

TOWARDS A SYNODAL CHURCH: PATHWAYS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

LISTENING TO THE MARGINALIZED/THE PAIN OF THE WORLD



Listening to those who suffer exclusion and marginalization strengthens the Church's awareness that taking on the burden of wounded relationships is part of its mission. (FD 56)

The Church, both at the local level and by virtue of its Catholic unity, aspires to be a network of relationships which prophetically propagates and promotes a culture of encounter, social justice, inclusion of the marginalised, communion among peoples and care for the earth, our common home. The concrete realisation of this requires each Church to share its own resources in a spirit of solidarity, without paternalism or subordination, with respect for diversity and promoting healthy reciprocity. This includes, where necessary, a commitment to healing the wounds of memory and to walking the path of reconciliation. (FD 121)

The willingness to listen to all, especially those who are poor, stands in stark contrast to a world in which the concentration of power tends to disregard those who are poor, the marginalised, minorities and the earth, which is our common home. (FD 48)

Scripture:

Mathew 25:35-36: "... for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me."

Amos 8:4-6: "Hear this, you who trample upon the needy, and bring the poor of the land to an end, saying, 'When will the new moon be over, that we may sell grain? And the sabbath, that we may offer wheat for sale, that we make the ephah small and the shekel great, and deal deceitfully with false balances, that we may buy the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals,'" Amos 8: 4-6

Micah 6:8: "What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God."

Guiding Questions:

- Who lives on the peripheries in our parish, and in our local and global communities?
- How do we listen and learn from the voices of people on the margins? What knowledge, perspectives and gifts of marginalized people will help us work together as equal partners in mission (rather than helping from afar)?
- How do we hear God calling us to act in our parish, our diocese and the universal Church?

Further reading: Chapter Two: Foundations and principles of the social doctrines of the church para 46-85 Magnifica Humanitas