



Walking the Synodal Path: Reflections on the Synod on Synodality – Voices from Africa

Wednesday, November 15, 2023, 5:30 p.m. (East Africa Time)

Zoom Webinar

Introduction:

The African Synodality Initiative (ASI) invites you to a Zoom webinar titled '*Walking the Synodal Path: Reflections on the Synod on Synodality – Voices from Africa*'. ASI is a partnership between the Jesuit Conference of Africa and Madagascar (JCAM), the Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar (SECAM), and the Association of Member Episcopal Conferences in Eastern Africa (AMECEA). ASI aims to generate creative ideas and resources to support local churches in Africa and enable them to engage fruitfully and constructively in the synodal process.

Objective: This post-synodal webinar aims to reflect on the experience, insights, and lessons from the 16th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops. This historic event marked the first time laypeople have been granted full participation in the synod of bishops. The webinar will be a crucial moment for debriefing and offering an African perspective on the synodal process.

Target Audience: The webinar is designed for a diverse audience from across Africa and beyond who are interested in synodality and who wish to learn about the process of the 16th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops and its relevance for the Church in Africa. The participants include, but are not limited to:

- Bishops, priests, religious leaders, and laity from the Catholic Church in Africa
- Scholars, theologians, and researchers interested in African ecclesiology and

synodality.

- Representatives from other Christian denominations in Africa

Expected Outcomes:

1. Gain a comprehensive understanding of the process of the 16th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops.
2. Identify key areas from synod on synodality relevant to the African context.
3. Understand the next steps of the synodal process.

Webinar Content:

Welcome remarks and Introduction: (15 mins)

- The webinar will begin with a welcome message from a representative of ASI, giving an overview of the webinar and its objectives.
- Fr. Rafael Simbine, the Secretary General of SECAM, will offer the opening remarks.

Session 1: Overview of the 16th Ordinary General Assembly (20 minutes)

A keynote speaker (Archbishop Andrew Nkea), a member of the Ordinary Council of the Synod, appointed by Pope Francis, who has been accompanying and leading the synodal process in the universal church and also accompanying SECAM in the synodal process in Africa, will offer reflection on the synod's agenda and key discussions, offering insights into the synod's outcomes.

Session 2: Impressions, Perspectives, Insights, and Lessons from the Synod (20 minutes)

A panel of three will share their impressions, perspectives, and insights. (Fr. Anthony Makunde, Sr. Josée Ngalula and Ms. Sheila Pires). Each of them had particular roles during the Synod.

- First round of questions to the panelists: What was your experience of the Synod?
- Second round of questions to the panelists: What did learn that will be relevant to the Church in Africa?

Q&A Session (25 minutes):

Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions and seek clarifications from the presenters during a dedicated Q&A session. This interactive session will facilitate a deeper understanding of the outcomes of the 16th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in an African context.

Third round of questions: What next? How does the Synod move forward from here? (15 minutes)

Conclusion: a word of gratitude

The discussion will be moderated by Fr. Andrew Kaufa.

Keynote Speaker:

Archbishop Andrew Nkea, Archbishop of Bamenda-Cameroon: Implications of the synod's discussions for the church in Africa

Panelists :

Impressions, Perspectives, Insights, and Lessons from the Synod

1. Fr. Anthony Makunde
2. Sr. Marie Solange Randrianirina F.S.P.
3. Ms. Sheila Pires

Presenters' bio

Fr. Rafael Simbine is the Secretary General of the Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar (SECAM) and an African Delegate to the synod.

Archbishop Andrew Nkea is the Archbishop of Bamenda-Cameroon, the president of the National Episcopal Conference of Cameroon (NECC). He is also a member of the Ordinary Council of the Synod, appointed by Pope Francis.

Sr. Marie Solange Randrianirina F.S.P. is the Regional Provincial of the Daughters of Saint Paul/Filles de Saint Paul in Madagascar and an African Delegate to the synod.

Fr. Anthony Makunde is a diocesan priest from the Archdiocese of Mbeya, Tanzania. He is the Secretary General of the Association of Member Episcopal Conferences in Eastern Africa (AMECEA) and an African Delegate to the synod.

Ms. Sheila Pires is the communications officer of the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference (SACBC) and the Secretary of the Synod Information Commission.

Fr. Andrew Kaufa (moderator) is the coordinator of the social communications department of the Association of Member Episcopal Conferences in Eastern Africa (AMECEA). He is also a consultant to the Dicastery for Communication at the Vatican.