



Continental Assembly of the Synod

Bishops' final remarks

We thank the Lord for the experience of synodality which has seen us all - bishops, priests, consecrated and lay men and women - side by side for the first time on a continental level. We rejoice because during these days in Prague we found that the moments of prayer lived together and even more the work of the Assembly have been a profoundly spiritual and truly synodal experience. Mutual listening, fruitful dialogue, and the story of how our ecclesial communities lived out the first phase of the synodal process and prepared for this continental meeting are an unmistakable sign of our unique belonging to Christ.

The national reports, the group work, and the many interventions that we have heard converged into the final document presented to the Assembly. It will be the contribution of the Churches in Europe to the drafting the *Instrumentum laboris* of the Synod. We thank those who have shared their experiences frankly and with respect for different sensitivities. We are also grateful to the Editorial Committee for the great work done in drafting the document.

As a fruit of this synodal experience, we bishops are committed to keep living and promoting the synodal process in our diocesan structures and life. This experience of care for the whole Church in Europe heartened us in our commitment to faithfully live out our universal mission. We are engaged in supporting the indications of the successor of Peter, our Holy Father, to become a synodal Church nourished by the experience of communion, participation, and mission in Christ.

We want to walk together, as holy people of God, both lay persons and pastors, pilgrims along the roads of Europe to proclaim the joy of the Gospel which springs from the encounter with Christ. We want to do it together with our brothers and sisters from other Christian denominations.

We shall work tirelessly to enlarge the space of our tents so that our ecclesial communities become even more places where everyone feels welcome.

Prague, February 11, 2023

Memory of the Blessed Our Lady of Lourdes