

PRESS RELEASE

Free Online Course (Massive Open Online Course)

Date: July 2022

Topic: Common Discernment and Decision Making in the Church

Web: <https://bit.ly/registerstynod>

The *Synod on Synodality* has been inaugurated in October 2021 by Pope Francis and will culminate with the celebration of the *XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops* in October 2023. This event represents a new stage in ecclesial life that invites us to generate processes of conversion and reform in order to build a *Synodal Church* for this third millennium.

The present intercontinental and intercultural project proposes to accompany formation of **more than 100.000 people** in the ***theology and practice of synodality*** through a series of **free online courses** to support all the people of God —*bishops, priests, religious men and women, lay men and women*— who have been called to this process of ecclesial renewal.

All the courses are completely **free of charge** and will be offered online in **several languages** —*Spanish, English, Portuguese, French and Italian*. In addition, speakers from all continents will participate in the courses, which will allow us to have a global and intercultural vision of the Church.

The first course will be held in July 2022. Over a period of three weeks, different topics on *Common discernment and Decision making in the Church* will be offered. We invite you to register and get involved in the challenge of imagining and building the Church of the third millennium.

Registration and information
Web: <https://bit.ly/registerstynod>

Organizers: Dr. Rafael Luciani (Venezuela), Dr. Carlos María Galli (Argentina), Dr. Agenor Brighenti (Brazil) (*Latin American Members of the Theological Commission of the General Secretariat of the Synod*)
Dr. Félix Palazzi (*Director of "Formación Continua", Boston College School of Theology and Ministry*)

Sponsors: Consejo Episcopal Latinoamericano y caribeño (**CELAM**), Consilium Conferentiarum Episcoporum Europae (**CCEE**), Federation of Asian Bishops Conferences (**FABC**), International Union Superiors General (**UISG**), Unione Superiori Generali (**USG**), Confederación Latinoamericana de Religiosos (**CLAR**), Union des Conférences Européennes de Supérieurs/es Majeurs/es (**UCESM**), Conferencia de Provinciales Jesuitas en América Latina y el Caribe (**CPAL**).

Lecturers: Anne Arabome, sss (Africa), Mons. Faustino Armendáriz Jiménez (Mexico), Nathalie Becquart, xmcj (Vatican), Philippe Becquart (Switzerland), Mons. Raúl Biord Castillo, sdb (Venezuela), Alphonse Borras (Belgium), Carmen Bernabé-Ubieta (Spain), Juan Bytton, sj (Peru), Christine Danel, xmcj (France), Samuel Fernández (Chile), Gloria Liliana Franco Echeverri, odn (Colombia), Carlos García de Andoin (Spain), Mons. José Saúl Grisales (Colombia), Judith Gruber (Germany), Gregor Hoff (Germany), Christina Kheng (Asia), Laurence Loubières, xmcj (Canada), Rafael Luciani (Venezuela), Shane Mackinlay (Australia), David McCallum, sj (USA), Serena Noceti (Italy), Josée Ngalula (Africa), Agbonkhanmeghe E. Orobator, sj (Africa), Carlos Schickendantz (Argentina), Br. Emili Turù Rofes (Italy).

DISCERNMENT IN COMMON AND DECISION MAKING IN A SYNODAL CHURCH

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<https://formaciononline.bc.edu>



Introductory Lectures

The Council of Jerusalem: analysis of Acts 15 (Juan Bytton sj, Perú)

The Council of Jerusalem: Discernment and Conflict Resolution (Carmen Bernabé, Spain)

Introducing Synodality (Rafael Luciani, Venezuela)

WEEK 1: From discernment in common to consensus-building

Lecture:

Discernment in common (Laurence Loubières xmcj, Canada)

Deepening:

Consensus building (Emili Turù, Spain)

Conflict and divergence management (Judith Gruber, Germany)

Processes of listening, discerning and decision making in a Diocese (Msgr. Faustino Armendáriz Jiménez, México)

Experiences:

Networking and processes of listening and discerning together (Christine Danel, xmcj, France)

Models of discernment in Asia (Christina Kheng, Singapore)

Models of communal discernment in Africa (Agbonkhianmeghe Orobator sj, Nigeria)

Practices of communal discernment in Africa (Anne Arabome, sss, Kenya)

WEEK 2: Decision-making in the Church

Lecture:

Decision-making and decision-taking models in the Church (Serena Noceti, Italy)

Deepening:

Decision-making and decision-taking in the first centuries of Christianity (Samuel Fernandez, Chile)

Synodality and joint decision-making (Alphonse Borrás, Belgium)

Synodality, Democracy and Parliamentarism (Carlos García de Andoin, Spain)

Experiences:

The experience of the Plenary Council of Australia (Msgr. Shane Anthony Mackinlay, Australia)

The Experience of the Ecclesial Assembly of Latin America and the Caribbean (Gloria Liliana Franco, odn, Colombia)

WEEK 3: Leadership and Governance in the Church

Lecture:

Leadership in the Church (David McCallum, sj, USA)

Deepening:

Co-responsibility and Teamwork (Nathalie Becquart, xmcj and Philippe Becquart, Vatican and Switzerland)

Accountability: international reports and ecclesial responses (Carlos Schickendantz, Chile)

Co-governance and accountability in dioceses (Msgr. Raúl Biord, Venezuela)

Experiences:

Power in the Church (Gregor Maria Hoff, Germany)

Leadership and teamwork in a Diocese (Msgr. Jose Saul Grisales, Colombia)

Women's leadership and governance in the Church (Sr. Josée Ngalula, Democratic Republic of Congo)