

Gioele Anni

Participant at Synod on Youth – CA Italy

Dear friends.

Hi everyone, I'm Gioele from Italy. I'm sorry I can't be with you but so by this video we can still feel together and share something. I then had the opportunity to participate representing all of us Catholic Action youth at the Synod in 2018 and it was a beautiful Church experience, a moment of great humanity of great depth, of great spirituality in which many dreams, many wishes for the good for the Church and for young people have been shared, together with the presence of Pope Francis.

What was the Synod. It has certainly been a long process, a long journey that has not ended yet. Because since the official Synod in Rome ended, that phase has begun – it is called reception - that time when we all are called to put the Synod into practice in our communities. It is the most important moment, if we think that the Synod has ended in Rome, we are making a mistake. I believe that the Synod said some things at the level of method style, of the type of church that we all dream of and I would say these two things.

First of all, a Church that gives space to life, which starts from the life of young people. Real young people, actual young people with our problems and difficulties, but above all our dreams and the beautiful things that each of us has inside. Throughout the process, the Synod listened to the lives of young people, listened to doubts, questions and even criticisms and did not bring such, so called, prepackaged answers. Let's say that in all the passages of the Synod which was -as I said - a long process, there was a synodal meeting, you know, as well as many preparatory meetings also organized by us as Catholic Action and then the synod in Rome. In all this process we had the chance to listen to questions, listen to the questions of young people, make ourselves questions bring our questions as young people and be able to deliver them to our Church. Then there were no answers immediately. There was a long passage of silence, prayer, confrontation. All of this is discernment the style of discernment. We don't have the answers ready. The questions of young people in Italy are different from those of young people in Argentina or Malta or Africa. So in every reality we who are Church have the task of assuming, welcoming those questions and giving us this time of silence, prayer, confrontation, discussion, and then we arrive - and this is the third step - to search the answers together. Listen to questions from young people. Be silent, compare, pray and discuss, discern. Seek the answers together as a Church. This is a church style, a synodal style, that is, a Church that walks together, that makes its way together. And then Pope Francis gave us this beautiful text the Christus vivit, his apostolic exhortation.

I would like to say only a very short thing about *Christus vivit*: it is a text to be read in different ways and like a text that has so many treasures inside that it must be read in a slightly different way, for example the fourth chapter, the beautiful one of the great announcement, it is an exceptional text, in my opinion, for a spiritual retreat, a comparison that every young person can make with these words that the Pope said to each of us very directly. This is the fourth chapter.

The seventh chapter, for example, that on youth ministry, for us who are perhaps responsible, engaged in Catholic Action, can be read more with the eye of those who plan, those who try to start new paths, but always after listening to questions, after having been silent and confronted, to make discernment and to seek answers together. This seventh chapter gives us very rich pastoral indications.

One last thought to conclude: what does this synodal process leave us? remember it is still going on, indeed now in its most important phase.

I believe, if we can say in a few words, that it leaves us a dream of church and a dream of young people in the church which is not the church of the few but good, it is not the church of those who have already arrived, of those who already know everything, who is already perfect like this, it is the Church of the people in search. And we are all in search. There are those who perhaps have a more consolidated path within the Christian community, those who have just started, those who are currently out of it as a young man, but we are all in search and in the Church of *Christus Vivit*, in the young Church of this time, there is room for everyone. So best wishes to each of you and to each of us in our communities may we be able to find ways to be this outgoing Church where there is room for everyone. Goodbye everyone, good job thanks to the start for this moment of reflection.

Ciao!