

BREAKING DOWN the Synod of Bishops



WHAT IS THE SYNOD OF BISHOPS?

The Synod of Bishops is a permanent institution of the Catholic Church. It was established by Pope Paul VI in 1965, shortly after the close of the Second Vatican Council, to continue the spirit of collegiality and communion that was present at the Council. The Synod is an assembly of bishops from around the world who assist the Holy Father by providing counsel on important questions facing the Church in a manner that preserves the Church's teaching and strengthens her internal discipline.



WHEN DOES THE SYNOD OF BISHOPS MEET?

The Synod of Bishops meets at the request of the Holy Father, when he considers it necessary or opportune to consult with the world's bishops.

WHAT ARE THE MEETINGS OF THE SYNOD OF BISHOPS CALLED?

The Synod of Bishops can meet in a *General Assembly* (or Session) on topics that pertain to the entire Church; these kinds of sessions can be either *Ordinary* or *Extraordinary*. The Synod of Bishops can also meet in a *Special Assembly* (or Session) on topics that pertain to a limited geographical area. For example, Special Assemblies have been held in recent years on topics concerning the Middle East and Africa.

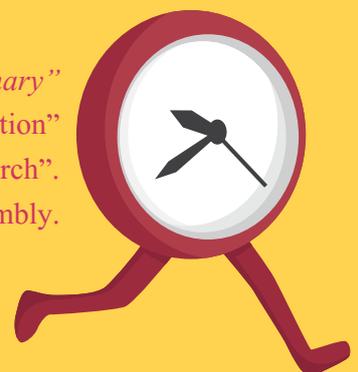
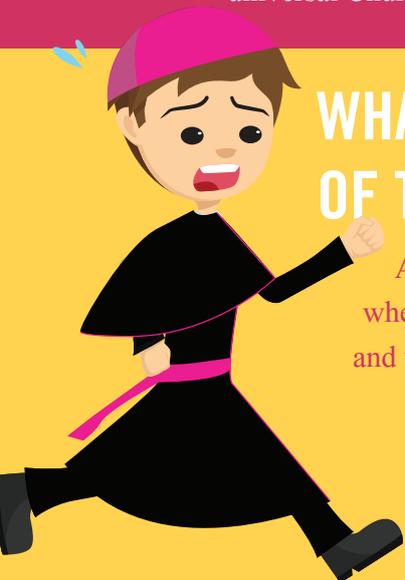
WHAT IS AN **ORDINARY** GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SYNOD OF BISHOPS?

A General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops is called "*Ordinary*" if its topic is "for the good of the universal Church" and seems to require the "learning, prudence and counsel" of all the world's bishops.

WHAT IS AN **EXTRAORDINARY** GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SYNOD OF BISHOPS?

A General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops is called "*Extraordinary*" when it is convened to deal with matters "which require a speedy solution" and which demand "immediate attention for the good of the entire Church".

The 2018 Synod on young people is an *Ordinary* general assembly.



WHO ARE THE HEADS OF THE SYNOD OF BISHOPS?

The President of the Synod is the current Holy Father, Pope Francis. The Synod also has a General Secretary, who is currently Cardinal Lorenzo Baldisseri.



WHAT ARE THE DATES OF THE 15TH ORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF BISHOPS?

3-28 October 2018

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE 15TH ORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF BISHOPS?

The Synod has been titled “Young people, faith and vocational discernment.” The Preparatory Document describes the purpose of the 15th Ordinary General Assembly as an opportunity for the Church “to examine herself on how she can lead young people to recognize and accept the call to the fullness of life and love, and to ask young people to help her in identifying the most effective way to announce the Good News today.”



WHO ATTENDS THIS SYNOD?

The Synod is not a “synod of youth,” but of bishops to discuss youth and young adults in light of their current realities and the journey of vocational discernment. There will be a few young adults (18-29) present as auditors, but the voting members of the Synod are bishop representatives from around the world. From Australia there will be Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP, Bishop Mark Edwards OMI, Sebastian Duhau (Australian Auditor, appointed by Pope Francis) and Archbishop Peter Comensoli.

WHAT ARE THE TOPICS OF DISCUSSION?

There will be many topics discussed at the Synod, that will emerge from the *Instrumentum Laboris* (Working Document). There are no planned questions at this point in the process. Rather, the gathering will be a conversation that includes interventions by bishops and small group conversations.



ARCHDIOCESAN
OFFICE
FOR
Youth



The Archdiocesan Office for Youth is an agency of the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne.

Archdiocesan Office For Youth | @aoymelb | aoymelb | aoy@cam.org.au | www.cam.org.au/youth

The Archdiocese is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults