



Everything You Need to Know About The October 4 Synod

Part Two: What Will Happen at the Synod?

What has happened so far?

On October 10, 2021, Pope Francis officially announced the beginning of the preparation for the Synod on Synodality to be held in Rome in October of 2023. **During the winter/spring of 2022, parishes and Catholic organizations around the world met to discuss the synod questions and submit a summary report of their meetings to their diocese.** (In the United States some parishes participated, others did not, depending on the leadership of the particular diocese or local parish.) Diocesan summary reports were sent to the USCCB (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops), which collated the individual diocesan reports and sent a national summary report to the Vatican. An international report was assembled in late 2022 and sent back to “Continental” groups for review. Those groups responded back to Rome. **The Vatican issued a working document, the IL (*Instrumentum Laboris*) in June of 2023 which will guide the Synod Process.**

What are they actually going to do at the Synod?

Cardinal Mario Grech, secretary general of the Synod, describes the IL as **the “fruit of a synodal process”** which **“involved the whole Church”** in an exercise of listening to the people of God. (IL #1) It is “a practical aid for the conduct” of the Synod; it is not a document of the Church’s Magisterium, or teaching office. **It articulates “some of the priorities that emerged from listening to the People of God... It expresses them as questions addressed to the synodal assembly.”** (IL #10)

XVI ORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SYNOD OF BISHOPS

INSTRUMENTUM LABORIS

For the First Session
(October 2023)





Litterae Communions

#ChurchOnTheWay

At the Synod there will be 400+ participants, both lay and ordained, from around the world.

The assembly will be divided into small groups of 12 people sitting at round tables according to various language groups. **They will work in these groups, addressing the many questions from the IL document which is based upon issues raised through the global consultation under the Synod themes of Communion, Mission, and Participation.** (coming in Part Four)



The IL (*Instrumentum Laboris*) can be viewed at:
https://www.synod.va/content/dam/synod/common/phases/universal-stage/il/ENG_INSTRUMENTUM-LABORIS.pdf

Some of the issues raised around the world include:

- **the role of women** in the Church,
- **the exercise of authority** in the Church at all levels,
- **the formation** in the seminary,
- **the question of the ordination** of mature married men in some regions,
- **the approach to the divorced and remarried Catholics and to LGBTQ+ people,**
- **the care of our earth,**
- **and much more.**

After listening to each other in these groups they will gather in plenary (total) sessions and share their input.



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