



SECRETARIA GENERALIS  
SYNODI

Vatican, 11 December 2023

Prot. No. 230468

Beatitudes, Eminences, Excellencies  
Dear Brothers in Christ

the experience that we have lived and celebrated in the First Session of the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops enables us to look ahead with confidence and a sense of responsibility to the months that lead us to the Second Session, continuing the journey initiated by the Holy Father on 9 October 2021: *For a Synodal Church. Communion, participation, mission*. During this time, we have recognised ourselves as a synodal Church: People of God on the way with Christ proclaiming the Kingdom, together with all humanity, listening to what the Spirit is saying to the Churches. Those of you who participated in the Assembly are called to bear witness to the richness of the gift we have received.

Now is the time to resolutely recommence the journey. To this end, we are sending you this letter. In the first instance, we are asking you to continue to collaborate generously in the 2021-2024 Synod process, as you did during the listening and consultation phase. In this regard, you will find attached some indications, prepared and approved by the Ordinary Council of the General Secretariat of the Synod, on the steps to be taken in the months between now and the Second Session of the Synodal Assembly.

We are aware that time is short, but we trust in your willingness and desire to contribute to the path of synodality, which is "the path that God expects of the Church in the third millennium" (Francis, *Address for the Commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the institution of the Synod of Bishops*, 17 October 2015).

With heartfelt thanks, we wish you a fruitful Advent journey.

*In Christo,*

Jean-Claude Card. HOLLERICH, S.I.

*General Rapporteur of the 16th Ordinary  
General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops*

Mario Card. GRECH

*General Secretary*

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To the Patriarchs and Major Archbishops of the Eastern Catholic Churches  
To the Presidents of Episcopal Conferences  
To all the Bishops and Eparchs of the Catholic Church