

Guatemala, Panamá, 30 de enero de 2024

Dear Fraternity

We are already living in our fraternities many of the "good wishes" that we are accustomed to wishing each other at the beginning of the year. The Fraternity, during this year just concluded, has celebrated with gratitude "anniversaries" of its fraternal journey. That's beautiful. Fraternity is a gift to us. Fraternity is also a gift in society and in the Church that we are. Let us always be grateful.

Since last year, our brother the Bishop of Rome, who animates and accompanies the life of the whole Church, Pope Francis, invited us to live more consciously what is proper to Christians: To walk together, knowing that we are brothers and sisters and experiencing all that this entails. He invited the whole Church to live in Synodality. We all went and are invited to live the synod. Each one will have had different experiences of it in their places.

Our brothers in Spain, with admirable responsibility and interest, took up this invitation from the beginning. As in every walk, they encountered their difficulties. They never forgot the liberating force of "get up and walk." . They elaborated and shared a material (primers) to work on that first moment of the dream: the time of listening that meant speaking, saying what we feel, live and think from our reality as people with disabilities. We sent these booklets to all the fraternal members. They could be a help, not an obstacle, in encouraging people to live synodality in their churches.

That's why, now, we'd like to ask you a few questions:

- In the places where you live and in the parishes where you participate, how have you lived this synodal experience?
- Were you invited to participate in the meetings of the synod so that you could speak your word and it would be taken into account?
- If they participated, how did they feel? Did they say their word? Did they feel taken into account?
- It may have happened that in your parishes no one has spoken to us about this. Has that been the case?



Frater Intercontinental 20 calle 46-96 zona 5, Ciudad, Guatemala tel.: +502 58748493 fraterinter@gmail.com

Their answers would help us a lot to really know how we are living the Synod, this invitation that has been extended to all of us. Send it to the mail of our brother Enrique Alarcón: <u>enrique.maris@gmail.com</u>; and to the bishop of your locality so that he can bring it to the attention of the Episcopal Conference.

We are truly grateful for your answers so that we can live the second stage of this journey as brothers and sisters, of being all church.

With affection and fraternity.

Core Team

Sonia Leticia Martínez García Coordinadora Intercontinental

Maria del Carmen Mazariegos Coordinadora Adjunta

hipel Apel Dirata to

Miguel Ángel Arrasate Asesor Intercontinental