



European Laity Forum

STUDY ASSEMBLY

9th - 12th June 2022 in Madrid

For a compassionate Church

The assembly combined two main topics:

- Daily Life is all we have, how do we live as Christians in today's world
- The Universal Synod on Synodality proclaimed by Pope Francis

The assembly managed to put these topics together and worked on them at the same time.

It took up the chance that all over Europe this is the time of the end of the Synod's diocesan phase. The dioceses gave in their reports on the national level.

The assembly tried to work in a synodal way, which means listening to each other and finding the meaning of everybody's contribution. "The heart of the synodal experience is listening to God through listening to one another, inspired by the Word of God" (Vademecum, 4.1)

The consequences of this method can be presented in three areas:

1. Life and structure of the institution church on a diocesan and parish level
The synodal way cannot be separated from the church going forth. It means that Christians get actively involved at parish, diocesan and national level. Church should be a community where we know each other and appreciate each other's talents and gifts to share on our journey. While accompanying we need to encourage each other. To permit broader participation more decentralisation could be of use.
2. The lay organisations and spiritual communities
Real encounter is possible in small living communities. Many parishes do not offer enough opportunities for people to get engaged. We need welcoming and open communities to be attractive. This comes from the basic consideration that whatever is received, is received from elsewhere. While we walk alongside with other people we have to be careful not to intrude in their lives, but respect the differences and not seek power over the other. For all this we have to be appropriately equipped. A more adult way of expressing faith can be engaging in social change and actions.
3. Personal life
A personal response can mean growing in an intense sensitivity in daily life and taking reality seriously. People should not think that you have an answer to all questions. It is crucial not to put oneself in the centre of "attention". It is important to be involved in the transformation of the world. It must be accepted that the whole process requires patience.

Madrid 2022