

The background features a stylized tree with a large, rounded orange sun or moon behind it. In the lower-left corner, there is a colorful silhouette of a diverse group of people, including an elderly person with a cane, a person in a wheelchair, and a child, walking together.

Convocation of Australian Catholic Coalition for Church Reform (ACCCR)

Synod on Synodality: Why Should We Care

Behind the Scenes look at the Practice of Synodality

Adj Prof Susan Pascoe AM

For a Synodal Church: communion, participation, mission

- Synod on Synodality approved by Pope in April 2021
- Overseen by General Secretariat for the Synod (GSSB created by Paul VI in Sept 1965 at close of Vatican 11)
- Animates V11 ecclesiology of Church as *Pilgrim People* journeying together
- Involves all the People of God – ‘Baptism in your identity card’ (+Francis, 2019)



For a Synodal Church: communion, participation, mission

*Unique features of Synod incl 4 stages

1) invitation to All the People of God to participate in local churches

2) Continental stage in 7 regions using global synthesis from submissions from local Churches -> *Document for the Continental Stage (DCS)*

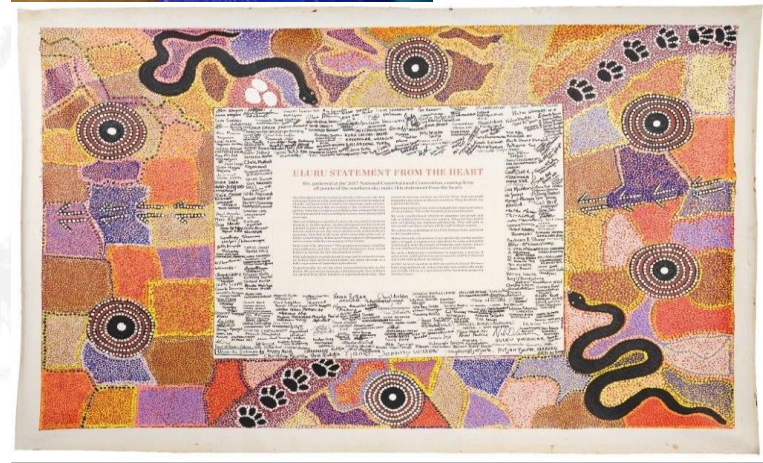
3) Two assemblies of Universal Church in Oct 2023 & 2024 using *Instrumentum Laboris* derived from syntheses from 7 Continental Submissions

4) Implementation



Australian context

- RCIRCSA
- Plenary Council
- Uluru Statement – Voice to Parliament
- Assembly in Suva of Federation of Catholic Bishops Conferences of Oceania (Aust next FCBCO President)
- Death of Cardinal Pell



Frascati Process re local stage

- 112/114 ECs submitted
- 1040 Additional Submissions
- ‘Digital’ Synod
- 30 people in Frascati, 3 Aussies
- Use of spiritual conversation & ‘Discernment in Common’
- 2 weeks + 2.5 days for approval of Council of Ordinaries, 1 Aussie
- Meeting with Pope
- Prayerful, faithful, robust, authentic process -> DCS



Continental Stage - Oceania

- Process focussed on discernment on DCS through continental lens
- Intended to be ecclesial involving all People of God in local churches
- Two Taskforces - Oceania and Suva Assembly – planned & collaborated
- FCBCO created Discernment and Writing Group who met in Melbourne from 8 – 13 Jan 2023 → Draft Oceania Submission for discernment in Suva then online finalisation with DWG and FCBCO Executive → deadline for submission 31 March 2023



Leadership

- Papal oversight – initial briefing on DCS, meetings with Frascati Gp on 2 Oct 22 and Continental Federations on 28 Nov 22
- Cards Grech and Hollerich – Letter to Bishops 26 Jan 2023; attendance at Continental Assemblies; preparation of *Instrumentum Laboris* for Universal Church Assemblies





Universal Stage

- *Instrumentum Laboris* derived from Continental Submissions
- 2 Assemblies – circularity
- Deliberations from Assemblies provided to Pope -> response->
- Implementation
- *First and foremost, synodality denotes the particular style that qualifies the life and mission of the Church, expressing her nature as the People of God journeying together and gathering in assembly, summoned by the Lord Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit to proclaim the Gospel. Synodality ought to be expressed in the Church's ordinary way of living and working. ('Synodality in the Life and Mission of the Church' ITC 2018)*