



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Massive Open Online Course (MOOC)**

#### ***History, Theology and Ministerial Practice of Synodality***

February 2023

<https://formaciononline.bc.edu>

The *Synod on Synodality* inaugurated on October 2021 has reached its *Continental Stage*. The voices from Local Churches around the World that were expressed and listened to in the *first Diocesan Phase*, have been gathered in the *Working Document for the Continental Stage*. This will require a process of deepening, discernment and formation to stimulate the conscience and practice of a *Synodal Church*.

With this in mind, we write with great joy extending an open invitation to support the ***Second Intercontinental Massive Online Course*** (MOOC) under the theme ***History, Theology and Ministerial Practice of Synodality***. This Course will be facilitated virtually and offered at no cost to participants worldwide during the month of February, 2023. We use a fully online asynchronous format. Lectures are pre-recorded and available to be watched in *Spanish, English, Portuguese, French, Italian and German*.

This initiative has been organized by the Latin American Members of the *Theological Commission of the General Secretariat of the Synod* and the *Ibero-American Theology Group*. It is also supported by Catholic Universities Worldwide using a digital platform hosted by the Department of "Formación Continua" of Boston College School of Theology and Ministry. The program has the sponsorship of the *Latin American Episcopal Council (CELAM)*, the *Latin American Confederation of Religious men and women (CLAR)*, the *Consilium Conferentiarum Episcoporum Europae (CCEE)*, the *Federation of Asian Bishops Conferences (FABC)*, the *International Union of Superiors General (UISG)* and the *Union of Superiors General (USG)*, along with other peer' ecclesial organizations.

In our former course on Synodality we reached out to circa 100,000 people from all Continents. This *Massive Online Formation* is intended for pastoral agents, religious women and men, laity, priests, Bishops and many other people who would like to know in a simple but deep way what Synodality is about. Lecturers from different cultures and Local Churches will share their knowledge and experience about *the history, the theology and the ministerial practice in a Synodal Church*. Each topic will be presented in an intercontinental and intercultural perspective, to help us discover the many ways of being Church. We invite you to get involved in the challenge of imagining and building the Church of the third millennium. Registration is available from December 19th, 2022: <https://formaciononline.bc.edu>

**Organizers:** Dr. Rafael Luciani (Venezuela), Dr. Carlos María Galli (Argentina), Dr. Agenor Brighenti (Brazil) (Latin American Members of the *Theological Commission of the General Secretariat of the Synod*) Dr. Félix Palazzi (*Director of "Formación Continua", School of Theology and Ministry of Boston College*).

**Lecturers:** Card. Jean-Claude Hollerich, Antonio José de Almeida (Brasil), Christian Bauer (Germany), Carolina Bacher (Argentina), Catherine Clifford (Canada), Kristen Colberg (USA), Margit Eckholt (Germany), Alberto Embry (USA), María Elisa Estevez (Spain), Samuel Fernández (Chile), Massimo Faggioli (USA/Italy), Frédéric Fornos SJ (France), Carlos M. Galli (Argentina), Margaret E. Guider OSF (USA), Regina Heyder (Germany), Arnaud Join-Lambert (Belgium), Nora Kofognoterah Nonterah (Ghana), Thomas Kollampampil CMI (India), Shaji George Kochuthara (India), Rafael Luciani (Venezuela), Stan Chu Ilo (Nigeria), Sandra Mazzolini (Italy), Josée Ngalula (DR-Congo), Serena Noceti (Italy), Estela Padilla (Philippines), Carmen Peña (Spain), Mons. Roberto Repole (Italy), Alzirinha Rocha de Souza (Brasil), Ormond Rush (Australia), Dorothea Sattler (Germany), Gilles Routhier (Canada), Vimal Tirimanna (Sri Lanka).



## PROGRAM OF THE COURSE

Theme: **HISTORY, THEOLOGY AND MINISTERIAL PRACTICE OF SYNODALITY**

### Introductory lectures (during the registration period)

- \* The *Synod on Synodality* 2021-2024 [Card. Jean-Claude Hollerich](#)
- \* Synodality in the Life and the Mission of the Church [Carlos María Galli](#)
- \* Form and Reform in a Synodal Church [Rafael Luciani & Serena Noceti](#)

### VIDEOS OF WEEK 1: *History of Synodality*

- Orientation: History of Synodality [Massimo Faggioli](#)
- Deepening: Synodality in the first Christian Communities [María Elisa Estevez](#)  
 Synodality in the first Centuries of the Church [Samuel Fernández](#)  
 St. Cyprian of Cartaghe and other episcopal practices in the first millennium  
[Thomas Kollamparapil CMI](#)  
 Local Churches Synods before and after Vatican II through *Episcopalis Communio*  
[Arnaud Join-Lambert](#)
- Experiences: Developments and challenges of Synodality in Asia [Vimal Tirimanna](#)  
 Developments and challenges of Synodality in Africa [Stan Chu Ilo](#)  
 Developments and challenges of Synodality in Latin America [Alzirinha Rocha de Souza](#)  
 Developments and challenges of Synodality in Europe [Margit Eckholt](#)  
 Developments and challenges of Synodality in North America [Kristen Colberg](#)

### VIDEOS OF WEEK 2: *Theology of Synodality*

- Orientation: The mission of the Church in light of Synodality today [Sandra Mazzolini](#)
- Deepening: The Church, People of God in a Place [Rafael Luciani](#)  
 The *Sensus fidei* in the life and mission of a Synodal Church [Ormond Rush](#)  
 The Contribution of Women in a Synodal Church [Dorothea Sattler](#)  
 Open paths and challenges in Canon Law for a Co-responsible and participatory Church  
[Carmen Peña](#)
- Experiences: Theological and pastoral contributions to Synodality in Asia [Shaji George Kochuthara](#)  
 Theological and pastoral contributions to Synodality in Africa [Josée Ngalula](#)  
 Theological and pastoral contributions to Synodality in Latin America [Carolina Bacher](#)  
 Theological and pastoral contributions to Synodality in Europe [Christian Bauer](#)  
 Theological and pastoral contributions to Synodality in North America [Catherine Clifford](#)

### VIDEOS OF WEEK 3: *Ministerial Practice of Synodality*

- Orientation: A Ministerial Leadership in a Synodal Church [Serena Noceti](#)
- Deepening: Power and authority in the ministerial exercise [Margaret E. Guider OSF](#)  
 The method of *spiritual conversation* in the exercise of ministries: listening, dialogue,  
 discernment in common, consensus building [Frédéric Fornos SJ](#)  
 Pastoral and formation structures in a Synodal Church [Gilles Routhier](#)  
 Instituted ministries in a Synodal Church [Bishop. Roberto Repole](#)
- Experiences: Asia: Ecclesial based communities [Estela Padilla](#)  
 Africa: Titular catechists and Lay Ministries [Nora Kofognotera Nonterah](#)  
 Latin America: Ministerial teams [Antonio José de Almeida](#)  
 Europe: Laity and parishes. *Pastoralreferentinnen* and other cases [Regina Heyder](#)  
 North America: the experience of Lay ecclesial ministries [Alberto Embry](#)