



DEEPL TRANSLATION [[original in Spanish](#)]

POST-SYNOD MEETING

***The Synod continues in our local Churches:
Catholic Action and IFCA 's commitment***

Monday 2 December 2024

16.00 - 17.00 CEST

Synodal experience

Enrique Alarcón García - *Member of Frater and Synod Father*

I have experienced the synodal process as an authentic moment of the Lord's grace, a unique opportunity to experience His presence and His action in our Church. From the beginning, I have felt the privilege and responsibility of being part of this transforming experience, and I want to express my deep gratitude to Pope Francis for having invited me to be part of this unexpected ecclesial Synod, which gives rise to hope, renews illusions and invites us to look courageously towards the future of our Church.

As a militant of Catholic Action and a member of a movement dedicated to the apostolate among people with disabilities (PwD), during the work of the Synod, I felt the responsibility, but also the joy, of being able to lend my voice in favour of whom are often forgotten, discarded or treated with a paternalistic gaze and as 'poor people'. Too often, PwDs face attitudes within the Church itself that, although well-intentioned, end up being a source of suffering and exclusion. For this reason, reading the following words, in point 63 of the Final Document of the Synod, filled me with emotion: *"In promoting co-responsibility in the mission of all the baptised, we recognise the apostolic capacities of persons with disabilities who feel called and sent as active subjects of evangelisation. We are willing to value the contribution that comes from the immense richness of humanity that they bring with them"*. Undoubtedly, this

recognition is remarkably paradigmatic, and represents a real step forward towards a Church that is more open, more inclusive and more faithful to the Gospel.

The synodal process, seen from the perspective of Catholic Action movements, is a gift of the Holy Spirit that strengthens our missionary vocation and points out that we are called to be prophets of the Beatitudes. In this sense, Pope Francis, with his renewing impulse, has rekindled the light that inspired the Second Vatican Council, giving us back the freshness of our apostolic identity. We feel invited to intensify our community bonds, both within our movements and in communion with the whole Church.

In this synodal journey, the Holy Spirit, together with the rich apostolic tradition deposited in our movements, enlighten us to offer a hopeful outlook faced with a world wounded by structures that generate poverty, injustice and a deep existential void. In our Church, too, the challenge is to move towards greater differentiated co-responsibility, overcoming the attitudes of clericalism that have so often hindered communion.

At the same time, we must foster relational and formative processes that promote human and Christian maturity. This implies, in a special way, encouraging lay vocations and strengthening small communities of faith and life which, inspired by the Social Doctrine of the Church, become spaces of encounter and motivation for apostolic action.

The fruits of the synodal process, collected in the Final Document and constituted by Francis as part of the ordinary Magisterium of the Church, are a compass that guides our steps and a beacon that illuminates our personal, community and institutional conversion. These same fruits remind us of the urgency of being attentive and vigilant so as not to fall into the temptation of closing ourselves in on our particular identity. This risk could perpetuate one of the great evils of our Church: self-referentiality.

Finally, in our daily work, and especially at key moments, we must continue to apply the methodology of *Conversation in the Spirit*. Thanks to this approach, we have been able to work fraternally, to discern together and to reach fundamental consensuses for ecclesial reform, always in a climate of prayer and openness to the Holy Spirit. This process has been a true experience of communion in freedom, allowing us to glimpse new horizons in our journey as the People of God.

Whom we have had the grace of living this process, essentially in the synodal assemblies, have no doubt: it has been the Holy Spirit who has guided us and has given us authentic experiences of Pentecost. A journey that does not end here, on the contrary: it is a starting point. As the People of God, we will continue to move forward, with confidence, faith and hope.

Thank you very much.

