



## **ANTILLES EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE**

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

After just under two years since Pope Francis convoked the Church in Synod in October 2021, the Church is now preparing to celebrate the First Session of the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops to be held in Rome during the month of October 2023. At this assembly the presidents of episcopal conferences, for example, Archbishop Charles Jason Gordon of the Antilles Episcopal Conference (AEC), will gather for further reflecting, listening and discernment.

On the basis of all the material gathered during the listening phases (diocesan, regional and continental), the *Instrumentum Laboris* or working document was drafted and the method for the next synodal assembly was prepared. Both were approved by the 15th Ordinary Council of the General Secretariat of the Synod.

The Synod Secretariat has released the *Instrumentum Laboris* for distribution to the diocesan bishops and dioceses throughout the world. The *Instrumentum Laboris* was written simultaneously in Italian and English, the official languages of the Document. The French, Portuguese and Spanish versions are considered translations only.

We share with you the Holy Father's invitation to "continue this journey together, with great confidence in the work that the Holy Spirit is doing. He is the protagonist of the synodal

process, He, not us! It is He who opens individuals and communities to listening; it is He who makes dialogue authentic and fruitful; it is He who illuminates discernment; it is He who guides choices and decisions. It is He above all who creates harmony, communion in the Church" (Address to the diocesan referents of the Italian synodal path, 25.05.2023).

**Link to the *Instrumentum Laboris*:**

<https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/it/bollettino/pubblico/2023/06/20/0456/01015.html#en>