WELCOME

The church needs fixing
Pope Francis: Synod 2023
Will it work?
What to do now?
THE CHURCH NEEDS FIXING

01  Handing on faith
02  History

03  Women
04  Laity
POPE FRANCIS

• Gospel joy
• Decentralisation
• Radical, not liberal
• Synod is his biggest idea so far...
• Learning from ‘the margins’
• South American Catholic Church
• Raphael Luciani

Venezuela
Lay
Boston and Caracas
Rome and Würzburg
CELAM / CLAR
Theologian of synodality
RAFAEL LUCIANI

- Ecclesiology of the people of God
- A kairos moment for the church
- Synodality is about diversity
- Synodality: the true nature of the church
RAFAEL LUCIANI

Forthcoming:

The Emergence of Synodal Ecclesiality. A More Complete Definition of Church

(Paulist Press, April 2022)
SYNOD 2023

• Dublin: Simply Synod

• 2023 Synod of Bishops – Preparatory document

• 2023 Synod of Bishops – Vademecum for the Synod on Synodality
A Double Dynamic of Conversion: Peter and Cornelius (Acts 10)

22. The episode narrates, first of all, the conversion of Cornelius, who even receives a sort of annunciation. Cornelius is a pagan, presumably Roman, a centurion (a low-ranking officer) in the army of occupation, who practices a profession based on violence and abuse. Yet, he is dedicated to prayer and almsgiving, that is, he cultivates a relationship with God and cares for his neighbor. It is precisely in his home that the angel surprisingly enters, calls him by name, and exhorts him to send—the verb of mission!—his servants to Jaffa to call—the verb of vocation!—Peter. The narrative then becomes that of the conversion of the latter, who, on that same day, received a vision in which a voice ordered him to kill and eat animals, some of which were unclean. His response is decisive: “By no means, Lord” (Acts 10:14). He recognizes that it is the Lord who is speaking to him, but he
### ACTS 10:1-11:18

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Actors</th>
<th>Agents</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Content</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acts 10:1-8</td>
<td>Cornelius</td>
<td>An angel</td>
<td>Caesara</td>
<td>To send for Peter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acts 10:9-16</td>
<td>Peter</td>
<td>Lord</td>
<td>Joppa</td>
<td>All foods are clean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acts 10:17-23</td>
<td>Messengers and Peter</td>
<td>A holy angel</td>
<td>Joppa</td>
<td>Vision recounted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acts 10:24-33</td>
<td>Cornelius and Peter</td>
<td>God Man in dazzling robes</td>
<td>Caesarea</td>
<td>Both visions recounted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acts 10:34-43</td>
<td>Peter’s speech</td>
<td>Holy Spirit</td>
<td>Caesarea</td>
<td>God is impartial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acts 10:44-48</td>
<td>mini-Pentecost</td>
<td>Holy Spirit</td>
<td>Caesarea</td>
<td>Baptism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acts 11:1-18</td>
<td>Peter</td>
<td>Lord Angel Holy Spirit</td>
<td>Jerusalem</td>
<td>Both visions repeated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
THE SPIRIT

• The unpredictable *Spirit*

• The *Spirit* beyond our boundaries

• The *Spirit* always ahead of us

• The struggle to attend to the working of the *Spirit*
THE SPIRIT

• Cornelius?
• Peter?
• The church?
• And so...?
THE SPIRIT

- A new situation

- No teaching or precedent from Jesus

- (In spite of Mark 7)

- So, they just had to work it out

He said to them, “Then do you also fail to understand? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile, since it enters, not the heart but the stomach, and goes out into the sewer?” (Thus he declared all foods clean.)

(Mark 7:18-19)
WILL IT “WORK”?

• Current Crisis
• Experience of South America
• Recovering the vision of Vatican II
• Trusting in the Spirit…
WILL IT “WORK”?

• A journey discernment…
• What is God asking of his church now?
• Prayer at the heart of it all
• Mistakes will be made – the venture is vast
WHAT TO DO NOW?

• Explore the Synod documents
• Rafael Luciani (books and YouTube talks)
• Engage with what is happening at diocesan level
• Permit yourself to become excited…