

# Synodality requires "spiritual attitudes" foreign to many Catholics



**Interview with Jos Moons, a Dutch Jesuit who lectures at the Catholic University of Leuven and is currently preparing a book on the project Pope Francis has launched -- synodality**

It is not just a complicated word, but "synodality" is also a new one in the Catholic tradition. Yet, in its basics, it is very simple, says theologian Jos Moons. "It can be expressed in three simple points: we are Church together, on the way, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit," contends 41-year-old Dutch Jesuit. But he admits that synodality soon gets complicated, because synodality has to do with the participation of believers in the life of the Church.

How do you organize a process that takes the participation of 1.3 billion Catholics worldwide seriously? Moons, who entered the Society of Jesus in 2009, wrote his doctoral dissertation on Lumen gentium and pneumatological renewal. He is currently in Salamanca (Spain) completing a nine-month sabbatical, which he calls "a refresher course for Jesuits". But in May he will return to Belgium where he does parish work and teaches at the Catholic University of Louvain (KL-Leuven). And once back he will "make an overview of what is going on worldwide around synodality", mapping out subtopics, cataloguing the various topics and identifying important thinkers. Moons hopes it will be a "service on a large scale" to universities and the entire Church. The young Jesuit is also currently working with two fellow theologians on a book on synodality. "We want to show that synodality as an ecclesial practice has actually existed for a very long time. Many people don't know that. But it has been functioning for centuries, for example in monasteries or in other Christian Churches," he said.

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