

PROTAGONISTS OF SYNODALITY:

A Message from Lay Leaders to the Second Session of the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod

We, lay leaders, animators and chaplains from 30 countries representing millions of Catholics in **10 international movements of specialized Catholic action*** convened in Rome to reflect on the past, present, and future of the lay apostolate alongside the meeting of the Synod on Synodality. Together at the Domitilla Catacombs, we reaffirm the Catacombs' Pact of the Poor and Servant Church (1965), and we:

1. **give thanks to God** for Pope Francis, for his ministry and for the synodal process;
2. **lament the suffering** caused by social injustice, marginalization, and violence wounding our world and celebrate the witness of peacemakers;
3. **denounce the sins and wounds of clericalism** and all forms of power abuse that inhibit the organized apostolate and we acknowledge our own limitations and fragility;
4. **affirm the fundamental baptismal vocation** of all the baptized, no matter what stage, to become protagonists of the apostolate and to proclaim in word and action the Reign of God;
5. **celebrate the prophetic work of the Holy Spirit** through our members in hundreds of local realities worldwide as legacies of our ancestors who walked before us including our leaders who were at the Second Vatican Council as members and auditors; and
6. **confirm our specific mission as actors of the lay apostolate** in the "sanctification of the world from within as a leaven" (Lumen Gentium, 31), living in various realities and circumstances in family and social life in the world.

We, therefore, collegially, ask the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod in these final days of the Second Session to:

1. **affirm the primacy of the baptismal vocation** and the urgent need to create a church where all the baptized can be protagonists in the formation of responsible citizens in the world;
2. **recognize that there are more than one methodological pathways for synodality**, including the inductive and action-oriented method of the see-judge-act and the Review of Life; and
3. **more explicitly acknowledge and engage the role of the organized lay apostolate** as autonomous structures of synodality led by the laity at the local, national, and international levels.

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Together, as international lay movements, we:

1. **pledge** to continue to work together as movements of specialized Catholic action (MIACS) in common projects at the intersection of faith and life; and
2. **recommit** ourselves here at the Domitilla Catacombs, individually and collectively, to live with Hope the option for the poor.

MOVEMENTS OF SPECIALIZED CATHOLIC ACTION (MIACS)



- International Young Christian Workers (IYCW-JOCI);
- International Coordination of Young Christian Workers (ICYCW-CIJOC);
- International Young Catholic Students (IYCS-JECS);
- International Movement of Catholic Agricultural and Rural Youth (MIJARC);
- International Movement for the Apostolate of Independent Milieux (MIAMSI);
- World Movement of Christian Workers (WMCW-MMTC);
- International Movement of Catholic Students (IMCS- Pax Romana);
- International Movement for the Apostolate of Children: MIDADE. International Catholic Movement of Intellectuals: (ICMICA-MIIC Pax Romana);
- Cardijn Community International

in collaboration with:

- the Australian Cardijn Institute (Australia),
- Dorothy Day Center for Social Catholicism at Manhattan University (NY, USA)
- Centre International Cardijn (Lille, France),
- Centro Internacional Cardijn (Bogota, Colombia)
- Laudato Si' Center/International Youth Training Centre (Chiang Mai, Thailand).