



## **Presentation**

### **of Synodal Forum I**

**“Power and separation of powers in the Church**

**- Joint participation and involvement in the mission”**

**for the Second Reading**

**at the Fourth Synodal Assembly (8-10 September 2022)**

**for the implementation text “Sustainable strengthening of Synodality:  
A Synodal Council for the Catholic Church in Germany”**

**[Result of the ballot in the Forum: 18 Yes]**

## **Introduction**

Synodality is a fundamental activity of the Church. Synodality is a spiritual process that helps us to hear God’s Word today and to promote evangelisation through discernment of spirits, prayer and the exchange of arguments. Synodality is a means enabling the members of God’s people to discover, contribute and interconnect their specific spiritual gifts. Synodality is furthermore a form of transparent, solution-orientated working. To deliberate and decide together on the Synodal Path has strengthened the community of faith in recent years. These good experiences on the Synodal Path form a foundation on which to continue strengthening the synodality of the Catholic Church in Germany. Co-operation between bishops and faithful at supra-diocesan level is to become a permanent practice.

## **Motion**

The Synodal Assembly herewith resolves to establish a Synodal Council. The Council shall be established on the basis of can. 127 and can. 129. A Synodal Committee shall be appointed by the Synodal Assembly in order to prepare the Synodal Council. The Synodal Committee shall consist of the 27 diocesan bishops, 27 members elected by the Central Committee of German Catholics, and ten members elected jointly by them. This Committee shall be jointly supported by the German Bishops’ Conference and the Central Committee of German Catholics. It

shall be chaired by the President of the German Bishops' Conference and the President of the Central Committee of German Catholics.

The Synodal Committee shall have the following tasks:

- It shall prepare the establishment of a Synodal Council of the Catholic Church in Germany which meets the requirements set out below.
- It shall prepare and evolve the evaluation of the resolutions of the Synodal Assembly.
- It shall furthermore develop on the initiatives that have been discussed on the Synodal Path in the Synodal Forums and in the Synodal Assembly.
- Until such time as the Synodal Council is established, the Synodal Committee shall advise on major developments in the Church and in society, and shall take fundamental decisions of supra-diocesan significance on pastoral planning, future perspectives and budgetary matters of the Church which are not decided at diocesan level.

Key features of the Synodal Council:

As an advisory and decision-making body, the Synodal Council shall advise on major developments in the Church and in society, and shall take fundamental decisions of supra-diocesan significance on pastoral planning, future perspectives and budgetary issues of the Church that are not decided at the level of the dioceses.

- The Synodal Council of the Catholic Church in Germany shall be composed in a similar manner as the Synodal Assembly.
- The resolutions of the Synodal Council shall have at least the same legal effect as the resolutions of the Synodal Assembly (Art. 11 para. 5 of the Statutes of the Synodal Path).
- The Synodal Council shall meet in public session. The chair of the Synodal Council shall be held jointly by the President of the German Bishops' Conference and the President of the Central Committee of German Catholics.
- The Synodal Council shall appoint two spiritual companions. It may invite observers to attend its meetings.
- The Synodal Council shall adopt statutes and rules of procedure.
- The Synodal Council shall be supported by a permanent secretariat, which shall have appropriate resources in terms of finance and staffing.