

Engaging Synodality.

Intercultural Perspectives for Re-Imagining Pastoral Possibilities.

WEDNESDAY, 1st July 2026

Welcome and Introduction/Framework

Morning	Arrival and registration
13.30	Welcome – Knowing the Group – Preparing atmosphere
13.45	Opening Words – Organizing Team
	OPENING LECTURE (EN – DE)
14.15	<i>Translating Doctrine into Practice: Mission as the Alpha and Omega of Synodality -</i> Klara A. CSISZAR (Romania-Austria)
14.45	Dialogue (in plenum)
15.15	Short break (15')

Organizational Change Potential of Synodality

	PANEL SESSION PRESENTATIONS (3X20') - EN
15.30	<i>Interdisciplinary Contributions to the Conceptualization of Ecclesial Culture and Pastoral Conversion -</i> Carolina BACHER (Argentina) <i>Synodal Renewal: Doubts and Hopes –</i> Estela PADILLA (Philippines) <i>Making Synodality Work -</i> Bernhard SPIELBERG (Germany)
16.45	Dialogue between and with speakers
17.30	Coffee Break

Synodality in Context of Democratic Constitutional States

	EVENING OPEN LECTURE (EN-DE)
18.00	<i>Synodality in Europe. From the exculturation to the inculturation of the Church in a democratic constitutional state? -</i> Johannes FÖRST (Germany) (EN-DE)
18.30	Dialogue with two 'reactors' from the international guests (EN) Open dialogue with participants (DE – EN)
19.00	Dinner and time for informal exchange

THURSDAY, 2nd July 2026

Governance and Co-responsibility in a Synodal Church

- 09.00 MORNING KEYNOTE (ONLINE) (EN)
Nothing About Me without Me: Co-Responsibility in a Synodal Church Family of God - **Fr. Stan Chu ILO (Nigeria-USA)**
- 09.30 Guided conversation in small groups (EN – DE)
- 09.45 PANEL SESSION PRESENTATIONS (3x20') (EN)
Governance and authority in a synodal church: Moving from skepticism to synergy between the “all”, “some” and “one” - **Christina KHENG (Singapore)**
Synodality in Existing Ecclesial Legislation: Challenges and Opportunities for Reform - **Ikenna OKPALEKE (Nigeria)**
The synodal distribution of roles in the decision-making process within local churches and groupings of local churches - **Jean O. NKE ONGONO (Cameroon)**
- 10.45 Relocation Break
- 11.00 Dialogue with speakers in small groups (EN – DE)
- 11.30 Coffee Break
- 12.00 WORKSHOPS / DISCUSSION GROUPS (DE - EN)
Learning from Organizational Development: Synodality as a Practice of Shared Responsibility – **Luisa EISELE (Germany) (DE)**
Synodality and Mission: Reimagining the Prophetic Life of (African) Women Religious – **Sr. Mary Joan Iwenofu, IHM (Kenya) (EN)**
- 12.45 Lunch Break

Synodality in Context - Intercultural Perspectives

- 14.00 AFTERNOON KEYNOTE (EN)
Synodality, Contextuality and Interculturality - **Fr. Markus Luber SJ (Germany)**
- 14.45 Short Break
- 15.00 PANEL SESSION PRESENTATIONS (4x15') (EN)
The Italian Synodal Path 2021-2025: Challenges and Open Questions of a Synodal Process at the National Level – **Francesco ZACCARIA (Italy)**
Synodality and Sea-Routes: The Philippine Church Sailing On! – **Estela PADILLA (Philippines)**
Synodality: Attitude or Structure? Results of the Evaluation Study on the Synodal Path in Germany – **Katharina Karl (Germany)**
Synodality as Palaver: The African Church and New Pathways to Being Church in the Contemporary World – **Ikenna U. OKAFOR (Nigeria)**
- 16.00 Dialogue between and with speakers (Fisch-Bowl Methodology) (EN-DE)
- 16.45 Coffee Break

On the Way to a Preliminary Summary

- WORKSHOP (DE - EN)
- 17.15 *What do we mean by synodality, and what competencies are needed to make it come to life?* **Catalina CERDA-PLANAS** (EN – DE)
- 18.00 Conference Dinner

FRIDAY, 3rd July 2026

Synodality in Community Pastoral Life

- PANEL SESSION PRESENTATIONS (3X20') (EN)
- 09.00 *Stories from Pastoral Practice. Synodal Listening as an Essential Theological and Organizational Risk for the Church* – **Peter FRÜHMORGEN (Germany)**
'Lived Synodality' as a Pastoral Style for Safeguarding – **Nora NONTERAH (Ghana)**
An Ecology of Knowledge for Synodality (Synodal Formation in the Local Church) – **Ernesto PALAFOX (Mexico)**
- 10.00 Dialogue with speakers in small groups (EN – DE)
- 10.30 Coffee Break
- DISCUSSION GROUPS / WORKSHOP (DE - EN)
- 11.00 Discussion Group: *Multilingual Faith Experience for a Transformative Synodality* – **Francis Vincent ANTHONY (India)** (EN-Online)
Workshop: *Conversation in the Spirit* – **Christina KHENG (Singapore)** (EN)
Discussion Group: *Mission im digitalen Raum* – **Sophia OMOKANYE (Germany)** (DE)
- 11.45 Relocation Break

Retro- and Prospective View

- 12.00 *Participative Retrospective-view of the Conference* - **Catalina CERDA-PLANAS** + observers + open dialogue with participants (EN – DE)
- 12.45 Closing Words – **Organizing Team**