



**European Forum of National Laity Committees
Forum Européen des Comités Nationaux des Laïcs
Europäisches Forum der Nationalen Laienkomitees**

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**ELF STUDY ASSEMBLY STATEMENT
13th-16th June 2024
ROME
FAITH, BEAUTY and SYNODALITY**

Delegates from 14 European countries met for a Study Assembly in Rome, 13-16th June 2024.

In lectures, workshops, and an excursion to the National Gallery of Modern Art we have experienced listening to others' views and opinions and seeing and finding content and appeal by works of art, like paintings and photographs.

We realised that we Catholics use the encounter with works of art too seldom as more than mere illustration. We discovered through the interaction with them as a group we can see reality anew, notice the "signs of the time" and deepen our dialogue with the world.

Listening to and respecting one another are also the first steps to synodality. Introducing and experiencing synodality as the way of living together as Christians, of working together and preparing and taking decisions leads to a special relationship, a relational and familial church.

We were strengthened by way of coming together from different countries, listening and working together and learning from each other. So we are motivated to go back to our regional and local level to take up with greater commitment our role as lay people in the Church and Society.

We think that in both concerns, art and synodality, more formation should be offered to and realised by Catholics - lay, religious and ordained members of the faithful.