



CURIA
GENERALIZIA
AGOSTINIANA

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LETTER TO THE ORDER
ON THE OCCASION OF THE OPENING OF THE SYNOD 2021 - 2023

Dear brothers and sisters:

Pope Francis has called the whole Church to live a synodal process with the theme: "For a synodal Church: communion, participation, mission." This is a moment of grace, a *kairos*, a time of renewal and hope, which develops and realizes the ecclesiology of the People of God proposed by the Second Vatican Council. An encounter with Christ necessarily leads to witnessing to the Gospel of Christ, hence we understand the Church as a communion of the baptized for mission. Here we already find two aspects of synodality: walking - together. In the first place is the dynamism of making a journey, that is, of involving ourselves in the redemptive mission of the Risen One, in whom we participate through Baptism. The second aspect is doing so in communion, in the unity that is the fruit of true love that constitutes us as "*Christus Totus*", head and members (cf. Sermon 133:8; 341:1). We live as unity in diversity, as the image and likeness of a God who is a communion of three Persons (cf. Sermon 71:18). And, always, impelled by mission, to be the Good News, as a salvific reality in the midst of the world, we respond to the many challenges of the present time.

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As Augustinians and, even more, as Christians, we cannot be alienated from the path of the Church. Let us be teachers of synodality by the coherent living of our charism. The Church invites us to actively participate in the itinerary proposed by the Secretariat of the Synod, where we are fortunate to have a brother, Bishop Luis Marin, directly involved in this beautiful task. It is a time of true and profound renewal. As the Pope told us, let us allow ourselves to walk together, let us allow ourselves to be guided by the Spirit, let us trust in him, who will make his voice heard. The Spirit needs us. Let us not be disenchanted; let us prepare ourselves for surprises. Let us leave no one out, let us leave no one behind (cf. *Address of the Holy Father Francis to the faithful of the Diocese of Rome, September 18, 2021*).

P. Alejandro Moral Antón OSA

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