



SECRETARIA GENERALIS
SYNODI

Vatican, 28 January 2026

Prot. N. 260014

Your Beatitude / Your Eminence / Your Excellency,

Dear Brother in the episcopal ministry,

as the synodal journey entrusted to the whole Church continues, we wish to draw your attention to certain **pastoral aspects connected with the year 2026**, which falls at a decisive moment of the **implementation phase of the Synod**, as outlined in the *Pathways for the implementation phase* prepared by the General Secretariat of the Synod.

As already communicated, the period **from June 2025 to December 2026** is dedicated to the **paths of implementation within the local Churches, the Eparchies and their groupings**, with reference to the *Final Document* of the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops. The year 2026 therefore represents the final stage of this time of implementation and consolidation, in view of the subsequent **assemblies scheduled for 2027**.

With this letter, we first of all wish to invite you, as guarantor of the synodal process, to ensure that sufficient time is set aside, within the agenda of the Diocese/Eparchy, the Episcopal Conference or the Synod of the Eastern Catholic Church, for the implementation process to take place, so that it does not remain at the margins of the ordinary life of the Diocese or Eparchy, nor be delegated exclusively to individual offices or groups.

In particular, during the course of 2026 it will be important to: **continue and strengthen the implementation paths already begun**, or initiate them where this has not yet occurred, by embracing the *Final Document* in its overall vision; **support the work of the synodal team** and of the participatory bodies, enhancing their role in animation, discernment and ecclesial coordination; **foster concrete experiences of synodal practice**, integrated into ordinary pastoral activity, rather than extraordinary or parallel initiatives; and **begin to gather progressively the fruits of the journey undertaken**, also in a narrative form, in view of the evaluation phase.

In this regard, we wish to recall more explicitly the **timing of the assemblies scheduled for 2027**, as indicated in the *Pathways*:

- **in the first half of 2027**, the convening of **evaluation assemblies on the journey undertaken in the Dioceses and Eparchies**, which are called to reread the implementation process carried out at the local level;
- **in the second half of 2027**, the convening of **evaluation assemblies on the journey undertaken at the level of the Episcopal Conferences and the Synods of the Eastern Catholic Churches**, in view of the subsequent continental assemblies in 2028.

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To the Bishops
To the Presidents
of the Episcopal Conferences, of the Synods of the Churches *sui iuris*
and of the other groupings of Churches

The year 2026 is therefore decisive also as a **time of preparation** for these assemblies, so that they may be carried out in an orderly, participatory and truly fruitful manner.

The *Pathways* further indicate that, during the implementation phase, **it may be envisaged that the local Churches will be called to share the steps taken in certain specific areas**, according to modalities and forms suited to the different contexts. Among these areas, without any claim to exhaustiveness, mention may be made of: the promotion of synodal spirituality; the practice of ecclesial discernment and decision-making processes in a synodal style; the renewal of the participatory bodies; the appreciation of ministries and charisms; transparency, accountability and evaluation; the missionary renewal of communities and parishes; and attention to formation.

It is important that the work of 2026 take these perspectives into account, not in order to anticipate unduly the evaluation phase, but to **orient the paths of implementation with greater awareness**.

Finally, we wish to recall the importance of **organising the work in accordance with what is indicated in the *Pathways* also at the methodological level**. The processes of implementation are called to unfold in a **synodal style**, avoiding the risk of improvisation or dispersion, through an appropriate investment in the **elaboration and accompaniment of processes**, in the formation of the persons involved, and in careful attention to the modalities of participation, listening and discernment.

The General Secretariat of the Synod, in dialogue with the competent Dicasteries, will continue to accompany this journey, offering listening, tools and opportunities for exchange, while respecting the proper responsibilities of each local Church and of each Church *sui iuris*.

Thanking you for the dedication with which you guide the People of God in this demanding and fruitful time, we assure you of our closeness and support, entrusting our common journey to the action of the Holy Spirit.

With fraternal esteem, in Christ

+ Luis Antonio G. Card. Tagle
Luis Antonio G. Card. TAGLE

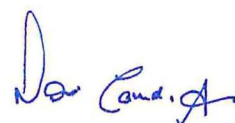
Pro-Prefect

*Dicastery for Evangelization
Section for the First Evangelization
and New Particular Churches*

+ Filippo Iannone
H. E. Mons. Filippo IANNONE, O. Carm.

Prefect

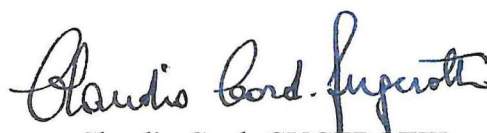
Dicastery for Bishops



Mario Card. GRECH

Secretary General

General Secretariat of the Synod



Claudio Card. GUGEROTTI

Prefect

Dicastery for the Eastern Churches

In order to maintain direct contact with all synodal teams, Dioceses and Eparchies are kindly invited to register their synodal team through the following link:

https://synod2024db.com/2025_synodal-teams-registration/