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**General Secretariat for the Synod of Bishops**

**THE THEOLOGICAL COMMISSION**

The Theological commission is formed by twenty-five members and coordinated by Mons. Luis Marín de San Martín, O.S.A., Undersecretary of the Synod. It was born in the spirit of service and communion marked by the ecclesiology of the Second Vatican Council and its aim is to participate, help and collaborate in the journey of the People of God, in this time of grace, in the *kairos* that is Synodality.

1. **Tasks**

* To assist the Secretariat of the Synod in its work.
* To review the texts and documents and to make suggestions if necessary.
* To present (theological) proposals for the development of Synodality.
* Produce and share materials for theological deepening.
* To collaborate closely with the other Commissions.

1. **Structure**
2. *Plenary of the Commission*

It meets regularly. The first telematic meeting took place on 14 June. The Commission was formed and the draft of the Preparatory Document for the first phase of the Synod was studied. The next meeting (probably physically) has been convened for 11-12 October in Rome.

1. *Groups by continents and regions*

The coordinator will meet with the members of the Commission by zones and will facilitate and encourage theologians (not only the members of the Commission) to meet for dialogue on the development of synodality in each continent. Close contact will be maintained with the International Meetings of Bishops' Conferences or similar bodies.

1. *Thematic sub-commissions:*

Four working groups have been set up.

1. *Synodal Bibliography*

This group will be commissioned to find and classify according to zones or regions, the sources of the bibliography regarding Synods.

1. *A Synodal Dictionary*

The group will be entrusted with determining the articles, establish criteria and search for collaborators

1. *Re-reading of Canon Law*

To re-read the Code of Canon Law in the light of the Ecclesiology of Vatican Council II, and propose suggestions in regard to synodality.

1. *Permanent Formation*

This group will have a holistic proposal of formation in synodality (programmes, media, etc.), keeping in mind the particular/ local Churches and consecrated life.

**MEMBERS**

1. **H.E. Mgr. Faustino Armendáriz Jiménez** (Pastoral Praxis, T. Biblica, Mexico)
2. **Rev. Fr. Riccardo Battocchio** (Dogmatic Theology, Italy)
3. **Rev. Fr. Paul Béré, S.J.** (Biblical Sciences, Pastoral Theology, Burkina Faso)
4. **Rev. Fr. Giuseppe Bonfrate** (Dogmatic Theology, Italy)
5. **Rev. Msgr. Alphonse** **Borras** (Canon Law, Ecclesiology, Belgium)
6. **Rev. Fr. Agenor Brighenti** (Pastoral and Social Theology, Brazil)
7. **Rev. Fr. Eloy Bueno de la Fuente** (Dogmatic Theology, Missiology, Philosophy, Spain)
8. **Rev. Msgr. Piero Coda** (Dogmatic Theology, Philosophy, Italy)
9. **Prof. Kristen Colberg** (Dogmatic Theology, United States)
10. **Rev. Sr. Anne Béatrice Faye, C.I.C.** (Philosophy, Burkina Faso)
11. **Rev. Fr. Carlos Maria Galli** (Dogmatic Theology, Argentina)
12. **Rev. Sr. Gill Goulding C.J.** (Dogmatic Theology, Canada)
13. **Rev. Fr. Gaby Alfred Hachem** (Dogmatic Theology, Lebanon)
14. **H.E. Mgr. Flaviano Rami Al Kabalan** (Canon Law, Syria)
15. **Rev. Fr.** **Thomas Kollamparampil, C.M.I.** (Patrology, India)
16. **Prof. Rafael Luciani** (Dogmatic and Pastoral Theology, Venezuela)
17. **Rev. Fr. Santiago Madrigal Terrazas, S.J**. (Dogmatic Theology, Spain)
18. **Prof. Estela Padilla** (Dogmatic Theology, Philippines)
19. **Prof. Carmen Peña García** (Canon Law, Spain)
20. **Rev.** **Fr.** **Gilles** **Routhier** (Dogmatic Theology, Canada)
21. **Rev. Fr. Ormond Rush** (Dogmatic Theology, Australia)
22. **Rev. D. Nicholaus Segeja M’hela** (Pastoral Theology, Tanzania)
23. **Prof. Peter Szabo** (Canon Law, Hungary)
24. **Rev. Fr. Christoph** **Theobald, S.J**. (Fundamental-Dogmatic Theol., Canon Law, Germany)
25. **Rev. Fr. Vimal Tirimanna, C.Ss.R.** (Moral and Pastoral Theology, Sri Lanka)

**Coordinator: H.E. Mgr. Luis Marín de San Martín O.S.A.,** Undersecretary of the Synod of Bishops

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**THE COMMISSION ON METHODOLOGY**

The commission on Methodology is formed by ten members coordinated by Sr Nathalie Becquart, xmcj, Undersecretary of the Synod. This group of experts from different continents and backgrounds help develop best practices and models for the implementation of synodal processes at the local, national, and international level. This group has the task to draft helpful resources, such as a *vademecum* to accompany the publication of the Preparatory Document, articulating best practices and methodologies for the implementation of synodal practices. The Commission will also help to propose a methodology for the drafting of a final *Instrumentum laboris* and the celebration of the Synod of Bishops in October, 2023.

1. **Tasks**

* To explore and gather best practices for synodal processes at all levels
* To draft a booklet/website on best practices with tools that can be easily used at a local level 🡪 *Vademecum to accompany the Preparatory Document*
* To prepare and propose methodologies for the consultation process in local churches
* To think about methodologies/processes for pre-synodal meetings (dioceses and bishops’ conferences)
* To propose a methodology for collecting and analyzing the synthesis,
* To identify facilitators or networks of facilitators to help and accompany synodal process
* To propose a methodology to elaborate the two *Instrumentum Laboris*
* To work on the methodology/process for the continental pre-synods
* To propose a methodology for drafting a final document
* To work on the methodology/process for the celebration of the synod of bishops in October 2023

**Members**

* Miss. Christina Kheng Li Lin (Singapore)
* Fr David McCallum, sj (US, Rome),
* Miss. Cristina Inogés Sanz (Theologian, Spain)
* Mr. Mauricio Lopez (CELAM, Equator)
* Mrs. Susan Pascoe (Australia)
* Mr. Arnaud Join-Lambert (Theologian, Belgium)
* Mr. Percival Holt (Youth Pastoral, India)
* Fr. Olivier Poquillon, op, (Former GS COMECE, Irak)
* Sr Hermenegild, CPS, (Former GS BC of South Africa, South Africa)

**Coordinator: Sr Nathalie BECQUART, xmcj,** Undersecretary of the Synod of Bishops

**General Secretariat for the Synod of Bishops**

**THE COMMISSION ON SPIRITUALITY**

The commission on Spirituality is formed by 18 members coordinated by Sr Nathalie Becquart, xmcj, Undersecretary of the Synod. Considering that the Synod is primarily a spiritual journey throughout which the Church is committed to listen to the Holy Spirit, this *Commission on Spirituality* composed by members representing different spiritual families will explore varied and rich spiritual traditions in order to identify some of the principles and practices that will contribute to the synodal process.

**Tasks**

* To organize a network on “synodality and discernment’ with delegates from different spiritual families, including new communities and lay movements.
* To elaborate a vision for a spirituality of synodality;
* To propose prayer tools and liturgical resources for the different phases of the Synod;
* To collect information on formation in discernment in common and, to work on a programme for training in the spirituality of synodality and ecclesial discernment.
* To create a network of facilitators/spiritual counsellors for the different levels of the synodal process;
* To work on the spiritual process of the celebration of the Synod of Bishops to be held in Rome in October 2023 (retreat, prayers, liturgies…);
* To interact with the other Commissions, especially the Commission on Methodology

**Members (list not yet published)**