

# TOWARDS A SYNODAL CHURCH: PATHWAYS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

## THE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN THE LIFE AND LEADERSHIP OF THE CHURCH PAGE ONE



"We bear witness to the Gospel when we seek to live in relationships that respect the equal dignity and reciprocity between men and women. The widely expressed pain and suffering on the part of many women from every region and continent, both lay and consecrated, during the synodal process, reveal how often we fail to live up to this vision." (FD 52)

"By virtue of Baptism, women and men have equal dignity as members of the People of God. However, women continue to encounter obstacles in obtaining a fuller recognition of their charisms, vocation and place in all the various areas of the Church's life. This is to the detriment of serving the Church's shared mission."

"This Assembly asks for full implementation of all the opportunities already provided for in Canon Law with regard to the role of women, particularly in those places where they remain underutilised. (FD 60)

"There is no reason or impediment that should prevent women from carrying out leadership roles in the Church: what comes from the Holy Spirit cannot be stopped.

"Additionally, the question of women's access to diaconal ministry remains open. This discernment needs to continue.

"The Assembly also asks that more attention be given to the language and images used in preaching, teaching, catechesis, and the drafting of official Church documents, giving more space to the contributions of female saints, theologians and mystics."

- XVI General Assembly Final Document

### Women in Scripture:

**Mark 15:40-41:** There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

**Romans 16:1-2:** I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a deacon of the church at Cenchreae, so that you may welcome her in the Lord as is fitting for the saints, and help her in whatever she may require from you, for she has been a benefactor of many and of myself as well.

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### Conversation in the Spirit, reflecting on these questions:

What are the most important contributions women make to the mission of the Church?

In which ministries or areas of responsibility in your parish, diocese, or universal church does including women in more visible ways seem possible?

What actions can we take to strengthen the role of women in our parish, diocese, universal church?

### Of note: Study Group on Specific Ministerial Forms:

<https://www.synod.va/en/the-synodal-process/phase-3-the-implementation/the-study-groups/final-reports/group-5.html>

### Further Reading:

Final Document Part II, "On the Boat, Together", para 52 and 60.