



XVI Synodus Generalis

Gratia | Prophetia | Spes
Ad Missionem Renovandam

XVI GENERAL SYNOD

September 14, 2022

**“visit three key mountains
in the history of the
Congregation and of
Salvation: Sinai, Calvary,
and Monte Argentario”**



CHRONICLE DAY 4 OF THE SYNOD FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS SEPTEMBER 14, 2022

The feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross inspired this day of the Synod. Morning prayer in the Chapel of the Retreat House focused on the Lord who, from his saving Cross, reveals and offers the Trinitarian love of God, making the wood a tree fully alive.

At 9:00 AM in the Synod Hall Fr. Joachim asked that the Synod members to prayerfully remember the religious of the Province of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross in Brazil and those of the Holy Cross Province in the USA.

Fr. Eddy A. Vasquez Lopez, Consultor and Coordinator of the day's work, presented the work plan for the day consisting of two parts: a time for retreat and the presentation of the process of the Configurations. Fr. Giuseppe Adobati introduced Sr. Maria Campatelli, director of the Enzo Aletti Study Center in Rome and specialist in Oriental Theology. The title of her reflection-meditation was "The Spirituality of the Synodal Way". She began by situating the listeners before the Icon of the pierced side Christ according to the text of the Gospel of St. John (19:31-37). From here she invited us to allow ourselves to look at it from the light that springs from its contemplation. This open wound is the wellspring from which flows the mercy of God who creates and recreates us; to recognize oneself as created in love and therefore in a permanent process of allowing oneself to become a person who moves forward and is constituted "in relationship". More than a closed and self-sufficient individual, we are a gift that we offer in gratitude and joy, thus expressing the beauty that precedes us, the personal being of God in us. We participate in this Trinitarian act, recreating ourselves

in communion. Contemplating this wound that springs from love, we are reborn to the life that God is and gives us. From this ecstasy is born the communal encounter that places us before the concept of a synod not as a strategy but as God's being in us and us in him.

After her presentation, the moderator invited the participants to take an hour of contemplative silence, recognizing that they were welcomed and constituted in the gift of the one who pours himself out in water and blood, giving his spirit, the Spirit.

Returning to the Aula, there was an opportunity for sharing about we had experienced. It was a moment of intimacy and communication, truly profound and fraternal. Sr. Maria Campatelli's contribution was very positively valued and that her vision can enrich our charismatic experience and mission.

At noon, the Eucharist was celebrated in the Founder's Chapel. Fr. Henrique Evangelista de Oliveira, Provincial of the Province of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross in Brazil was the principal concelebrant. He pointed out that by presiding at the Eucharist he virtually enabled all the confreres of this Passionist Province to be present with him. In his homily he invited us to visit three key mountains in the history of the Congregation and of Salvation: Sinai, Calvary, and Monte Argentario. In each of them God gives himself in words that can be seen and in events that can be heard. And on all of them we are pierced by the action of God that intermingles with human action in *historia salutis*. It is love that becomes sacrament and donation: New Life that recreates us by flowing from the pierced heart. The open heart of the Lord welcomed and transformed







the heart of Paul of the Cross to proclamation, memory and offering.

After a special festive luncheon, the synodal work resumed at 4:00 PM with the presentation of the present reality, projects, perspectives and challenges of each of the six configurations. Because of the length of the presentations and the dialogue there was not sufficient time for all of them and the last two were left for the following day.

The day concluded with a common prayer prepared by the African Passionist Configuration (CPA).





XVI
**Synodus
Generalis**

Prophetiam et
Missionem Renovandam