



SECRETARIA GENERALIS
SYNODI

Vatican, 19th June 2023

Prot. No. 230222

Beatitude, Your Eminence, Your Excellency,

After just under two years since Pope Francis convoked the Church in Synod in October 2021, the Church in Synod by is now preparing to celebrate the First Session of the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops (October 2023).

On the basis of all the material gathered during the listening phase, and in particular the final documents of the Continental Synodal Assemblies, the *Instrumentum laboris* (**Annex 1**) was drafted and the Methodology of the next synodal assembly was prepared. Both were approved by the 15th Ordinary Council of the General Secretariat of the Synod.

I now kindly ask for your support and the courtesy to attend to the indications below in order to better disseminate this *Instrumentum laboris*.

1. The Document is to remain **under embargo** until its presentation at a Press Conference on **Tuesday 20 June at 14.30** (Rome time).
2. I am requesting your support in transmitting **Annexe B.** to the diocesan Bishops and Eparchies.
3. The Document was written simultaneously in Italian and English, which are therefore to be considered the official languages of the Document. The French, Portuguese and Spanish versions are to be considered translations only. Should you wish to make a translation of the document, a word version is available. The translation must be approved by the Bishops' Conference. An editable formatted version is also available on our website: www.synod.va where you will find other useful material. For any queries regarding this please send an email to media@synod.va

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To the Heads of the Synods of the Oriental Catholic Churches *sui iuris*
To the Presidents of the Episcopal Conferences
THEIR SEES

Annexes at this link: <https://www.synod2023.org/register/>

1. *Instrumentum laboris* (IL)
2. F.A.Q. and synthesis of the IL
3. Elements of language
- B.** Letter to Diocesan Bishops and to Eparchial Bishops



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4. At the time of publication, it is very likely that you or the head of the Synodal Team of your Oriental Catholic Church *sui iuris* or Bishops' Conference will be approached by local journalists. To this end, I have had a short F.A.Q. and a summary of the IL prepared (**Annex 2**) which I hope will be useful to you. I would ask you to forward this material to those who may be asked to answer questions by journalists, asking that they respect the embargo. In fact, if you find it useful, I strongly encourage you to consider making a statement, message or press conference immediately after the publication of this document. To this end, **Annex 3** contains some elements of language you may wish to use. I would be grateful to be notified of any public statement that you make together with a copy of the texts delivered.

Dear Brother, let us continue to walk following the Holy Father's invitation to “continue this journey together, with great confidence in the work that the Holy Spirit is doing. He is the protagonist of the synodal process, He, not us! It is He who opens individuals and communities to listening; it is He who makes dialogue authentic and fruitful; it is He who illuminates discernment; it is He who guides choices and decisions. It is He above all who creates harmony, communion in the Church” (Address to the diocesan referents of the Italian synodal path, 25.05.2023).

The General Secretariat of the Synod remains at your disposition for any clarification.

Fraternally,



Mario Card. Grech

General Secretary