

We are Church International
Survey 2022 of Diocesan Activities for the Worldwide Synodal Process 2023

FRANCE

DIOCESE OF MORBIHAN <http://www.vannescatholique.fr>

Mentioned on homepage: Yes +URL / no	yes, at the bottom of the page (8th box out of 10)
Link on homepage to further details	Yes
Diocesan contact person(s) appointed?	Marie Pierre Clain- 4 rue Georges Lestrehan 56700 HENNEBONT synode56@diocese-vannes.fr
Diocesan synodal team set up?	7 lay people (anonymous)
Invitation to participate?	on the deanery (several parishes), 30 people were personally invited by email for 2 meetings of 2 hours each
deadline	according to diocesan and various parish sources, 15 January, 15 March, 31 March
Who is invited?	parishes, Catholic Action groups, spiritual centres must organise everything by themselves
Which feedback tools offered?	some sermons(by the pope, the bishop) or articles to read, nothing to send back
Reaching out to "minorities", other denominations , non-Catholics?	No
10 main questions for consultation addressed?	only 6 of them : Journey companions, listening, speaking out, dialogue in church and society, authority and participation, discernment and decision-making
other questions for consultation addressed?	no, it wasn't possible
Transparency/Clarity of the process: good – mediocre – bad?	belated information
Transparency re. final summary?	none! The bishop's letter said « you will get the synthesis of your answers in due course »
Other aspects you would like to share	real information came very late The CELEM group (from the Parvis network) wrote an open letter (2022 01 17)to Bishop Centène in the « Ouest France » daily newspaper about the lack of organisation and result transparency. The bishop replied the next day (2022 01 18 (!), in the same newspaper (see the 2 attachments)

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Vannes, le 10 Janvier 2022

OBJET : Lettre ouverte à Raymond Centène, Évêque du diocèse de VANNES

Cher Frère Evêque

Voici bientôt 3 mois que notre Pape François a appelé à l'engagement de tous les catholiques du Monde sur le projet de « marcher ensemble » en Synode, laïcs et clercs, afin que l'Église catholique se rapproche du message de Jésus, en témoigne davantage et adopte une gouvernance impliquant les laïcs, pour surmonter la crise de concentration du pouvoir par le clergé (1% des catholiques) et ses dérives récemment mises à jour par la Commission Indépendante sur les Abus Sexuels dans l'Église (CIASE ou rapport « Sauvé »)

Tous les baptisés laïcs (99% des catholiques) doivent pouvoir participer à cette refondation, qu'ils soient de l'action catholique, pratiquants ou non pratiquants. Or, ce travail nécessaire ne semble pas être une priorité dans ce diocèse de Vannes, qui n'a pratiquement ciblé que les paroisses pour des rencontres, et seulement quelques-unes en ont programmé, au nombre de deux, ce qui est peu au vu des changements nécessaires : pour avoir des communautés plus accueillantes et démocratiques dans leur gestion, et des institutions plus transparentes, simples, pauvres et fraternelles au service des plus démunis.

Pratiquement, nous souhaitons que vous favorisiez dès Janvier l'ouverture un jour par semaine de lieux de dialogue clairement identifiés (par exemple par un bandeau EGLISE OUVERTE EN SYNODE : MARCHONS ENSEMBLE), avec des permanences en après-midi et soirée pour que chacun-e puisse venir s'y exprimer librement et partager ses questions et ses idées sur les moyens à mettre en œuvre pour que la parole d'amour universel de Jésus devienne à travers l'Église un témoignage de vie.

Nous demandons qu'à tous les stades, dans l'esprit du Synode, les laïcs soient partie prenante dans l'élaboration des synthèses, que celles-ci soient communiquées aux participants et que la synthèse diocésaine soit rendue publique (*nous rappelons que le VADEMECUM stipule que tous les points de vue, même les plus minoritaires, doivent y figurer*)

Nous vous souhaitons une bonne année synodale, riche de partages fructueux et de solidarité
Avec tout notre respect fraternel

L'équipe CELEM (chrétiens et libres en Morbihan) de Vannes

Vannes, 10 January 2022

Open letter to Raymond Centène, Bishop of the Diocese of VANNES (France)

Dear Brother Bishop

It has been almost 3 months since our Pope Francis called for the commitment of all Catholics in the World to the project of "walking together" in Synod, laity and clergy, so that the Catholic Church may come closer to the message of Jesus, witness more to it and adopt a governance involving the laity, in order to overcome the crisis of concentration of power by the clergy (less than 1% of the Catholics) and the problems recently exposed by the Independent Commission on Sexual Abuse in the Church (CIASE or "Sauvé" report)

All baptized lay people (over 99% of the Catholics) must be enabled to participate in this re-foundation, whether they are part of Catholic Action, church-goers or not. Yet, the Synod does not seem to be a priority in the diocese of Vannes, which has practically targeted only the parishes for meetings, only a few of which have scheduled one or two sessions, which is not much in view of the changes needed for communities to become more welcoming and democratic in their management, and for our institutions to get more transparent, simple, poor, fraternal and at the service of the most needy.

In practical terms, we would like you to encourage, from January onwards, the opening one day a week of clearly identified places of dialogue (for example, with a banner OPEN CHURCH IN SYNOD: LET'S WALK TOGETHER), with afternoon and evening sessions so that everyone may come and express themselves freely and share their questions and ideas on the means to be implemented so that the Church may be a living witness to Jesus' universal love.

In the spirit of the Synod, we demand that, at all stages, lay people be involved in the elaboration of the syntheses, that these be communicated to the participants and that the diocesan synthesis be made public (let us not forget that the VADEMECUM stipulates that all points of view, even minority ones, should be included in the reports).

We wish you a good synodal year. May it be rich in fruitful sharing and solidarity
With all our fraternal respect

The CELEM (Christian and Free in Morbihan) team of Vannes

This letter was published in the OUEST FRANCE Vannes issue of January 18th, 2022

The Bishop answered the very day after, on January 19th, also in the newspaper, saying that all the work about the synod organization had been entrusted to lay people who were free to carry it out as they wished, and that the syntheses would be revealed to the people who had participated... « in due course »

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Several associations and groups of the Parvis federation

Positions have been expressed by several associations and groups of the Parvis federation.

This question was also discussed at the General Assembly of Parvis at the end of 2021 in Saint-Chamond.

Here is a synthesis of the elements that seem most important. Of course, it could be completed.

First of all, it is necessary to note the lack of interest in the process undertaken by the Church Institution aiming at reforming the existing structures, the distribution of powers, the ministries etc...

Clericalism is rejected by all. This also concerns the laity who can be brought to tasks in parishes, bishoprics or Roman dicasteries formerly strictly reserved for "clerics" (Theo M&M Group)

We can distinguish several issues:

1/ Development of small communities

There is a widely shared feeling that the organization in territorial parishes, placed under the authority of clerics, corresponds less and less to the demands of Christians who still wish to have a religious practice. This is especially true in urban areas where churches are increasingly deserted.

The basic community approach is developing and a certain number of Parvis member groups function in this way.

Points to be clarified:

Can clerics participate in these communities? Yes, if they are there to give the group the benefit of their training and experience, but not to hold a role of authority.

How to organize the relationships between small communities, what relationships with ecclesial institutions.

Organization of celebrations that take into account the diversity of the groups and take place with the effective participation of all (CELY)

2/ Expressions of faith

Faith is to be considered as a response to the search for the meaning of existence and as a human belief that evolves in its ideas and practices. (Theo M&M Group)

Many dogmas are foreign to the message of Jesus. While some of these dogmas have been more or less forgotten, others remain as official truths. Even the Creed is hardly evangelical. Ecclesiastical language remains incomprehensible to the majority of people, especially the younger generations (CELEM)

Formulas that are still widely used are no longer understood today, such as the divine identity of Jesus and his sacrificial death to redeem the original sin. "We must not hesitate to examine the theological, anthropological and dogmatic foundations of the Catholic Church" (Pour un christianisme d'avenir)

The Gospel proposes radically new ways based on love and liberation, not on a system of power, whatever its form (Workshop 3 AG Saint-Chamond).

3/ With whom do we walk?

According to Parthenia 77, Jesus never left anyone out and never wanted to build a church as an institution. The formula proposed by the Vatican on the "companions of the journey" is largely taken up but to enlarge it. We must remember that the richness of Parvis is the diversity of its groups and the people who make them up. Some remain within the parish structures, seeking to make them evolve towards more openness. Many, on the contrary, have moved away. CELY notes that many companions on the journey are elsewhere: help for migrants, circles of silence, small sharing groups, base communities, ...

Go to those who are far away, who will not come to a meeting, even if they are invited (CELEM)

It is necessary to involve all those who are part of the journey and especially those who are on the margins, outside the walls (CCC)

The important thing is to walk together, to listen to each other knowing that no one has the truth and that conflicts can arise.

If some people do not want to come to our invitation, the important thing is to respect their refusal. To walk together, those who walk must have decided to walk together. (Theo M&M Group)

The path is made by walking.

4/ Equality Women/Men (FHEDLES)

The Church institution, which claims to magnify the female condition but does not listen to women, is a mutilated body. And yet Jesus spoke to women AND men, without distinction of sex, despite the conventions of his time.

Any form of exclusion of women, whatever their age or social situation, from any responsibility, service or ecclesial activity, without any exception, under the pretext that they are women, has become absolutely inadmissible and dishonors the ecclesial institution that defends or supports it. (Theo M&M Group)

5/ Societal issues to be taken into account (CELY):

Climate change and the collapse of biodiversity that threaten the survival of the planet and humanity. Reduction of inequalities

If we wish that WAC also takes charge of secularism, we must recognize that according to the associations which adhere to this world organization by vocation, there is no agreement on the nature of secularism or secularization (in terms of movement and evolution towards a secular, societal and juridical ideal) (Theo M&M Group)

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Please find on attached document a brief and preliminary synthesis of proposals received from various groups of our French federation Reseaux du Parvis.

We carry on working, I'll keep you informed.