVI



"Devotion to Mary is a most effective means for acquiring a delicate conscience, sensitivity to its voice, remorse for sin and the joy for having done well!" (Bl. James Alberione, SSP)

They were hungry

Wise words are like deep waters; wisdom flows from the wise like a bubbling brook.

- Proverbs 18:4



The Letter of Mother Scholastica to Sr Ignazia Biello written on 02.11.1932, ninety-one years ago referring to the Gospel of feeding of the five thousand (Mk 6:37) speaks volumes about the Sister Disciple's pastoral response to the Church and the people of God.

"It is really a case to repeat this passage of the Holy Scripture: they were hungry and were asking for bread and there was no one to break it for them. I believe that we have to be with our religious and pastoral vocation that need to

break the bread of the word of God, of the Gospel, to all...!

That's why we must give importance to our vocation and pray the Divine master to give us the virtue and the religious and pastoral graces".

- Ven Sr Scholastica Rivata

In this fast-moving world of today, life is not that easy. People go through many hardships, trials, and sufferings in their family life, workplace, and relationships, etc. Many times, they've been pushed down to the brim by life. When we think of healing them, we may think of praying for them, but we need to realize that our words have healing power, like life-giving water. When we're kind, when we're encouraging, when we don't just think something good but we take time to verbalize it, we're being healers. We don't realize the power of one kind word, the power of a simple compliment, the power of "I believe in you; You're going to make it; Great things are in store." Our words may seem ordinary to us, but when God breathes life into them, they become extraordinary to the other person.



Every day and everywhere, people are longing to hear our healing words. Even in our communities, the sisters need them. We are called to speak words of blessings to them. Shall we be healers through our vocation and mission as consecrated persons/Sister Disciples? Shall we use our words to lift people up? A little motivation goes a long way. It gives someone the desire to get things done. It helps someone to attain goals. Research shows that we can influence our levels of motivation and self-control through constant practice.

"Father, we thank You for our mission of intercession. We want to love the people like You do. Thank You that You can transform our ordinary words into life-giving water for others. We believe that You are making us into healers, and encouragers."

If we're growing, we're always going to be out of our comfort Zone.



Dear Sisters
Happy Feast of Jesus the Divine Master
To each and every one of you