



Synod
2021
2023

For a synodal Church
communion | participation | mission

Reflection 3
FOLLOWING CLELIA'S FOOTSTEPS
TOWARD THE HEART OF JESUS

***Communion, Participation,
Mission***

THE BEAUTY OF WALKING TOGETHER IN COMMUNION!

“The Synod has three key words: *communion, participation, and mission*. Communion and mission are theological terms describing the mystery of the Church, which we do well to keep in mind.” Pope Francis spoke these words during a moment of reflection in the Synod Hall at the Vatican, initiating the Synod Process “***For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission***.”

To walk with Christ, to be in communion with Him: It is He who invites us to follow Him. It is He who in the Gospels said many times, “Come to me,” “Come after me,” “Follow me,” “Stay with me.” “I am with you always, until the end of the age” (Mt 28: 20). Christ has shown the way: it is He who is the Way that leads us away from evil, falsehood, and loneliness. Walking in communion with God might seem easy, walking with Christ might seem possible. But walking together with others most often seems like a truly arduous task.

If we look at one another, we see not only our healthy differences, but also our closed-mindedness, rivalries, tensions, parochialism, fears. Walking together in communion implies real conversion—there is no joy without conversion.

The Synod is a journey toward those who do not know Christ. God's life is so rooted in the depths of our humanity, his desires so intimately within each of us, that we can't possibly lose that life definitively.

The synodal path means to arouse in all people the thirst for God so that they may recognize it within them; it means to reveal that God became one of us, to call all people to participate in the life of our communities. But it also means to listen to the expectations and questions of others as well as their criticisms, disappointments, and outcries.

Matthew 11: 28-30

“Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.”

Labor and are burdened: these words bring to mind those people – men and women, children, youth, and elderly – who carry some sort of weight along their life's journey and hope for the day when they will be free of it. In this passage from Matthew's Gospel, Jesus extends an invitation: “Come to me.” Around him is a crowd that has come to see and hear him; many of them are simple, poor, uneducated, incapable of understanding and following the complex religious laws of the time. In addition, taxes and the Roman administration place burdens on them that are often impossible to sustain. They live in anxiety and seek the possibility of a better life.

Let us accept Jesus' invitation to go to Him and recognize Him as the source of our hope and peace. Let us accept His “commandment” and try to love as He has loved in the many situations we face daily in our families, parishes, and work: let us respond to offenses with forgiveness, build bridges instead of

walls, and serve those under the weight of difficulties. We will discover in this law not a burden but wings that will enable us to soar to the heights.

WORDS OF MOTHER CLELIA

“Dearest daughter, try to take your rest in the most loving Heart of Jesus, and unite it to the rest that Jesus takes in the



bosom of his Divine Father and in the Most Holy Sacrament. Offer Him every breath and every beat of your heart that these may keep watch before Him while you sleep, as so many acts of love and sacrifice of your entire being; and beg Him that your rest

may give you new strength to serve Him better.”

(Spiritual Anthology, 4.1, Mp., p.9)

“Charity is only possible by bearing what is repugnant to us in others and by doing violence to lessen in ourselves what is repugnant to others. It is worthless to say: ‘I have my nature’ or ‘That person’s character is not to my liking.’ Neither of these excuses has any power before God to dispense us from the law of charity and to make our aversions and impatience legitimate.” (Spiritual Anthology, 3.2, Mg.,I, p.32)

REFLECTION

- What light does Matthew 11: 28-30 give me to help me journey in communion with others?
- How am I doing in my journey in communion with God, the Church, my GFASC group, and my family?
- What is beautiful in my family, despite our limits, struggles, and difficulties?

SHARING – TESTIMONIES

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, we entrust to you our family and every family in the world. Teach us to see one another with ever new wonder, so that we never believe that we know the other completely but rather are able to see the infinite beauty that you have placed in everyone. Help us to discover the demands of love and give us the strength to always respect them. Amen!

See one another with wonder and gratitude!

