

# Continental Stage



*Synod 2021-24*




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**A time of listening,  
encounter and discernment**

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**Of all the People of God  
and of all local Churches on a  
continental basis from the  
Document for the Continental  
Stage (DCS).**

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**A deepening  
process**

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For the people that represent  
the local Churches in the  
pre-assembly listening and  
discernment processes prior to  
each Continental Assembly.

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The intent of this stage is to deepen the discernment on what has emerged from the previous stage of local and national listening with **the aim of formulating open questions more accurately, and to better substantiate and flesh out the insights and overall vision, especially from a continental perspective.**



It also wants to be an opportunity to listen to those realities not integrated in the previous stage.



**This stage is not yet the time to suggest answers, nor to decide on courses of action. It is a time to DISCERN together in a continental key.**

## A Dialogical Movement

This stage is part of this **synodal process** to emphasize the dialogue between the universal Church and the particular Church.

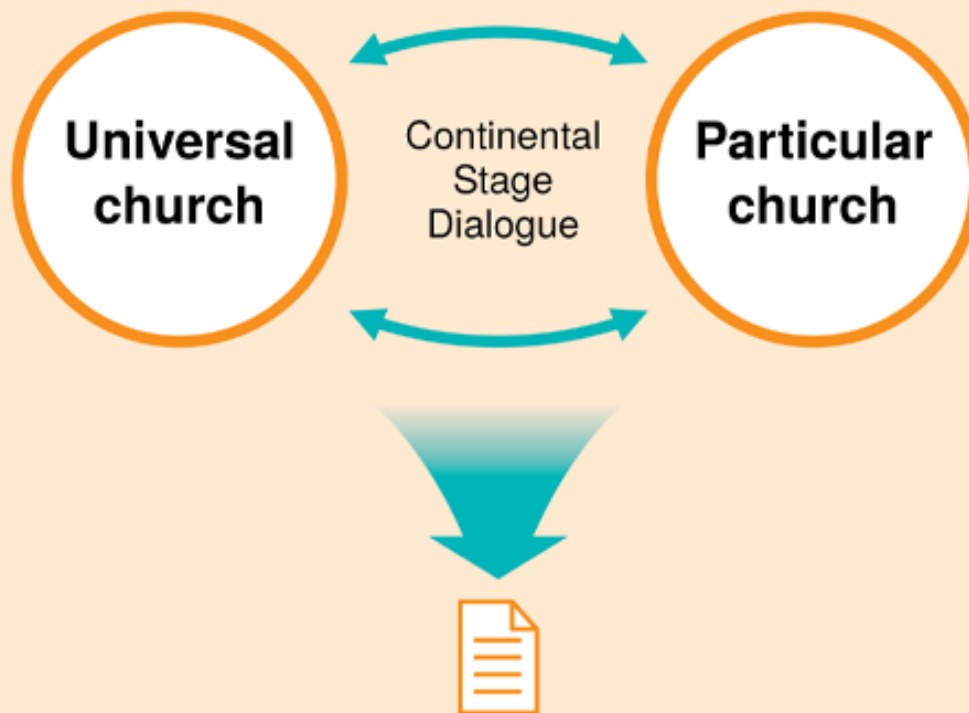
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## - Synodal process -

"How we walk together today"



### DOCUMENT FOR THE CONTINENTAL STAGE

A synodal Church is a Church of local Churches with the vision of a mutual dialogue and connection between the universal Church and the particular Church.

It is intended to encourage the creation or strengthening of links of neighbouring Churches and those that are part of specific regions.

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## Document for the Continental Stage



It was written after careful reflection on the fruits from syntheses of all the Episcopal Conferences of the Universal Church, the Eastern Catholic Churches, and groups such as Religious Institutes, lay movements and so on.



It is a real working document, which should facilitate the work of dialogue, listening and discernment at the continental level.



It is not as a document to be modified in view of the universal stage, it is as a true guide for an ongoing discernment, fruit of listening to the People of God.

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## Continental Assemblies

For this synod, the subdivision decided for continental assemblies are:



\* which will specifically see the contribution of the Eastern Catholic Churches.



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## Participants in the Continental Assemblies\*



**Ecclesial Assemblies** of the entire People of God: bishops, priests, deacons, men and women religious, laymen and laywomen.



**Fraternal delegates from other Christian denominations.**



**People with no religious affiliation** but aware of the importance of "walking together" also for our societies.

\* The delegations are elected by the Continental Ecclesial Assemblies.

“““

*“To understand the synodal process, one must think of a fruitful circularity of prophecy and discernment. The current synodal process is governed by this principle of circularity, guaranteed by an act that makes it operative in ecclesial experience: that of restitution to the Churches, which will take place in the coming months.”*

**Cardinal Mario Grech**  
(August 26th, 2022)

More information:

<https://www.synod.va/en/resources/infographics.html>

[www.synod.va](http://www.synod.va)

Main sources: Pope Francis (2020): Fratelli tutti (151) | CIC (328) | Cardinal Grech (2022): Press Conference: the second stage of the synodal process.