

A global overview of the implementation of synodality in local churches.

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Executive Summary

This synthesis coming from the information we receive or observe at the Secretariat of the Synod reveals a remarkably diverse global appropriation of synodality, ranging from institutional structures to local cultural expressions, demonstrating the progressive establishment of a synodal approach across all dimensions of ecclesial life. This attempt of a global mapping that is not at all exhaustive shows that the synod implementation has started in the local churches and generates remarkable pastoral creativity that adapts to local contexts while referring to the Synod on Synodality and its Final Document.

This note is trying to highlight the different fields and dimensions of initiatives and ways the implementation of synodality is happening. Many initiatives and good synodal practices can be followed on our website

<https://www.synodresources.org/resources/>

Key Highlights :

1. **Strong Institutional Dimension:** Creation of permanent structures at continental, national, and diocesan levels
2. **Remarkable Geographic Diversity:** Documented initiatives across all continents with specific cultural adaptations
3. **Multiple Approaches:** From academic formation to artistic expressions, including spiritual discernment processes
4. **Broad Participation:** Involvement of all states of life (bishops, priests, religious, laypeople) and specific groups (youth, elderly, minorities), taken up by Bishops Conferences and dioceses as well as Religious Communities, Lay movement and other ecclesial realities like schools, universities and catholic charities
5. **Methodological Innovation:** Development and dissemination of "Conversation in the Spirit" as a preferred tool
6. **Ecumenical and Interreligious Dimension:** Opening to other Christian denominations in several initiatives

1. Creation of Institutional Synodal Structures

Continental and Regional Bodies

- **FABC (Asia):** Creation of a Commission for Synodality chaired by Cardinal Pablo David (Philippines), aimed at organizing a seminar for bishops from all Asian countries
 - [FABC Statement](#)
 - [Asian bishops' body eyes creation of 'Office for Synodal Transformation'](#)
- **COMSAM/COSMAM (Africa):** 6th General Assembly in South Africa with commitment to become "[laboratories of synodality](#)"
- **SECAM (Africa):** 20th Plenary Assembly planned in Rwanda to "deepen reflection on synodality, missionary discipleship, and inculturation"
 - [SECAM Plenary Assembly 2025](#)
- **AMECEA (East and Central Africa):** Formation and commissioning of a group of "Synod Trainers" to accompany parishes, dioceses, and communities.
 - **Synodal Learning Exchange :** AMECEA in Nairobi is requesting to send 4 observers to the Tanzania Episcopal Conference's plenary next week to learn from their synodal practice of including laity, religious, and clergy in study sessions.
 - [AMECEA synod trainers commissioned](#)

Religious Life :

- **UISG Synodal Initiative**
 - <https://www.uisg.org/en/news/Walking-Together-Post-Synodal-Assembly-Reflections-2024/>
- UISG plenary May 2025 with a commitment to synodality <https://plenary2025.uisg.org/>
 - <https://www.uisg.org/en/news/press-release-uisg-2025-plenary-hope-that-transforms/>
- **USG Assembly with Card. Grech on synodality in religious life**
 - <https://www.usgroma.org/en/103rd-assembly/>

National Commissions and Teams

- **United States (USCCB)** : Favorable vote to create a "Synod Task Force" within the Episcopal Conference
 - [USCCB Synod Resources](#)
- **Thailand**: High-level national committee chaired by Archbishop Anthony Weradet Chaiseri
 - [Catholic Church in Thailand launches committee](#)
- **Costa Rica**: Reactivation of national commission with request for bishops to appoint diocesan facilitators
 - [Commission nationale de synodalité](#)
- **Japan**: Synodal teams at each ecclesiastical province level plus a national team
- **South Africa (SACBC)** : Commission and office dedicated to implementation with Archbishop Dabula Mpako as president
 - [SACBC Press Conference](#)
- **Switzerland** : "National synodality commission" for 5 years with 30 members representing different regions
 - [Commission nationale pour la synodalité](#)
 - [Synodal website](#)
- **Spain** : Renewal of the synodal team of the Episcopal Conference
 - [Equipo sinodal renovación](#)
- **India**: Publication "Pilgrims of Hope: Discerning the Synodal Path" by the Bishops' Conference
 - <https://www.licas.news/2025/03/19/indian-bishops-chart-future-of-synodality-with-pilgrims-of-hope-document/>
- **Uruguay**: Extension of Pastoral Guidelines emphasizing "Fortalecer la vida y los procesos comunitarios"
 - <https://iglesiaticolica.org.uy/comunicado-al-concluir-la-asamblea-plenaria-de-la-ceu-abril-de-2025/>
- **New Ecclesial Functions**
 - **Austria**: Appointment of the first woman "episcopal vicar" (Dr. Barbara Velik-Frank) in charge of the office for synodality
 - [Austrian bishop names first episcopal vicaress](#)
 - [Diocese of Gurk-Klagenfurt](#)
 - **Bologna**: General Vicar for Synodality
 - <https://www.tvbologna.it/canali/chiesa/mons-stefano-ottani-spiega-il-cammino-sinodale/>
 - **Australia (Canberra)**: Launch of a "Synodal Evangelisation Team" following the Archdiocesan Assembly
 - [Archbishop Prowse launches team](#)

2. Diocesan Synodal Assemblies and Processes

- **Côte d'Ivoire (Abidjan):** Declaration of a diocesan "Synodal Year"
 - [Diocèse Abidjan](#)
- **Complete Diocesan Synods**
 - **Australia (Paramatta)** a first diocesan synod to discern a pastoral plan to implement synodality
 - <https://parracatholic.org/synodality/>
 - **DRC (Kolwezi):** First diocesan synod inscribed in the dynamics of the Synod on Synodality
 - [Premier synode diocésain Kolwezi](#)
 - **Benin (Dassa-Zoumé):** 4-day diocesan assembly to reflect on 30 years of journey "in a synodal spirit"
 - [Diocesan Assembly Dassa-Zoumé](#)

Archdiocesan and Diocesan Assemblies

- **Singapore:** Archdiocesan assembly with 700 delegates approving 5 pastoral priorities including "embracing synodality as a way of being Church"
 - [Cardinal Goh on mission priorities](#)
- **Philippines (Manila):** Pastoral general assembly "Synodality in Action: A Church that Listens, Discerns and Serves"
 - [Manila Archdiocesan Assembly](#)
- **Malaysia (Sabah):** Regional pastoral assembly with 700 delegates defining 9 mission statements
 - [Sabah Regional Pastoral Assembly](#)
- **Peru (Lima):** Preparation of the second synodal assembly with pastoral letter from Cardinal Castillo
 - [Carta pastoral Lima](#)

Local Synodal Pastoral Projects and letters

- **Brasil (Archdiocese of Passo Fundo) plan proposed by the synodal team**
 - [Equipe Sinodal entrega sugestões ao Arcebispo para a implementação do Documento Final do Sínodo - Notícias - Arquidiocese de Passo Fundo](#)
- **Diocese of Évry:** Several sectors have developed pastoral projects (Brunoy-Val d'Yerres, Montlhéry-Longpont, etc.)
 - <https://evry.catholique.fr/synode/presentation-du-synode/>
- **Parish of Lyon:** 40 teams mobilized to organize welcome and listening evenings for the Final Document
- **United States (San Diego):** 17 pilot parishes in "Re-imagining Parish Life and Leadership in a Synodal Church"
 - <https://sdcatholic.org/re-imagining-parish-life-and-leadership-in-a-synodal-church/>
 - <https://paroisseoullins.net/le-document-final-du-synode-2024/>
- **United States (Newark) :** Cardinal Tobin Pastoral letter "We Are His Witnesses" based on synodality
 - <https://rcan.org/cardinal-tobin-we-are-his-witnesses/>
- **Senegal (Archdiocese of Dakar):** Mgr André Guèye, recently installed as Archbishop of Dakar, has published his first pastoral letter, which outlines the contours of a synodal Church for the Archdiocese of Dakar.
 - <https://www.sudquotidien.sn/mgr-andre-gueye-publie-sa-premiere-lettre-pastorale-et-dessine-les-contours-dune-eglise-synodale-pour-larchidiocese-de-dakar/>
- **Italy (archdiocese of Milan):** Pastoral letter of Mons. Delpini "But among you, let it not be so" For the diocesan reception of the synodal journey - Pastoral Proposal 2025-2026
 - <https://www.chiesadimilano.it/cms/documenti-del-vescovo/mario-delpini-documenti-del-vescovo/lettera-pastorale-tra-voi-pero-non-sia-cosi-2842798.html>

Practical Implementation Days

- **Belgium (Vicariate of Walloon Brabant):** Day on "How to live and practice synodality concretely"
- **Botswana:** Practice of "Conversation in the Spirit" during diocesan workshops
- **Cameroon:** 48th seminar of bishops on "Living synodality in the context of our local Church"
- **Diocese of Basel:** Third Synodal Assembly bringing together 40 leaders to address structural changes
- **Gabon (Port-Gentil):** Activities of the diocesan synod committee with elderly people

Vademecums

- **Diocese of Évry:** Regular update of a Synodality Vademecum
 - <https://evry.catholique.fr/synode/documents-ressources/>
- **Vademecum by Brother Alois of Taizé:** Practical guide for local synod implementation
 - https://www.synodresources.org/resource_post/262736/

3. Formation and Education in Synodality

Permanent Schools of Synodality

- **Senegal:** "School of synodality" directed by Sr. Anne-Béatrice Faye with continuous sessions and Final Document reception program
 - [École de synodalité au Sénégal](#)
- **School of Synodality UK** schoolforsynodality.org.uk
- **WUCWO School of Synodality** - wucwo.org/training/school-for-synodality

Theological and Academic Formation

- **University of Linz, Austria New department for synodality research**
 - <https://thesynodaltimes.substack.com/p/catholic-university-of-linz-founds>
- **Catholic Institute of Paris:** Meetings around the books "Keys for a Synodal Church" and "ABC of Synodality"
 - [Rencontre sur la synodalité](#)
- **Lebanese University LA SAGESSE:** Course on synodality in the Arab world
- **Diocese of Reims:** Diocesan days "Synodality and the act of believing" with Christophe Théobald
 - [Formation Synodalité et acte de croire](#)
- **USA San Francisco (Santa Clara University):** International event "Together at the Table" with Cardinal Mario Grech
 - [Bringing Synodality Home](#)

Intensive Formation Programs and Workshops

- **Hong Kong:** 3-day seminar for 51 theology students
 - https://www.synodresources.org/resource_post/263212/
- **India (Bangalore):** Online seminar for 40 parish priests of the Redemptorists
 - [Redemptorists commit to synodality](#)
- **India (Raipur):** 2-day workshop bringing together 170 priests and 300 religious
 - [Synodality is a new way of being Church](#)
- **Uganda:** Week-long national workshop for 20 religious
 - [National Workshop Uganda](#)
- **Botswana (Gaborone):** Workshop for 62 diocesan pastoral counselors
 - [Diocese of Gaborone workshop](#)

Specialized Formation by Sectors

- **Diocese of Armagh (Ireland):** Complete one-year program for Parish Pastoral Councils
- **Philippines:** Program for indigenous youth on "Inculturation, Synodality, Integral Ecology"

- [Indigenous youth gather](#)
- **United States (Leadership Roundtable):** "Synodal Leadership Formation" initiative
 - [Synodal Leadership Formation](#)
- **Canada (Team Initiation):** Formation on synodality for catechumenate ministry
 - [Why synodality matters for catechumenate](#)

Academic Research and Documentation, Production of Local Documents

- Symposiums and Academic Research
- More and more students doing thesis and doctorates on synodality topics
- Kenya (Tangaza University): Symposium "Nostra Aetate at 60: Interfaith Dialogue and Synodality in Mission"
- Nigeria: Study on "Artificial Intelligence and its Impact on Synodality"
- Pan-African Network (Pactpan): Continental meeting "Africa's Response to the Synod on Synodality"
- United States (Pew Research): Study showing 23% of American Catholics have heard of the Synod
- United States (Clarke University): Conference "The Future of the Synodal Church in the U.S."
- United States (Oblate School of Theology): Conference "Theology, Synodality, & the Rise of Global Catholicism"

Educational and Pedagogical Projects

- **Philippines (Tabuk):** Catholic teachers' day "Opening paths to the future, empowering educators in synodality" <https://cbcpnews.net/cbcpnews/bishop-urges-catholic-educators-to-embrace-synodality-in-schools/>
- **Indonesia:** Catholic schools forum on synod results
 - [West Yogyakarta Catholic schools forum](#)
- **Philippines:** Family celebration "Following St. Joseph: Walking the Path of Synodality"

4. Creative and Cultural Initiatives

Artistic and Symbolic Expressions

- **Philippines:** Concert on synodality organized by a community
 - [Concert on synodality](#)
- **Hong Kong:** Emblem design contest to symbolize synodality with 79 submissions
 - [Diocese unveils winning emblem](#)
- **Creation of songs and videos on synodality**

5. Pastoral and Spiritual Accompaniment

Retreats, Spiritual Exercises and Specialized Accompaniment

- **Apostolic Vicariate of Southern Arabia:** Pastoral visit emphasizing accompaniment of distant faithful [Unity, synodality, and the joy of faith](#)
- **Diocese of Saint-Denis:** Retreat for deacons on the Synod Final Document
- **Diocese of Lille:** Retreat for Christian entrepreneurs on "Synod and business: an approach and method"
- **Ghana (Cape Coast) :** Lenten retreat "Pilgrims of Hope: A Lenten Recollection Journey towards Synodality" [Pilgrims of Hope recollection](#)

6. Ecumenical and Interreligious Dialogue

United Kingdom (Churches Together in England): Reflection on synodality in different Christian traditions
<https://cte.org.uk/about/about-cte/forum/2025-forum/>
<https://cte.org.uk/app/uploads/2025/03/CTE-Forum-Event-Programme-2025.pdf>