



Building a synodal Church  
Construyendo una Iglesia sinodal  
Costruire una Chiesa sinodale  
Construire une Église synodale  
Construção de uma igreja sinodal  
Aufbau einer synodalen Kirche



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### ***Toward a constitutively Synodal Church***

March 2024

Registration to access all videos: <https://formaciononline.bc.edu>

The ongoing *Synod on Synodality* represents a new and exciting phase in the life of the Church. The celebration of the *first session of the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops* in Rome, which took place in October 2023, was a time to listen to the voices of the local Churches from all Continents and to identify pastoral priorities to be deepened in light of the *second session of the Assembly* which will take place in October 2024. This new phase of the Synod will require a process of discernment and formation.

With this in mind, we write with great joy extending an open invitation to help us promote the ***Third Intercontinental Massive Online Course (MOOC)***. This time the MOOC will address the theme ***Toward a constitutively Synodal Church***. All videos will be facilitated virtually during the month of **March 2024** and will be offered at **no cost to participants worldwide**. We use a fully online asynchronous format. Lectures which are pre-recorded and available in ***Spanish, English, Portuguese, French, Italian, Polish and German*** can be watched at any time **throughout the month of March**.

This initiative has been organized by the Latin American Members of the *Theological Commission of the General Secretariat of the Synod* and the *Ibero-American Theology Group* with the co-sponsorship of the *Latin American Episcopal Council (CELAM)* and the *Latin American Confederation of Religious men and women (CLAR)*. This initiative has connected a collaborative global network with the aim of promoting synodality. The project has the support of the *Consilium Conferentiarum Episcoporum Europae (CCEE)*, the *Federation of Asian Bishops Conferences (FABC)*, the *International Union of women Superiors General (UISG)*, the *Union of men Superiors General (USG)*, along with other peer' ecclesial organizations and Catholic Universities. The program uses a digital platform created by the Department of "Formación Continua" of Boston College School of Theology and Ministry.

Small communities, Parishes, Seminaries and Faculties of Theology, amongst other institutions, use our videos, which have been recorded by distinguished international Scholars. Our previous MOOC's have benefited nearly 100,000 people from all continents, especially pastoral agents, religious women/men, laity, priests, Bishops and many others. Registration is required to *access all the videos:* <https://formaciononline.bc.edu>

**Organizers:** Dr. Rafael Luciani (Venezuela), Dr. Serena Noceti (Italy), Dr. Carlos María Galli (Argentina), Dr. Agenor Brighenti (Brazil) and Dr. Félix Palazzi (Venezuela. *Director of Boston College "Formación Continua"*).

**Lecturers and Topics of the videos:** see next page.



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Theme: **TOWARD A CONSTITUTIVELY SYNODAL CHURCH**

Date: *March 2024*

**LINK:** <https://formaciononline.bc.edu>

### **Introductory Lectures**

1. My experience at the Synod. Was the Holy Spirit the protagonist of the Synod? (**Timothy Radcliffe OP**)
2. The *Synod on Synodality*. A path towards a constitutively Synodal Church (**Piero Coda**)
3. My experience at the Synod. Synodality in a Global Church (**Arturo Sosa SJ**)

### **PART 1: DECISION MAKING MODELS**

- Lecture:* 1. A prophetic decision making (**Giacomo Costa SJ**)
- Deepening:* 1. Listening in the process of community discernment (**Hermann Rodríguez SJ**)  
2. The *virtues* to participate in community discernment (**James Keenan SJ**)  
3. From listening to decision-making (**Francesco Zaccaria**)  
4. Articulation of the contribution of bishops, theologians and canonists (**Gilles Routhier**)  
5. *Sensus fidei* and *consensus fidelium* (**Rafael Luciani**)  
6. Consultative and deliberative voting (**Alphonse Borras**)  
7. Synodality, reconciliation and conflict management (**Elías López SJ**)
- Experiences:* 1. Community discernment practices. The experience of religious life (**Nathalie Becquart XMCJ** and **Christina Kheng**)  
2. Unity in diversity. The experience of Taizé (**Br. Alois Löser**)

### **PART 2: CHARISMS AND MINISTRIES**

- Lecture:* 1. An all charismatic and ministerial Church (**Catherine Clifford**)  
2. How do ministries change? (**Santiago Guijarro**)
- Deepening:* 1. New baptismal ministries (**Hosffman Ospino**)  
2. Ministries instituted in a local church (**Serena Noceti**)  
3. The Diaconate of Men and Women (**Phyllis Zagano**)  
4. Presiding over a parish community (**Vito Mignozzi**)  
5. The election of bishops (**Dario Vitali**)  
6. Participation and representativeness of the laity in a synodal Church (**César Kuzma**)  
7. Women's *Leadership* (**Johanna Rahner**)
- Experiences:* 1. The contribution of religious life. Baptism, charisma and institution (**Maria Cimperman RSCJ**)  
2. Management of Power and authority in religious life (**Agbonkhianmeghe E. Orobator SJ**)

### **PART 3: STRUCTURES FOR A SYNODAL CHURCH**

- Lecture:* 1. Synodal conversion and reform of structures (**Carlos Schickendantz**).  
2. Changes in Canon Law for a Synodal Church (**Myriam Wijlens**)
- Deepening:* 1. Pastoral councils: renewal in a synodal key (**José de San José Prisco**)  
2. Parish, community of communities (**Carolina Bacher**)  
3. Reform of the training courses or ordained ministers (**Riccardo Battocchio**)  
4. Co-governance and Leadership in Synodal Structures (**Bishop Raúl Biord**)  
5. A New Institutional Model for the Synod of Bishops (**Sandra Arenas**)  
6. Ecclesiastical Assemblies and Conferences (**Agenor Brighenti**)