



For a synodal MCYM

*Youth Action for Synod
2021 2023*

Session by

LAIJU KOSHY MATHEW

(President, MCYM Thiruvalla Archdiocese)





**From the Synod
on Youth and the
Synod on the
Amazon to the
Synod on
Synodality**



“Synodality is the way of being the Church today according to the will of God, in a dynamic of discerning and listening together to the voice of the Holy Spirit.”

Pope Francis

Together, listening to the Holy Spirit, let us be led by God

We stand before You, Holy Spirit,
as we gather together in Your name.
With You alone to guide us,
make Yourself at home in our hearts; Teach
us the way we must go
and how we are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful;
do not let us promote disorder.
Do not let ignorance
lead us down the wrong path
nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity
so that we may journey together
to eternal life and not stray
from the way of truth and what is right.

All this we ask of You, who are at work in
every place and time, in the communion of
the Father and the Son, forever and ever.
Amen.



The Challenge of Synodality

“What the Lord is asking of us is already in some sense present in the very word **“Synod.”** **Journeying together** – laity, pastors, the Bishop of Rome – is an **easy concept to put into words, but not so easy to put into practice.**”

Pope Francis, *Address at the Ceremony Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Institution of the Synod of Bishops,*

October 17 2015

Meaning of the logo



Synod
2021
2023

For a synodal Church
communion | participation | mission



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Logo

Holy Eucharist:
Shines like the Sun

Tree of Life: Cross, horizontal
lines of hands and Holy Spirit

People of God: Walking together
(Synodality), 15 silhouettes →
Entire humanity.

The Artist: Isabelle
de Senilhes,
France



“The Church of God is **convoked in Synod**. The path entitled “For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission” will solemnly open on the 9th – 10th of October 2021 in Rome and on the following **17th of October** in each particular Church. One fundamental stage will be the celebration of the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, in October 2023, which will be followed by the implementation phase that will again involve the particular Churches.

(PD, 1)



With this convocation, Pope Francis invites the entire Church to reflect on a theme that is decisive

for its life and mission: ***“It is precisely***

this path of synodality

which God expects of the

Church of the third

millennium.” This journey, which

follows in the wake of the Church’s

“renewal” proposed by the Second Vatican Council, is both a gift and a task:

by journeying together and reflecting together on the journey that has been made, the Church will be able to learn through Her experience which processes can help her

to live **communion**,

to achieve **participation**,

to open herself to **mission**.



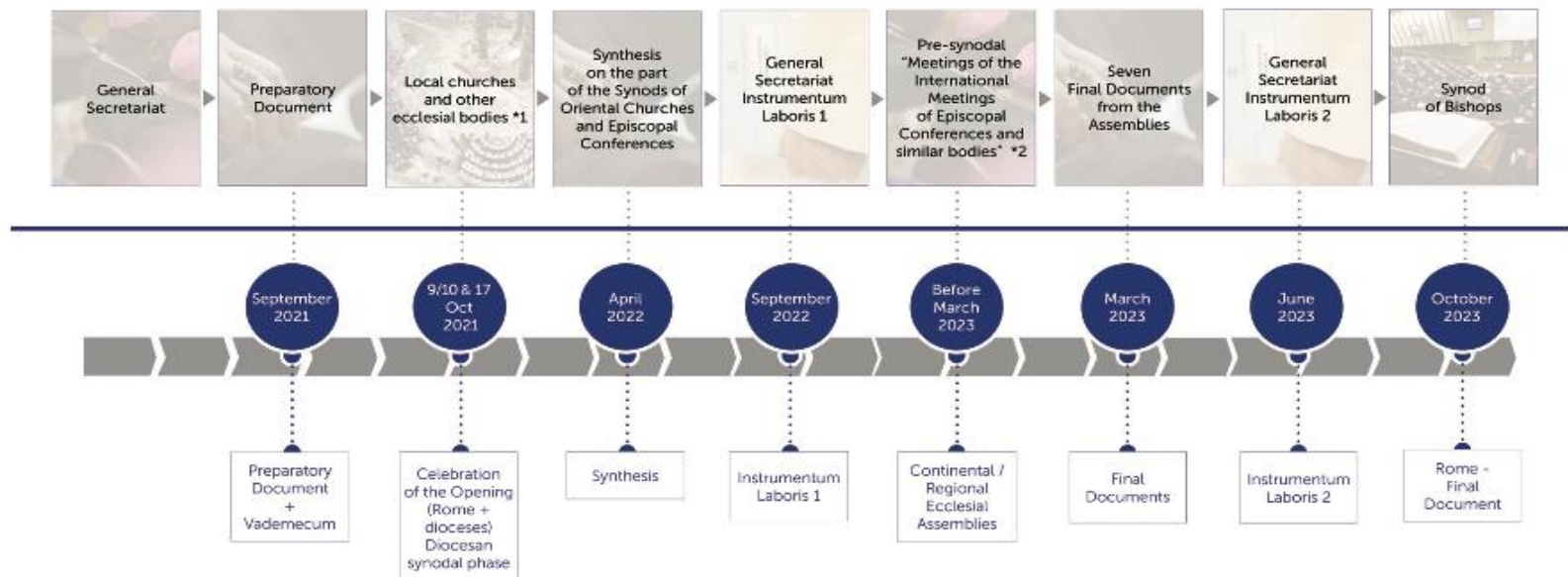
For a synodal Church

communion | participation | mission

Our “journeying together” is, in fact, what most effectively enacts and manifests the nature of the Church as the pilgrim and missionary People of God.”

FOR A SYNODAL CHURCH: COMMUNION, PARTICIPATION AND MISSION

XVI ORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SYNOD OF BISHOPS



*1 *Dioceses, Consecrated Life (IUSG-USG, UNIONS & FEDERATIONS), Associations of the Faithful, institutions of Higher Education*
*2 *Africa (ISeCAM), Oceania (ICBCO), Asia (IABCI), Middle East (ICMCO), Europe (ICCEB), Latin America (ICELAM), North America (IUSCCB+CCCBI)*

The aim of the Synod

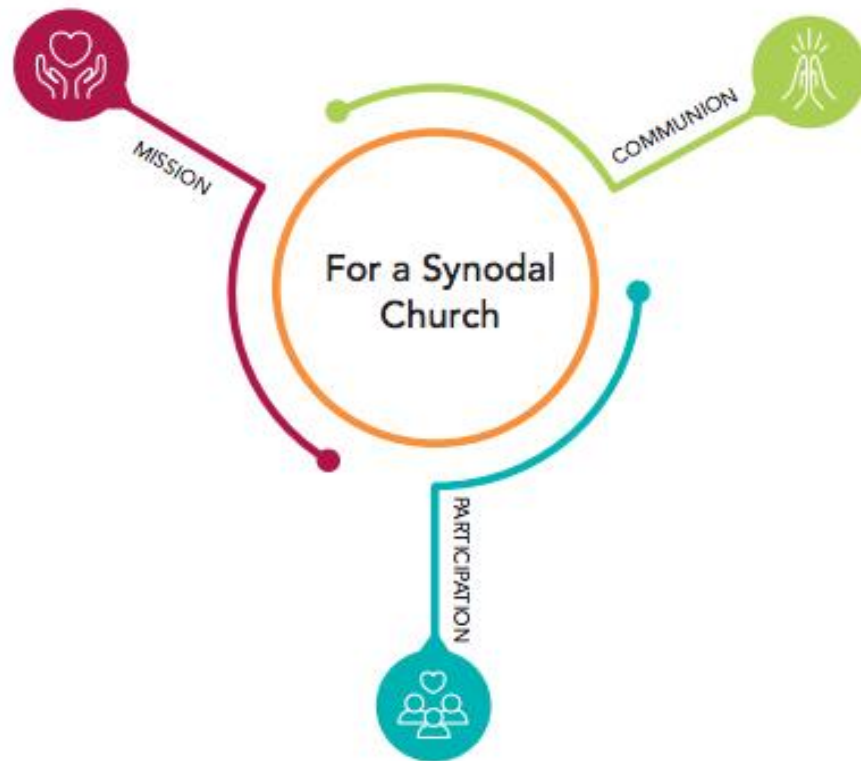
To learn synodality

Reread and Practice

The Synodal conversion of the Church
*Putting into practice the Synodal nature
of the entire Church*

Communion, Participation and Mission

—
3 indispensable keys
at the heart
of a Synodal Church





Communion: By his gracious will, God gathers us together as diverse peoples of one faith, through the covenant that he offers to his people. The communion we share finds its deepest roots in the love and unity of the Trinity. It is Christ who reconciles us to the Father and unites us with each other in the Holy Spirit. Together, we are inspired by listening to the Word of God, through the living Tradition of the Church, and grounded in the *sensus fidei* that we share. We all have a role to play in discerning and living out God's call for his people.



Participation: A call for the involvement of all who belong to the People of God – laity, consecrated and ordained – to engage in the exercise of deep and respectful listening to one another. This listening creates space for us to hear the Holy Spirit together, and guides our aspirations for the Church of the Third Millennium. Participation is based on the fact that all the faithful are qualified and are called to serve one another through the gifts they have each received from the Holy Spirit. In a synodal Church the whole community, in the free and rich diversity of its members, is called together to *pray, listen, analyse, dialogue, discern and offer advice on making pastoral decisions* which correspond as closely as possible to God's will (ICT, Syn., 67-68). Genuine efforts must be made to ensure the inclusion of those at the margins or who feel excluded.



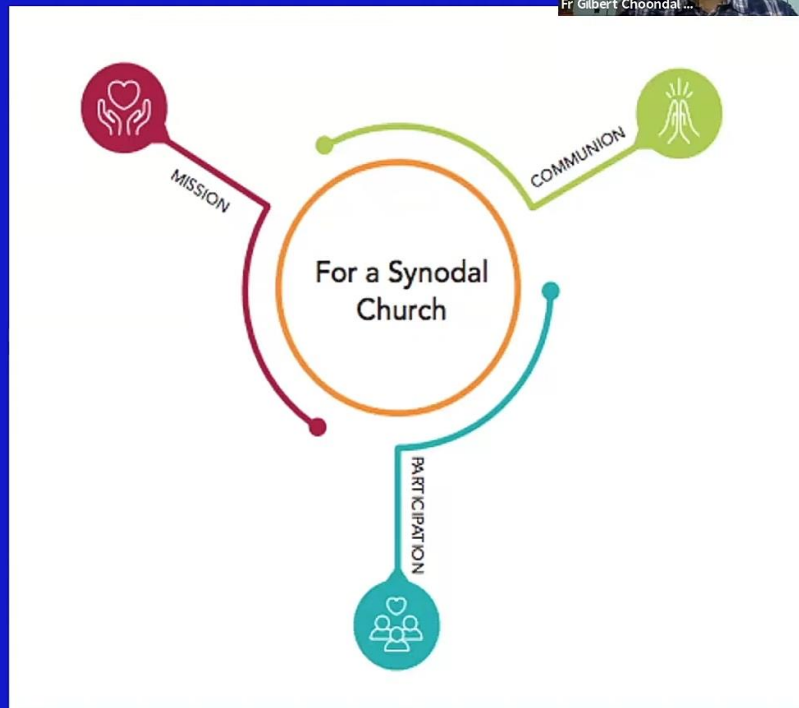
Mission: The Church exists to evangelize. We can never be centred on ourselves. Our mission is to witness to the love of God in the midst of the whole human family. This Synodal Process has a deeply missionary dimension to it. It is intended to enable the Church to better witness to the Gospel, especially with those who live on the spiritual, social, economic, political, geographical, and existential peripheries of our world. In this way, synodality is a path by which the Church can more fruitfully fulfil her mission of evangelization in the world, as a leaven at the service of the coming of God's kingdom.

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Theme: Communion, Participation and Mission



- **Communion** = fellowship, love and unity as expressed in Trinity.
- **Participation** = including all excluding none, listening and dialoguing with an open mind, for all stages and ages.
- **Mission** = that spreads to the entire universe, as a single family, as the identity of the Church





Synod
2021
2023

For a synodal Church
communion | participation | mission



Preparatory Document

- I. The Call to Journey Together
- II. A Constitutively Synodal Church
- III. Listening to the Scriptures
 - A. Jesus, the Crowd, the Apostles
 - B. A Double Dynamic of Conversion: Peter and Cornelius (Acts 10)
- IV. Synodality in Action: Pathways for Consulting the People of God

Vademecum

- I. Introduction
- II. Principles of a Synodal Process
- III. The Process of the Synod
- IV. Travelling the Synodal Path in Dioceses
- V. Resources for organizing the Synodal Process

**+ Appendices, materials, and tools
(biblical, liturgical, methodological,
and practical resources, etc.)**

The Objectives of the Synod (*PD*, 2)

- **recalling how the Spirit has guided the Church's journey** through history and, today, calls us to be, together, witnesses of God's love;
- **living a participative and inclusive ecclesial process that offers everyone**—especially those who for various reasons find themselves on the margins—the opportunity to express themselves and to be heard in order to contribute to the edification of the People of God;
- **recognizing and appreciating the wealth and the variety of the gifts and charisms** that the Spirit liberally bestows for the good of the community and the benefit of the entire human family;
- **exploring participatory ways of exercising responsibility** in the proclamation of the Gospel and in the effort to build a more beautiful and habitable world

The Objectives of the Synod (*PD*, 2)

- **examining how responsibility and power are lived in the Church as well as the structures by which they are managed**, bringing to light and trying to convert prejudices and distorted practices that are not rooted in the Gospel
- **accrediting the Christian community as a credible subject and reliable partner** in paths of social dialogue, healing, reconciliation, inclusion and participation, the reconstruction of democracy, the promotion of fraternity and social friendship
- **regenerating relationships among members of Christian communities as well as between communities and other social groups**, e.g., communities of believers of other denominations and religions, civil society organizations, popular movements, etc
- **fostering the appreciation and appropriation of the fruits of recent synodal experiences** on the universal, regional, national, and local levels

Key convictions for a Synodal Church

- Listen to one another in order to listen to the Holy Spirit
- In a spirit of prayer, grounded in the liturgy and the Word of God
- An experience shared with one another, not just filling out a questionnaire
- A process, not a one-time event
- Discerning together so that the decisions made are for the good of all





Discerning the signs of the times in the light of the Gospel

“The synodal journey unfolds within a historical context marked by epochal changes in society and by a crucial transition in the life of the Church, which cannot be ignored: it is within the folds of the complexity of this context, in its tensions and contradictions, that we are called to ‘scrutinize the **signs of the times** and interpret them in the **light of the Gospel**’ (GS, 4).”

(PD, 4)

1. The global tragedy of the **COVID-19 pandemic**
1. **Inequalities and injustices**: massification, fragmentation, the conditions faced by migrants, divisions across the family of humanity
1. The cry of the **poor** and the cry of the **earth**

We are all in the same boat...We are one human family living in our common home.

(Laudato Si' and Fratelli Tutti)

“Within this context, **synodality represents the main road for the Church**, called to renew herself under the action of the Spirit and by listening to the Word.” (PD, 9)

- *Imagining a different future for the Church*
- *Being a prophetic witness to the human family, which needs to be united around a common goal*



Listening to the Scriptures

Jesus, the Crowd, and the Apostles

“The work of evangelization and the message of salvation would not be comprehensible without Jesus’ constant openness to the widest possible audience, which the Gospels refer to as the *crowd*, that is, all the people who follow him along the path, and at times even pursue him in the hope of a sign and a word of salvation: this is the second actor on the scene of Revelation. The proclamation of the Gospel is not addressed only to an enlightened or chosen few.” (PD, 18)

📖 **In order for the Church to be herself, and for her mission to bear fruit, all three must always be present: Jesus, the crowd, and the apostles!**



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Two Images of the Synod from the Bible



- **1. Image of Jesus, Crowd & Apostles. (PD 17-21)**
- **Jesus shows no partiality (marginalised).**
- **Crowd indicates everyone, not chosen few alone, (Samaritan woman, Canaanite woman, centurion,...).**
- **Apostles indicate not exclusive privilege of power but inclusive ministry of blessing to all.**
- **All the three must be present for a true Church.**



6

Two Images of the Synod from the Bible



- Jesus, Crowd, The Apostles
- Church = A Political Contract
- Jesus, Crowd, The Apostles
- Jesus becomes ideology or myth by the crowd without His mediators.
- Jesus, Crowd, The Apostles
- Church becomes corrupted, sectarian and self-referential form of religion





Listening to the Scriptures

A Double Dynamic of Conversion: Peter and Cornelius (Acts 10)

“It is in the encounter with people, welcoming them, journeying with them, and entering their homes, that he realizes the meaning of his vision: no human being is unworthy in the eyes of God, and the difference established by election does not imply exclusive preference but service and witnessing of a universal breadth.” (PD, 23)



6

Two Images of the Synod from the Bible

→ **2. Image of the early Church: Peter and Cornelius. A Double Conversion. (PD 22-24).**

→ Peter had to deny his religious traditions (eating unclean food) to be transformed.

→ He becomes an instrument of life and communion with God and others.

→ No human being is unworthy in the eyes of God/

→ Both Cornelius and Peter involve other people in their journey of conversion, making them companions in their journey.



Synodality in action: pathways for consulting the People of God (PD, 26)

- In order to respond, you are invited to:
 - a) ask yourselves what experiences in your particular Church the fundamental question calls to mind;
 - b) reread these experiences of “journeying together” in greater depth: What joys did they provoke? What difficulties and obstacles have they encountered? What wounds have they brought to light? What insights have they elicited?
 - c) gather the fruits to share: Where, in these experiences, does the voice of the Spirit resound? What is he asking of us? What are the points to be confirmed, the prospects for change, the steps to be taken? Where do we register a consensus? What paths are opening up for our particular Church?

Basic Question of the Synodal Process

A basic question prompts and guides us: How does this “journeying together,” which takes place today on different levels (from the local level to the universal one), allow the Church to proclaim the Gospel in accordance with the mission entrusted to her; and what steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow as a synodal Church?

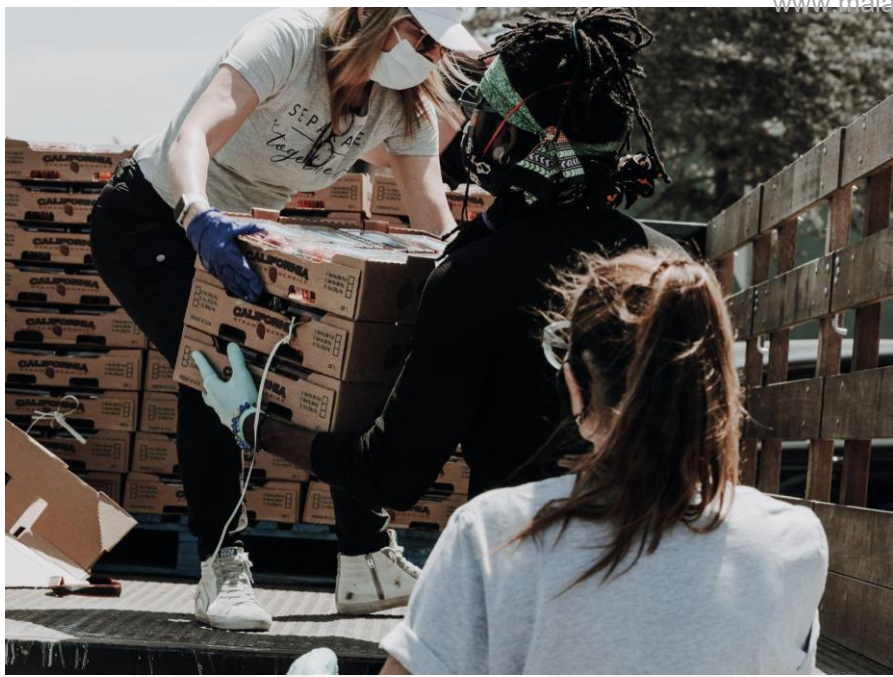
(PD, 2)

The fundamental question for the consultation of the People of God

A synodal Church, in announcing the Gospel, “journeys together:” How is this “journeying together” happening today in your local Church? What steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our “journeying together”?

(PD, 26)





“The **purpose of the Synod**, and therefore of this consultation, is not to produce documents, but “to plant dreams, **draw forth prophecies and visions**, **allow hope to be nourished**, inspire trust, bind up wounds, weave together relationships, awaken a dawn of hope, learn from one another, and **create a bright resourcefulness** that will enlighten minds, warm hearts, give strength to our hands.”

(PD, 32)



Ten Themes to Explore

I. COMPANIONS ON THE JOURNEY: *In the Church and in society, we are side by side on the same road.*

I. LISTENING: *Listening is the first step, but it requires having an open mind and heart, without prejudice.*

I. SPEAKING OUT: *All are invited to speak with courage and parrhesia, that is, integrating freedom, truth, and charity.*

I. CELEBRATION: *“Journeying together” is only possible if it is based on communal listening to the Word and the celebration of the Eucharist.*

I. SHARING RESPONSIBILITY FOR OUR COMMON MISSION: *Synodality is at the service of the mission of the Church, in which all members are called to participate.*

VI. DIALOGUE IN CHURCH AND SOCIETY: *Dialogue is a path of perseverance that also includes silences and sufferings, but which is capable of gathering the experience of persons and peoples.*

VI. ECUMENISM: *The dialogue between Christians of different confessions, united by one baptism, has a special place in the synodal journey.*

VI. AUTHORITY AND PARTICIPATION: *A synodal Church is a participatory and co-responsible Church.*

VI. DISCERNING AND DECIDING: *In a synodal style, decisions are made through discernment, based on a consensus that flows from the common obedience to the Spirit.*

VI. FORMING OURSELVES IN SYNODALITY: *The spirituality of journeying together is called to become an educational principle for the formation of the human person and of the Christian, of the families, and of the communities.*

Reinvigorating Collegial Bodies

- *Episcopalis Communio*, 7. “In the Church the purpose of any collegial body, whether consultative or deliberative, is always the search for truth or the good of the Church. When it is therefore a question involving the faith itself, the *consensus ecclesiae* is not determined by the tallying of votes, but is the outcome of the working of the Spirit, the soul of the one Church of Christ.”

Giving New Life to Synodal Institutions

- *The Synod of Bishops and Diocesan Synods*
- *Pastoral Councils, on the Diocesan and Parish levels, and the Presbyteral Council*
- *A Local, Provincial, or General Chapter for Religious Communities*
- *General Assemblies and Councils of Movements in the Church*

FOSTERING WIDE PARTICIPATION IN THE SYNODAL PROCESS

The goal is to ensure the participation of the greatest number possible, in order to listen to the *living voice of the entire People of God*.

- This is not possible unless we make special efforts to **actively reach out to people where they're at**, especially those who are often excluded or who are not involved in the life of the Church.
- There must be a clear focus on the **participation of the poor, marginalized, vulnerable, and excluded**, in order to listen to their voices and experiences.
- The Synodal Process must be **simple, accessible, and welcoming** for all.



FOR A SYNODAL MCYM

- IT IS THE NEED OF THE HOUR
- IT IS THE NEED OF THE CHURCH
- IT IS THE NEED OF THE YOUTH MINISTRY

For a synodal Church
communion | participation | mission



- COMMUNION
- PARTICIPATION
- MISSION

For a synodal MCYM ?



Communion: By his gracious will, God gathers us together as diverse peoples of one faith, through the covenant that he offers to his people. The communion we share finds its deepest roots in the love and unity of the Trinity. It is Christ who reconciles us to the Father and unites us with each other in the Holy Spirit. Together, we are inspired by listening to the Word of God, through the living Tradition of the Church, and grounded in the *sensus fidei* that we share. We all have a role to play in discerning and living out God's call for his people.



- How is it possible to create COMMUNION among us?



തിരുവല്ല അതിരൂപത
കോവിഡ് പ്രതിരോധ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾക്ക്



ടെലി-മെഡിക്കൽ സേവനം

പുഷ്പയിൽ മെഡിക്കൽ കോളേജിലെ വിദഗ്ദ്ധരായ ഡോക്ടർമാരുടെ മാരലൈൻ ടെലിഫോൺ സേവനം ലഭ്യമാകുന്നു

9497094278
CONSULTATION TIME
10.00 am - 4.00 pm

ടെലി-കൗൺസിലിംഗ്

മാനസിക ആരോഗ്യ സംബന്ധമായ കൗൺസിലിംഗ് ക്രമീകരണം

7012496477

മൃതസംസ്കാരം

കോവിഡ് മൂലം മരണപ്പെട്ട വ്യക്തികളുടെ മൃതസംസ്കാരം

9526479303

വാക്സിൻ രജിസ്ട്രേഷൻ ഹെൽപ്പ് ഡെസ്ക്

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അതിരൂപതയിലെ 9 മേഖലകളിലും കോർ ടീമിന്റെ നേതൃത്വത്തിൽ സജീവമായ സമ്പന്ന സേവനം

ഉച്ചഭക്ഷണം

അടിയന്തര സാഹചര്യങ്ങളിൽ ഭക്ഷണസൗകര്യം ക്രമീകരിക്കുന്നു

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UPCOMING SERVICE

വാഹന ക്രമീകരണം

കോവിഡ് മേരിക്കൾക്കു ഐക്യസംഘടനയിൽ കഴിയുന്നവർക്കോ അടിയന്തര സാഹചര്യങ്ങളിൽ യാത്രാ ക്രമീകരണം

9496056312

STAY HOME STAY SAFE



A joint venture of
BODHANA & MCYM THIRUVALLA ARCHDIOCESE

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:
Fr. Samuel Vilayil : 9526427278 | Fr. Abraham Thyparampil : 9447617877

സാമ്പത്തികം, മരുന്നും, ഭക്ഷ്യവസ്തുക്കളും, സേവനം തുടങ്ങിയ സഹായങ്ങളിലൂടെ ഈ ഉളമത്തിൽ നിങ്ങളും പങ്കാളിയുമാകാം



ഈവാനിയൻ പാഥേയം



For a Synodal MCYM?



Participation: A call for the involvement of all who belong to the People of God – laity, consecrated and ordained – to engage in the exercise of deep and respectful listening to one another. This listening creates space for us to hear the Holy Spirit together, and guides our aspirations for the Church of the Third Millennium. Participation is based on the fact that all the faithful are qualified and are called to serve one another through the gifts they have each received from the Holy Spirit. In a synodal Church the whole community, in the free and rich diversity of its members, is called together to *pray, listen, analyse, dialogue, discern and offer advice on making pastoral decisions* which correspond as closely as possible to God's will (ICT, Syn., 67-68). Genuine efforts must be made to ensure the inclusion of those at the margins or who feel excluded.

How is it possible to create PARTICIPATION among us?



വിവിധ ന്യാസികൾ		
INAUGURATION  ഫാ. ജോസഫ് ജോർജ്ജ് (All India Rank-150 Civil Service Examination & MCYM Member, St Mary's MCC, Karayattom)	CHIEF GUEST  ഫാ. ജോൺ ജോർജ്ജ് (എ.പി.സി.യുടെ അംഗം, അതിഭദ്രാസനം)	KEY-NOTE ADDRESS  ഫാ. ജോൺ ജോർജ്ജ് (എ.പി.സി.യുടെ അംഗം, അതിഭദ്രാസനം)
EXPERIENCE SHARING  ഫാ. ജോൺ ജോർജ്ജ് (MCYM അദ്ധ്യക്ഷൻ, അതിഭദ്രാസനം)	 Grow in Fellowship YOUTH WEEK 2021	EXPERIENCE SHARING  ഫാ. ജോൺ ജോർജ്ജ് (First Rank, M.A. എൽ. അതിഭദ്രാസനം, അതിഭദ്രാസനം അതിഭദ്രാസനം അതിഭദ്രാസനം)
YOUTH WEEK 2021 Grow in Fellowship		

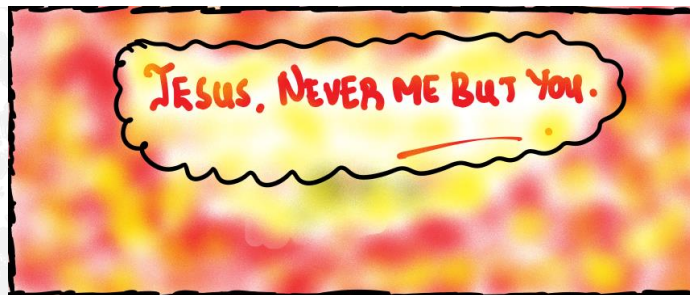


For a Synodal MCYM?

How is it possible to create MISSION among us?

➤ Mission: The Church exists to evangelize. We can never be centred on ourselves. Our mission is to witness to the love of God in the midst of the whole human family. This Synodal Process has a deeply missionary dimension to it. It is intended to enable the Church to better witness to the Gospel, especially with those who live on the spiritual, social, economic, political, geographical, and existential peripheries of our world. In this way, synodality is a path by which the Church can more fruitfully fulfil her mission of evangelization in the world, as a leaven at the service of the coming of God's kingdom.

- EACH ACTIVITY/DEED IS A MISSION WORK
- Let JESUS lead through YOU



JESUS NEVER ME BUT YOU

Thank you!

Session by
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(President, MCYM Thiruvalla Archdiocese)