



SYNODUS EPISCOPORUM



CONGREGATIO
PRO INSTITUTIS VITAE CONSECRATAE
ET SOCIETATIBUS VITAE APOSTOLICAE

Vatican City, January 17th 2022

Prot. n. 210382

Prot. n. Sp.R. 2633/21

Dear brothers and sisters;

We are addressing to you with such gratitude and hope, knowing that you have not only a glorious story to tell but also a great story to build. Your history is Church's history and the Church's story is your story.

As you know, the synodal journey that the Church is living is enriched in an inestimable way by the charisms raised by the Spirit; among these are your charisms that have a special place.

We are writing this letter in response to some requests about your participation at the synodal journey.

1. The aim of the first phase of the synodal process is 'to consult the People of God on the theme of the Assembly of the Synod' (*EC 5, 2*), which is followed, according to what has been established by the General Secretariat of the Synod, by the discernment of the Pastors in the Episcopal Conferences at the national and continental level.

By virtue of the affirmation that 'the consultation of the People of God takes place in the particular Churches' (*EC 6, 1*), based on the ecclesiological principle that the one and only Church exists in and from the particular Churches (cf. *LG 23*), it must be considered that the ordinary way of carrying out the consultation of the People of God is that initiated by the Bishops in their respective particular Churches (cf. *EC 6, 1*).

2. Within this framework of reference, consecrated men and women, like all the members of the People of God, are called to give their contribution of prophecy and discernment first of all in the particular Churches where they are present. If this presence is lacking, the very principle of the Church-People of God, which demands the participation of all by virtue of their common baptismal dignity, would be called into question, and consultation itself would be seriously impoverished, because it would be deprived, by choice, of a fundamental voice in the life of the Church.

**To the Major Superiors
of Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life
USG
UISG
CMIS**

Therefore, consecrated men and women, and the communities themselves, according to their own charism and to the extent granted by their Constitutions, should actively participate in the synodal journey of the particular Churches in which they live out their charism and exercise their pastoral ministry.

3. Unions, Federations and Men's and Women's Conferences of Institutes of Consecrated Life, Societies of Apostolic Life (cf. *EC 6, 2*) and Secular Institutes, as well as Associations of the Faithful (cf. *EC 6, 3*), may initiate an internal consultation within the various Institutes, involving all the members. In this case, the members of the Institutes should reflect on the contribution that consecrated life, which has always been characterized by styles and forms of participation in the life and governance of communities, can offer to the growth of a truly synodal Church.

In the event that these internal consultations are initiated, each individual institute of consecrated life, society of apostolic life or Secular Institute will send, by 30 June 2022, a single contribution directly to the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life and not through the National Conferences as previously communicated. By 15 August 2022 the Congregation will then forward a summary of the contributions received to the General Secretariat of the Synod of Bishops.


The General Governments will also reflect on the exercise of governance within the individual Institutes and the relationships between the different Institutes. UISG, USG and CMIS will collect these contributions, and they will send a summary to the General Secretariat of the Synod of Bishops by 15 August 2022 (cf. *EC 7, 1*).

The right to send contributions directly to the General Secretariat of the Synod of Bishops remains intact (cf. *EC 7, 2*) but always *in an extraordinary way*.



João Braz Card. DE AVIZ
Prefect

Congregation for Institutes
of Consecrated Life
and Societies of Apostolic Life



Mario Card. GRECH
Secretary General
Synod of Bishops