

Deepening  
Discernment in  
Common

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Promoting Synodal  
Transformation





Synod <sup>2021</sup>  
2023

# The Pope wants to hear from YOU!

#ListeningChurch

Forming Facilitators in Discernment in Common

## Why – the Synodal Vision

- Pope Francis has launched the synodal project to transform how the Church is moving forward. The Society of Jesus wants to do what it can to help.
- Specifically Fr General has identified the area of Discernment in Common as a contribution the Society can make.
- Over the last 5 years, we have seen an increasing appetite for discernment in common. People see how it can impact apostolic planning and move forward synodal processes.
- A Video Summary of the project is [here](#)



# Where we want to end up - a 5 year vision

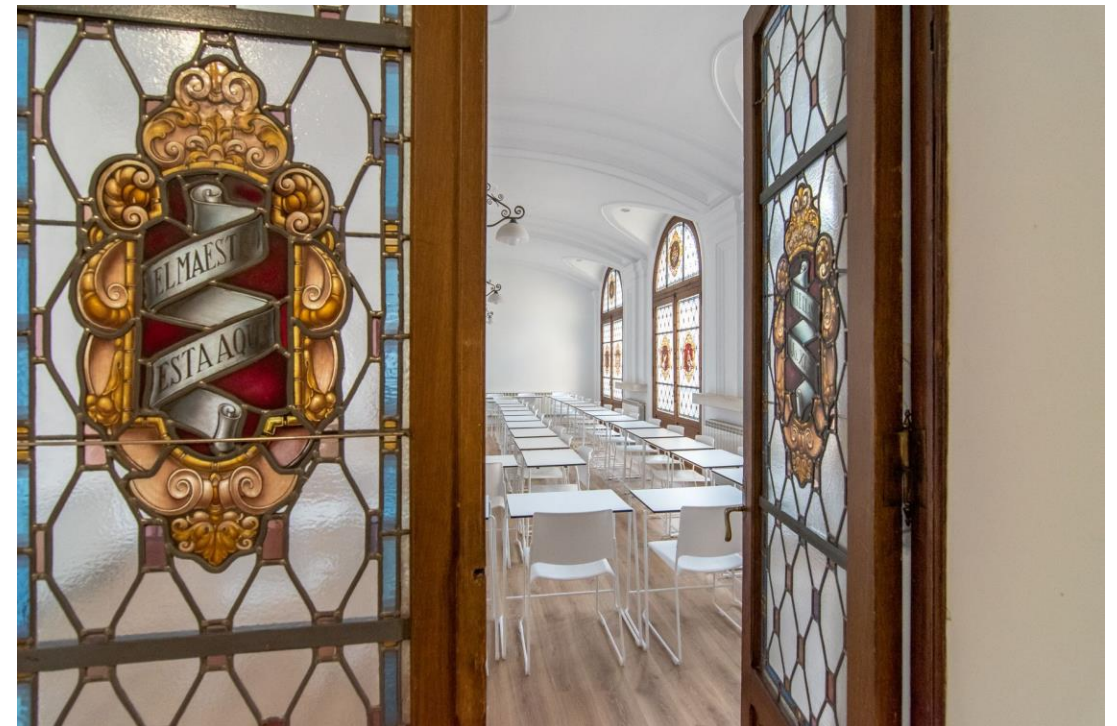
- Within 5 years we would hope to have Resource Centres in Discernment in Common and Apostolic Planning
  - in each region of the Society
  - with linguistic variety
  - which can take forward the synodal dream of Pope Francis
- Each centre would have a professional team which offers a) training and b) facilitation in discernment in common
- Teams will be composed of Jesuits, other religious and lay experts
- The centres could also be a hub for the programmes offered by the discerning leadership programme



# How will we start – Phase One - 2025

## *Experts' meeting*

- In November 2025 we will have a **one week** Experts programme in Salamanca Spain. Dates are 24<sup>th</sup> November to December 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Those participating will be Jesuits, or religious nominated by their major superiors or lay people who have a proven record in the area
- Purpose of the meeting:
  - Discuss and agree a curriculum
  - Examine best practice
  - Learn from each other
  - Set up a light network; see the global possibilities
  - Make a plan together for each region
  - An outline schedule (subject to updating) can be found [here](#).
- **Commitment of the experts afterwards:** give one or two trainings for facilitators in 2026 and again in 2027. Approximately an 8-10 day commitment.
- We hope to have one person from each conference who is the 'pillar' or organising person for the trainings going forward
- **Finance for this meeting:** 50% travel subsidies for participants from the global south



# How will we continue - Phase 2 – 2026 and 2027

## *Training of Discernment in Common facilitators*

- In each Conference, those who attended the experts' meeting in Salamanca will offer courses to train facilitators in Discernment in Common.
- Each course will accommodate about 25 people (Jesuit, lay, religious)
- And could be offered in two modules of one week during a 12 month period
  - to be decided by the local expert group
  - ongoing mentoring and peer supervision between the two weeks (time gap of 6-9 months between modules)
- **Finance: the host province/region and Conference to work out** the best solution with the hub which will organise the training



# Phase 3 - Institutional Strength and Sustainability – Resource Centres

- We hope that within 3 years, conferences of provincials will be able to designate one or two (or more) Resource Centres in the area of Discernment in Common
- Which become known for offering quality training of facilitators in Discernment in Common
- And quality facilitation upon request
- Perhaps also become hubs for the Discerning Leadership Programme



# Next Steps

1. Major Superiors are asked to nominate people for the Experts meeting in Salamanca before end of April 2025.\
2. They should be people who will be available (part time – approximately 10 days per year to train facilitators of discernments in common (2026-27).
3. A list of names of people with known Discernment in common expertise has been drawn up by the DPA Counsellor and is available [HERE](#) to serve as a guide. In the end Major superiors have the final decision.
4. Numbers are limited to 60 for the Experts' meeting.
5. The dates for the Salamanca programme are November 24<sup>th</sup> (arrival on 23<sup>rd</sup> or before) until December 2<sup>nd</sup> (departure on 3<sup>rd</sup> December or after).

