

The Synod in Rome

The synod that Pope Francis called has just completed the second stage of its reflections. The themes that were discerned included: Leadership & Service; Missionary activity, The Role of the laity; The centrality of the family; Ecumenism; Interreligious dialogue; Evangelization in a digital world with attention to those who do not have access to digital media; Lay Ministries; Clericalism that hinders communion; The role of women in the church including inclusive language and the matter of female deacons; Initial and ongoing training of both priests and laypeople. The next phase of the synod will look at "Participation Governance and Authority. Pope Francis hopes that this Synod is modelling how we as a church can be in the world by pausing to listen, pray and discern where the Spirit of God is guiding us at this time.