

Adsumus Sancte Spiritus

HOLY
SPIRIT
COME



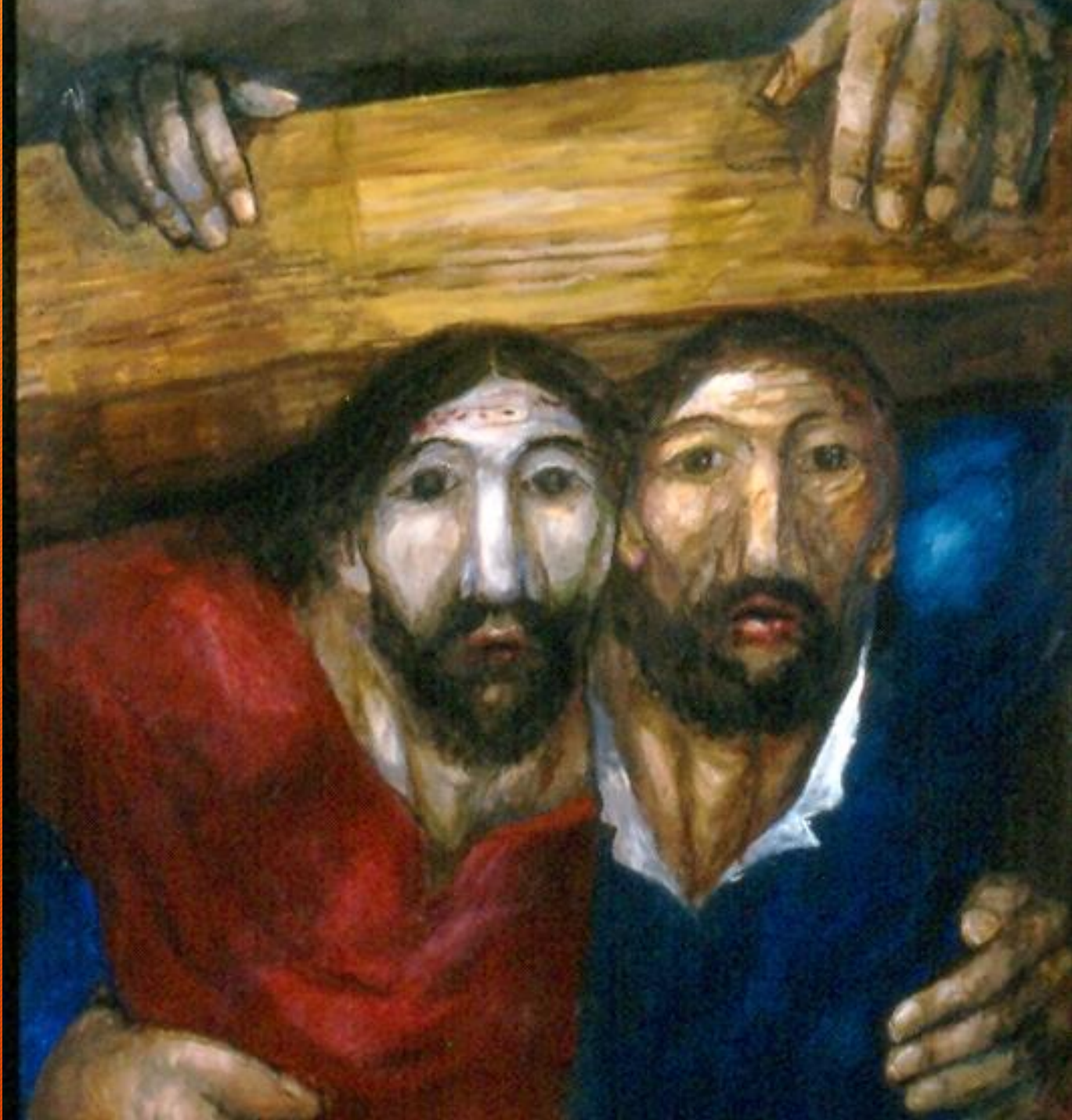
We stand before you, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name.

With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts; teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it...


Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right. All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. Amen



Fratelli Tutti



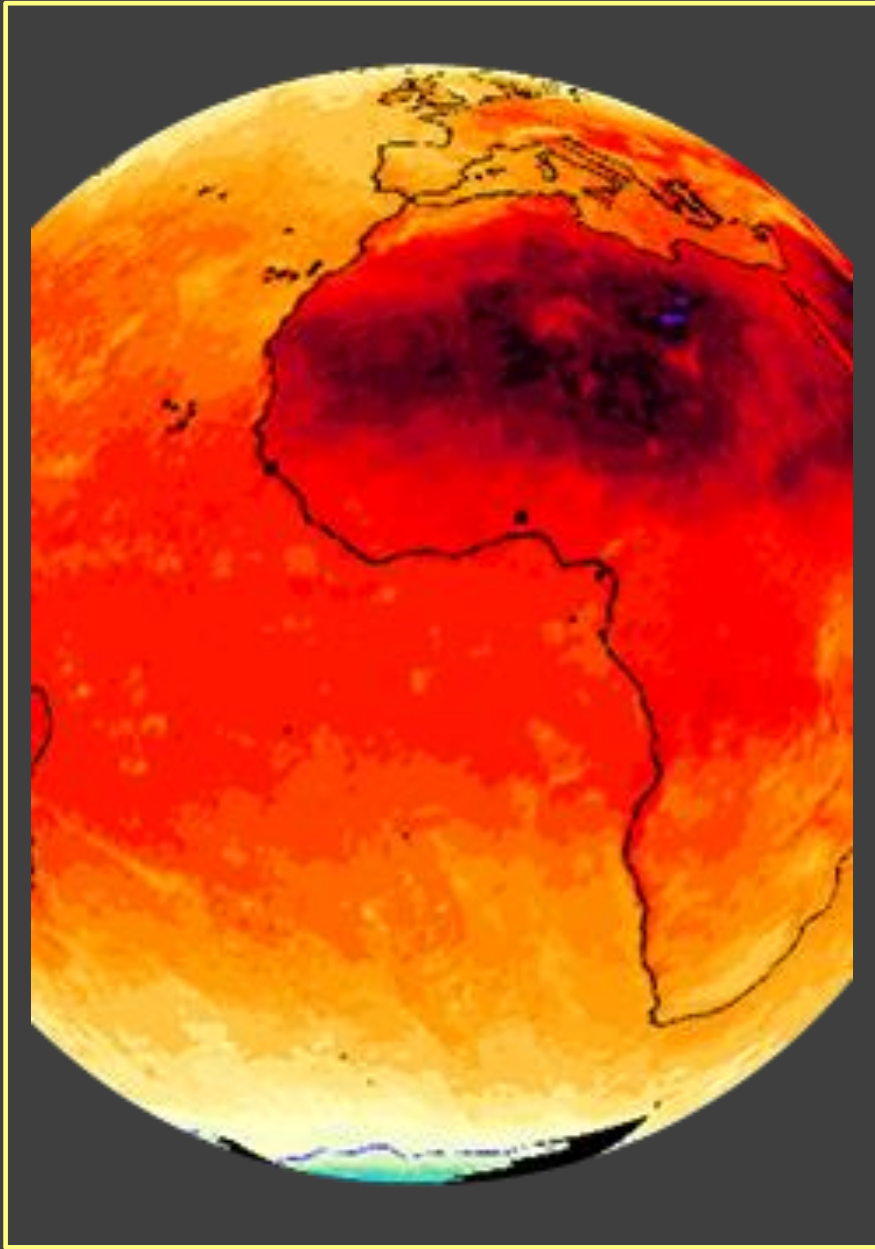


A dramatic, dark, and stormy sky over a city skyline. The sky is filled with heavy, dark clouds, with some lighter patches where light breaks through. The city skyline is visible in the lower portion of the image, with various buildings and structures silhouetted against the dark sky. The overall mood is ominous and foreboding.

“I tell you naught for your comfort,
Yea, naught for your desire,
Save that the sky grows darker yet
And the sea rises higher.”



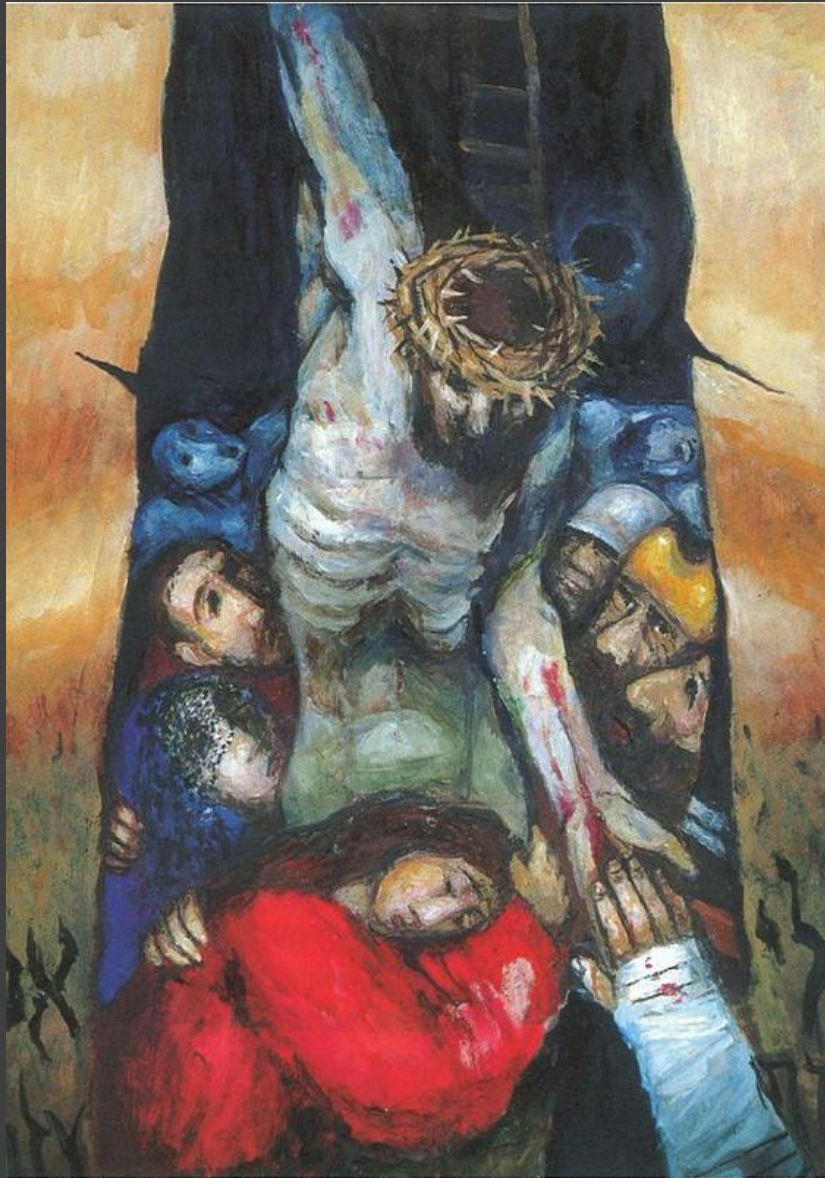


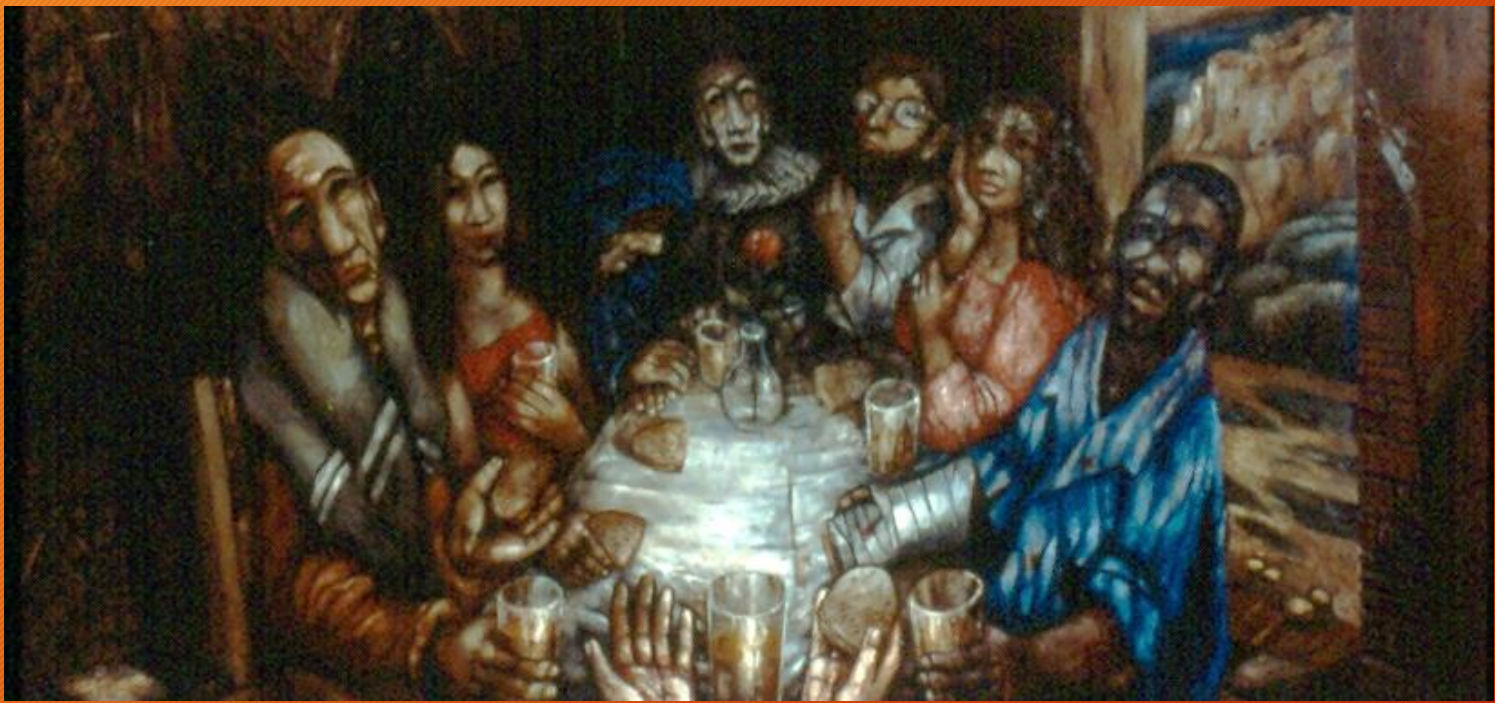


Climate Crisis
Spiritual Crisis

Wake
up









‘Prophecy: Articulating the Reality’

The joys and hopes, the grief and anguish of the people of our time, especially of those who are poor or afflicted, are the joys and hopes, the grief and anguish of the followers of Christ as well. Nothing that is genuinely human fails to find an echo in their hearts.’

[Gaudium et Spes, 1]



'This journey, which follows in the wake of the Church's 'renewal' proposed by the Second Vatican Council, is both a gift and a task: by journeying together and reflecting together on the journey that has been made, the Church will be able to:

- **learn through her experience which processes can help her to live communion**
- **to achieve participation**
- **to open herself to mission**

[Synod 2021-2023, *Preparatory Document.*']



Main Objectives of the Synod

- Recall how the Spirit has guided the Church's journey through history – **WHERE WE HAVE COME FROM**
- A participative and inclusive process offering everyone, **ESPECIALLY THOSE ON THE MARGINS** the opportunity to express themselves and be heard in order to contribute
- Recognize and appreciate **THE WEALTH AND VARIETY OF GIFTS AND CHARISMS**
- Explore **PARTICIPATORY WAYS OF EXERCISING RESPONSIBILITY**, exploring how responsibility and power are lived in the Church (converting prejudices and distorted practices)
- Accrediting the Christian community as a **CREDIBLE SUBJECT AND RELIABLE PARTNER** in paths of social dialogue, inclusion and participation, regenerating relationships



WHERE WE HAVE COME FROM

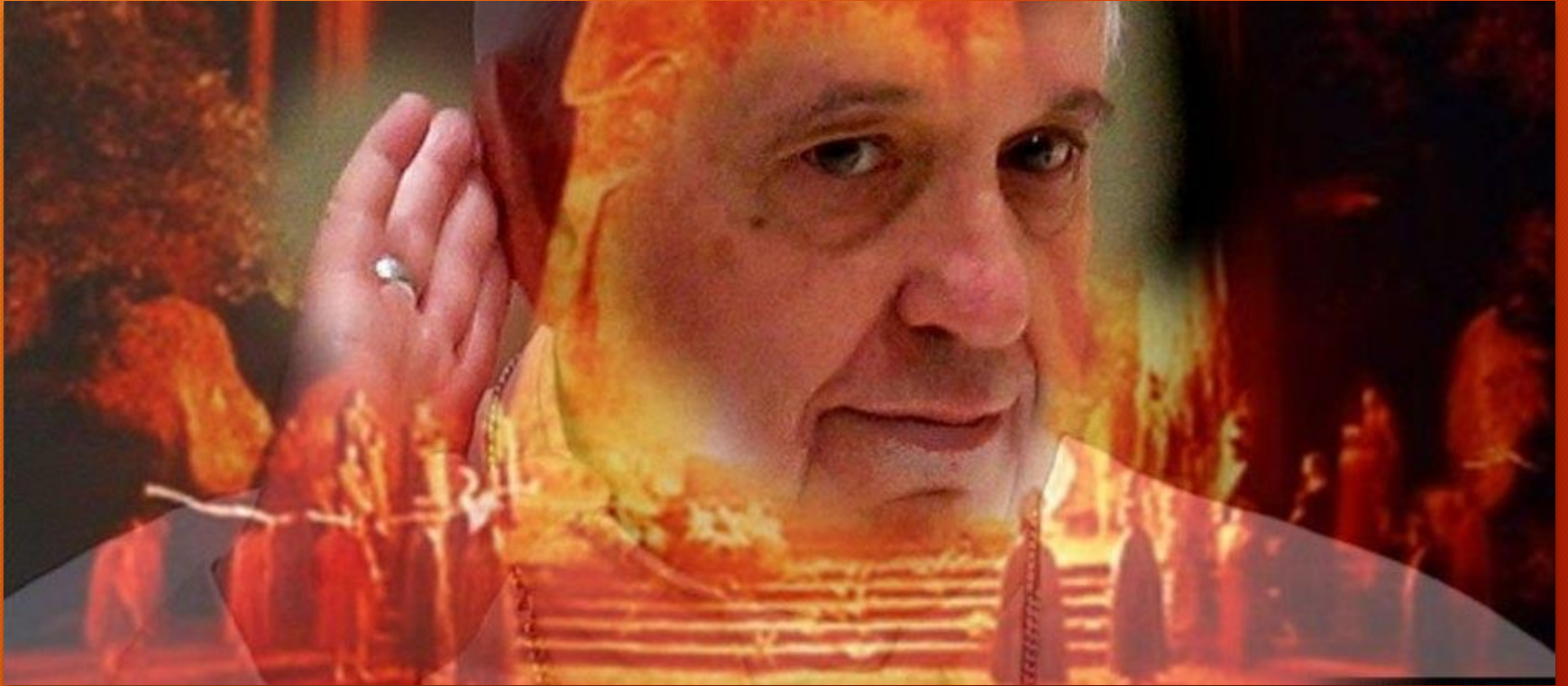
Acknowledge
the reality of
the people's
situations





‘The pastors... should not be afraid to listen to the flock entrusted to them... It is in the fruitful bond between the *sensus fidei* of the People of God and the magisterial function of the pastors that the unanimous consensus of the whole Church in the same faith is realized’

A PARTICIPATIVE
AND INCLUSIVE
PROCESS



Especially those on the margins



...the task of evangelization operates within the limits of language and of circumstances. [...] it always does what good it can, even if in the process, its shoes get soiled by the mud of the street. [...]

I prefer a Church which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a Church which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security.

THE WORLD: 'The pandemic has made the already existing inequalities and inequities explode' *Synod Preparatory Document*



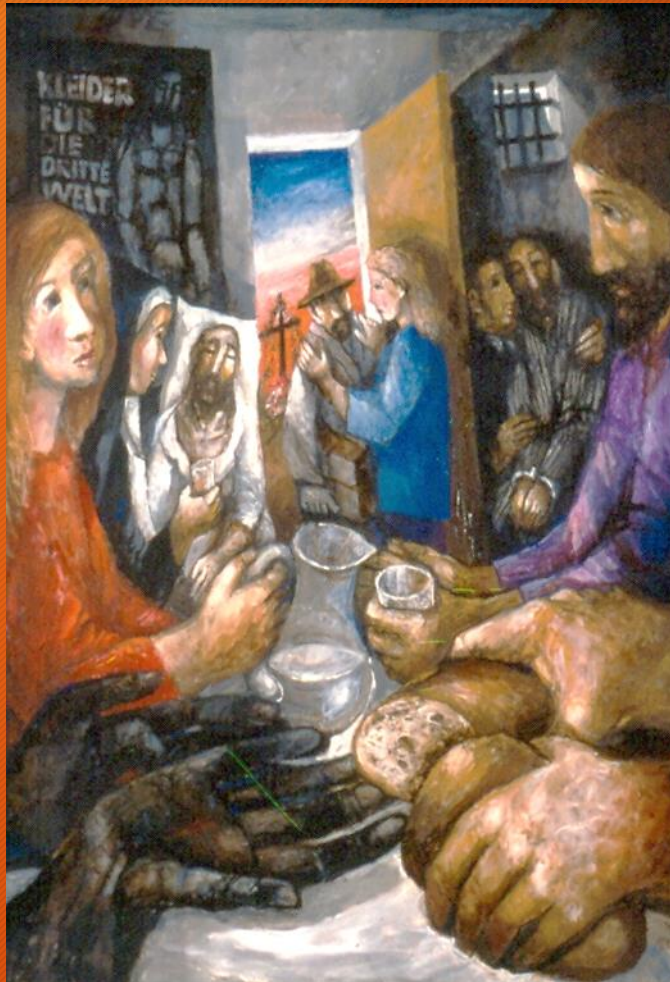
The Christian community as a
CREDIBLE SUBJECT AND RELIABLE PARTNER
in paths of social dialogue

Meeting



‘Church and
Synod are
synonymous’
John Chrysostom

THE WEALTH AND VARIETY OF GIFTS AND CHARISMS



PARTICIPATORY WAYS OF EXERCISING RESPONSIBILITY



THE CHURCH: ‘The whole Church is called to deal with the weight of a culture imbued with clericalism that she inherits from her history, and with those forms of exercising authority on which the different types of abuse are grafted’ *Synod Preparatory Document*

- It is impossible to think of a ‘conversion of our activity as a Church that does not include the active participation of all the members of God’s People’
(Pope Francis, *Letter to the People of God*, 2018)
- ‘Religious fundamentalism... feeds forms of intolerance and violence that are also reflected in the Christian community and in its relations with society... It is equally necessary to consider the reverberation, within the Church and in its relations with society, of the fractures caused by reasons of ethnicity, race, caste or other forms of social stratification or cultural and structural violence’.
- ‘The ability to imagine a different future for the Church and her institutions ... depends largely on the decision to initiate processes of listening, dialogue and community discernment... we need to let ourselves be educated by the Spirit to a true synodal mentality, entering with courage and freedom of heart into a conversion process...’ *Synod Preparatory Document*

How is this 'journeying together' happening today in our particular Church? What steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our 'journeying together'?

- What experiences in our particular Church does this question call to mind
- What joys or difficulties/obstacles did these experiences provoke? What wounds have they brought to light? What insights have emerged?
- Gather the fruits: where does the voice of the Spirit resound? What is being asked of us? What are the points to be confirmed, prospects for change, steps to be taken? What paths are opening up for us?

Lord, Father of our human family,

you created all human beings equal in dignity: pour forth into our hearts a fraternal spirit and inspire in us a dream of renewed encounter, dialogue, justice and peace.

Move us to create healthier societies and a more dignified world, a world without hunger, poverty, violence and war.

May our hearts be open to all the peoples and nations of the earth.

May we recognize the goodness and beauty that you have sown in each of us, and thus forge bonds of unity, common projects, and shared dreams. Amen.

