

METHODOLOGY FOR THE WORKING GROUPS

According to the Regulations
of the Assembly

October 5th 2023



The 16th
General Ordinary Assembly
of the Synod of Bishops

4-29 OCTOBER 2023 | ROME, ITALY

THE PROCESS

The work of the Assembly develops as a prayerful pathway of spiritual discernment. The true protagonist is the Holy Spirit.



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THE DYNAMICS OF EACH SEGMENT

The Assembly's work on each segment will follow the same pattern, helping to build consensus without concealing differences:



Outcomes / 1 : Report

The aim of the group is to engage the “question for discernment” entrusted to them for every Module (cfr the Work Sheet). The results of the discernment will be summarized in a **written Report of two pages**



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The **Report** should collect points of convergence and divergence, tensions that have emerged and questions that remain open. It will also contain insights and proposals for concrete steps to be taken in relation to the issues addressed.



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Outcomes / 2 : Brief intervention

In addition, each Working Group will be asked to identify at the end of the first two sessions the most significant points in the Report they want to share and, above all, the questions and proposals to submit to the Assembly by way of a concise, **3-minute intervention** that will be read in the following General Congregation



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Important notice

The Report and the Intervention are meant to give well-reasoned record of the consensus reached, and making explicit any divergences.

It must be approved by an absolute majority of the Members who attest that the Report faithfully represents the work of the Group.



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Roles within the Group / 1: Facilitator

In order to facilitate its more fruitful application, each Working Group will include an Expert-facilitator, who will accompany the exchange from a methodological point of view. The role of this facilitator is to provide the proper guidance to ensure the flow of a process in which the Holy Spirit shall be the main protagonist.



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Roles within the Group / 2

Secretary and Rapporteur

Besides the facilitator, each group will also have an **appointed Secretary** and will **elect a Rapporteur** at the beginning of the proceedings. **The joint task** of the Secretary and the Rapporteur is to **oversee** the draft and final text of the Report.



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Roles within the Group / 2

Secretary and Rapporteur

The Rapporteur will also **read** the brief intervention on behalf of the group in General Congregation and **deliver the final text of the Report to the General Secretariat.**



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The conversation in the Spirit

A dynamic of discernment in the synodal Church



Silence, prayer and listening
to the Word of God

PERSONAL PREPARATION

By entrusting oneself to the Father, conversing in prayer with the Lord Jesus and listening to the Holy Spirit, each one prepares his or her own contribution to the question about which he or she is called to discern.



From time to time, Participants will be invited to observe a moment of silence, to encourage interiorizing the interventions they have listened to.



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Silence, prayer and listening
to the Word of God

«Taking the word and listening»

Each person takes turns speaking from his or her own experience and prayer, and listens carefully to the contribution of others.

Silence and
Prayer

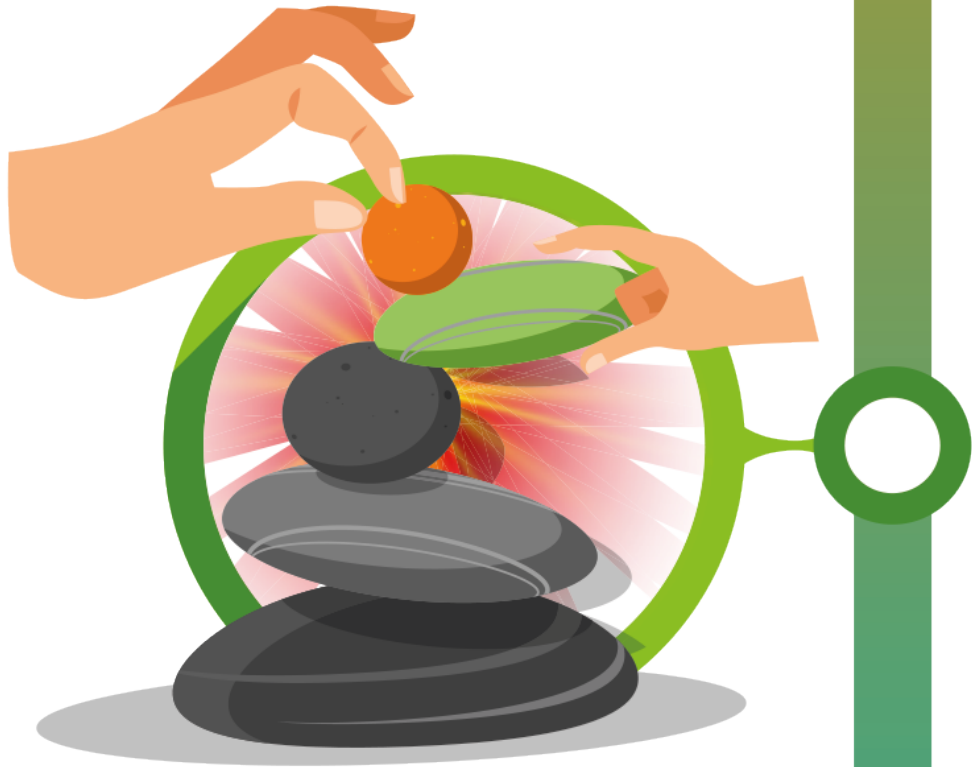


In particular, the exchange will begin with a **four-minute intervention** by each of the participants in the Working Group, the text of which can then be delivered to the General Secretariat, preferably in electronic format,



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Silence and
Prayer



Silence and
Prayer

«Making space for others and the Other»

From what the others have said, each one shares what has resonated most with him or her or what has aroused the most resistance in him or her, allowing himself or herself to be guided by the Holy Spirit: "When, listening, did my heart burn within me?"

Silence and Prayer

«Building together»

Together we dialogue on the basis of what emerged earlier in order to discern and gather the fruit of the conversation in the Spirit: to recognize intuitions and convergences; to identify discordances, obstacles and new questions; to allow prophetic voices to emerge.

It is important that everyone can feel represented by the outcome of the work.

“To what steps is the Holy Spirit calling us together?”



Final prayer
of thanksgiving

General Congregations

The General Congregations receive and listen to the contributions of the Working Groups. By way of the free interventions made in Plenary Assembly, they contribute to discernment through the discussion of what has emerged from the Working Groups. In this way, they enable the Working Groups to reread and modify their conclusions in light of the many other perspectives that emerged during the plenary debate.



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A way forward for the synodal Church: conversation in the Spirit

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Final prayer of thanksgiving

Good work to all of you!



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