



# SYNODALITY



## Knights of the Southern Cross Formation Program 2022

### Session 3 The Synod Theme: Communion, Participation, and Mission

This Synod will highlight the call to walk together as members of the Church. The title is “For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission”. We are invited to reflect on how we are united with one another in the *communion* of one people of God. We are asked to consider how each member of the Church can *participate* in the life of the Church. We are encouraged to think about how each one of us has a role in the Church’s *mission* to share the Good News of Christ in what we say and in the way we live. We are invited to share our reflections with others and listen to others as they share their reflections with us.

Three indispensable keys at the heart of a Synodal Church and the theme of the Synod:

“For a Synodal Church: **Communion**, **Participation**, and **Mission**.”

These three dimensions are profoundly interrelated. They are the vital pillars of a Synodal Church. There is no hierarchy between them. Rather, each one enriches and orients the other two. There is a dynamic relationship between the three that must be articulated with all three in mind.



**Communion:** 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.

The Spirit of God, who illuminates and vivifies this “journeying together” of the Churches, is the same Spirit who works in the mission of Jesus, promised to the Apostles and to the generations of disciples who hear God’s Word and put it into practice. It is, therefore, appropriate that our journey of building a synodal Church be inspired by the Scriptures.

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. The proclamation of the Gospel is not addressed only to an enlightened or chosen few. Jesus’ interlocutor is the “people” of ordinary life, the “everyone” of the human condition, whom he puts directly in contact with God’s gift and the call to salvation.

A Church capable of communion and fraternity, of participation and subsidiarity, in fidelity to what she proclaims, will be able to stand beside the poor and the least and lend them her own voice. In



# SYNODALITY



## Knights of the Southern Cross Formation Program 2022

order to “journey together,” we need to let ourselves be educated by the Spirit to a truly synodal mentality, entering with courage and freedom of heart into a conversion process that is indispensable for the “continual reformation of which [the Church] always has need, in so far as she is a human institution.

**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.

**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. We see throughout the Gospels how Jesus reaches out to all. He does not only save people individually but as a people that he gathers together, as the one Shepherd of the entire flock (cf. John 10:16). The ministry of Jesus shows us that no one is excluded from God’s plan of salvation.

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.

### Reflection and Discussion

1. What hinders the baptised from being active in mission?
2. As members of KSC what areas of mission are we neglecting?
3. What facilitates or inhibits our listening?
4. How well do we listen to those on the peripheries?
5. What are some limitations in our ability to listen, especially to those who have different views than our own? Can we discuss this openly and come to an action plan to improve?

**Prayer:** So then, together, listening to the Holy Spirit, let us be led by God, as we pray

**We stand before You, Holy Spirit,  
as we gather 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**