



International Ecumenical Conference  
“Listening to the East” –  
Synodality in Oriental Orthodox Church Traditions  
Pontifical University St. Thomas Aquinas, Rome, Nov. 25 – 26, 2022

**PROGRAM**

*(as of Nov. 14, 2022)*

*Listeners/Drafting Committee: Prof. Dr Souraya BECHEALANY, Fr. Frans BOUWEN MAfr.,  
Dr Joachim JAKOB, Manuel KUHN, Astrid WIMMER*

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2022**

*Opening Session*

**GREETING ADDRESSES AND GENERAL INTRODUCTION**

*Moderator: Fr. Prof. Dr Hyacinthe DESTIVELLE OP*

9:00 Morning Prayer

9:15 *Welcome Addresses and Greetings*

Rector Prof. Dr Thomas Joseph WHITE OP, Angelicum

Cardinal Kurt KOCH, President of the Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity

Bishop Luis MARÍN DE SAN MARTÍN, Undersecretary of the Synod of Bishops

Ambassador ret. Dr Alfons M. KLOSS, President of PRO ORIENTE Foundation

*Keynote Speech:*

Theologies of Synodality in Oriental Orthodox Church Traditions

Archbishop Khajag BARSAMIAN

10.30 Coffee Break

### *First Session*

#### **UNDERSTANDINGS AND PRACTICES OF SYNODALITY IN THE COPTIC AND ETHIOPIAN TRADITIONS**

*Moderator: Prof. Dr Pablo ARGÁRATE*

- 11:00 Keynotes: Understandings and Practices of Synodality
- in the Coptic Orthodox Church Bishop Anba KYRILLOS
  - in the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church Fr. Daniel Seifemichael FELEKE

13:00 Lunch

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### *First Session (continued)*

- 15:30 Experiences of Synodality –  
Four parallel working groups with inputs from both traditions on:
- Youth Inputs: Mr. Jouseph YOUNAN and Fr. Alula Lemma HABTE  
Moderation: Dr Joachim JAKOB
  - Laity Inputs: Mr. Bishoy SHARKAWY and Dr Nigussu LEGESSE  
Moderation: Manuel KUHN
  - Women Inputs: Mrs. Odette Riad ABDELMESEH and Mrs. Elizabeth  
Amde TEKLEAREGAY  
Moderation: Dr Viola RAHEB
  - Monastic life Inputs: Fr. Mercurius ELMACARI and Fr. Daniel  
Seifemichael FELEKE  
Moderation: Fr. Dr Philip NELPURAPARAMPIL

16:45 Plenary: Reports from the working groups

17:15 Coffee Break

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### *Second Session*

#### **SYNODALITY WITHIN THE ORIENTAL ORTHODOX CHURCH COMMUNION**

*Moderator: Prof. Dr Souraya BECHEALANY*

- 17:45 Understandings and Practices of Synodality  
within the Oriental Orthodox Church Communion:  
Mor Theophilose KURIAKOSE (Malankara Syrian Orthodox Church)  
Dr Ani GHAZARYAN DRISSI (Armenian Apostolic Church)
- 19:15 Evening Prayer
- 19:30 Dinner

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2022

*Third Session*

**UNDERSTANDINGS AND PRACTICES OF SYNODALITY IN THE ARMENIAN AND MALANKARA SYRIAC TRADITIONS**

*Moderator: Assoc. Prof. Dr Aho SHEMUNKASHO*

- 9:00 Morning Prayer
- 9:15 Keynotes: Understandings and Practices of Synodality
- in the Armenian Apostolic Church Bishop Armash NALBANDIAN
  - in the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church Fr. Prof. Dr Baby VARGHESE
- 10.30 Coffee Break
- 11:00 Experiences of Synodality –  
Four parallel working groups with inputs from both traditions on:
- Youth Inputs: Mr. Garen YOSOLKANIAN and Mr. Bipin MATHEW  
Moderation: Dr Ephrem ISHAC
  - Laity Inputs: Prof. Dr Aram MARDIROSSIAN and Dr Tijo IVAN JOHN  
Moderation: Dr Nigussu LEGESSE
  - Women Inputs: Dr Diana TSAGHIKYAN and Mrs. Mercy JOHN  
Moderation: Ms. Ruth MATHEN
  - Monastic life Inputs: Fr. Garegin HAMBARDZUMYAN and Fr. Bideesh MATHEW  
Moderation: Fr. Dr Saliba ER
- 12:15 Plenary: Reports from the working groups
- 13:00 Lunch

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*Fourth Session*

**LEARNINGS**

*Moderator: Prof. Dr Dietmar W. WINKLER*

- 15:30 Learnings from the Coptic, Ethiopian, Armenian and Malankara Syriac Traditions:  
spiritual, canonical, theological, and pastoral perspectives
- Round table with:
- Bishop Anba KYRILLOS
  - Bishop Armash NALBANDIAN
  - Fr. Daniel Seifemichael FELEKE
  - Fr. Prof. Dr Baby VARGHESE
- 17:00 Coffee Break
- 17:30 Lessons learned for the Catholic Church:  
spiritual, canonical, theological, and pastoral perspectives  
Reflections from the Catholic Listeners
- 18:30 Concluding Session
- 19:00 Evening Prayer
- 19:30 Dinner

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- End of the Conference -