



The Synod as a Pilgrimage in Faith

The Limerick Diocesan Synod

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1. Journeying in faith is what we do

Individually: "...our condition is essentially that of wayfarers, of incompleteness moving towards fulfilment, and therefore of struggle." (Yves Congar).



As Church: "The Church... advancing on its pilgrim way towards God. ... she exists concretely in history as a people of pilgrims" (Pope Francis, *The Joy of the Gospel* (hereafter EG), 111



A Synod marks a high point along this journey.



Pope Francis @Pontifex · Oct 2

A Synod means walking together but also praying together. I ask all the faithful to participate. [#praywithus](#)



2.5K



3.8K



2. What to take... what to leave behind





3. Who to take... who NOT to leave behind...

The poor and the destitute



A photograph of a dirt path leading through a vineyard. The path is made of light-colored soil and small stones, curving slightly to the right. On the right side of the path, there are rows of grapevines with lush green leaves. The background shows more of the vineyard and some trees under a clear blue sky.

4. Following a *common* path

...discerning together

...discerning with the bishop

... as pilgrims not as drifters

... together... avoiding polarisation

Karl Rahner. Writing at the time of the *Synod of Wuerzburg*, 1972

is not very clear. But what we are talking about here should be intelligible. Polarization does not occur merely because there are differences of opinion (in theology, in the Church's practice, in regard to the concrete links between the Christian and the Church on one hand, and secular environment and society on the other, etc.), but because those who hold such opinions form themselves into groups in such a way that they no longer truly live together, pray together, and work together *with* each other. the individual has to face the dilemma either of belonging to a particular group or of being regarded as its enemy, or at least suspected in principle of being hostile; he is forced in each and every question to ally himself with a particular group; only those supporters are promoted who have devoted themselves heart and soul to this particular group; when something new is proposed, the first question is always whether it suits the group or is likely to damage its prestige. We are certainly in danger of this sort of polarization today.



5. The *Journey* is the destination