



EU-CHARIS-INFO-LETTER NO 8

# CHARIS EUROPEAN SERVICE OF COMMUNION

May 2023



Synode  
2021  
2023

**In this issue:** CHARIS in the continental European synodal process and a review of the online formation program of CHARIS

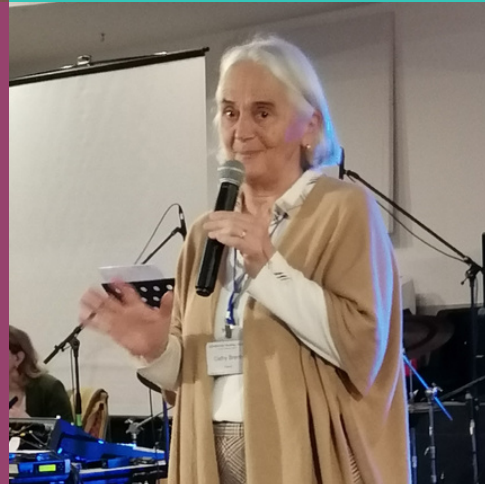
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Last September we received a strong encouragement from the Dicastery in Rome to live the synodal way and to offer formation for it (see **EU-CHARIS-Info-letter No 6** ). The responsibility of every member of the Church, as was stressed so strongly by Vatican II, is coming more and more into practice in this way. Continental meetings have been a part of the synod. For Europe, this meeting was in Prague, last February, and Cathy Brenti from France represented CHARIS in this European Assembly of the Synod. What did she experience in Prague?



LIVE THE  
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WHAT DID  
CATHY  
BRENTI  
EXPERIENCE  
IN  
PRAGUE?



On February 9th, the European Assembly of the Synod came to a close in Prague. All the Episcopal Conferences of Europe were gathered for this Assembly, and we were about 200 participants. There were 39 delegations from the Episcopal Conferences of Europe, each of 3 or 4 persons, which is to say about 130 persons, among which about 40 bishops, plus 30 "guests" of which I was part on behalf of CHARIS.

It was an impressive and very rich Church experience. The basis for reflection was of course the Continental Stage Document (DEC): Enlarge the space of your tent. It emphasizes above all:

Listening, as openness to welcome, in a desire for inclusion and communion; Mission, and dialogue, with believers of other religions; Commitment and Participation; Structures and institutions to live communion, participation and mission; Liturgy.

# VERY RICH AND VARIED TOPICS

We had some interventions from the cardinals present: H. Em. Mario Grech, Secretary of the Synod, JC Hollerich, from Luxembourg, Rapporteur of the Synod, and Marc Ouellet, former Prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops. And above all, each delegation had six minutes to speak. The topics were very rich and varied: reform of governance, co-responsibility of the laity, welcoming homosexuals, integration of remarried divorcees, concern for the peripheries, participation of women in decision-making bodies, ordination of married men, involvement of young people, etc.

Each morning, there were times of meeting in small working groups (of 10-12 people), thought out according to the method of "spiritual conversation", allowing everyone to express themselves. This was very interesting, given the differences of opinion.



## CLOSE TO WHAT IS RENEWAL

We had a very good contact with Archbishop Gintaras Grušas, Archbishop of Vilnius, Lithuania and President of the Council of European Episcopal Conferences, who is very close to everything that is "Renewal".

The Latin liturgy has no more secrets for us since everything was celebrated in this language. We had a mass in the cathedral of Prague, magnificent, as well as in the monastery of the Premonstratensians, idem. The temperature being "interesting",  $-8^{\circ}\text{C}$ , we experienced two hours of celebrations in the cold every time, unforgettable!

### Conclusion of our week:

The Church is highly varied and so beautiful...

Cathy Brenti

# CATHY BRENTI WAS ALSO ASKED TO SPEAK DURING THE ASSEMBLY ON BEHALF OF CHARIS. THIS IS WHAT SHE SAID:



“We are happy and grateful to have been invited to represent CHARIS, the Catholic Charismatic Renewal International Service, at this Continental Assembly of the Synod.

We believe that the Synod has been a great inspiration of the Holy Spirit in the Church and we are happy to live this journey.

CHARIS is not a movement but represents – according to the words of Pope Francis - the "stream of grace", and people from prayer groups or communities have participated in the synodal process in their dioceses all over the world and have been able to make their contribution in the sensitivity of the Renewal.

## MOVE LIKE JESUS

Jesus himself gave the image of a Church on the move, as He travelled through the Holy Land proclaiming the Good News, doing good, and being attentive to the wounded and the poor.

We believe that the reception of the Holy Spirit, lived in the experience of the Baptism in the Spirit, leads to a personal encounter with Christ, which opens the heart to listening to the Word of God, to listening to others, to what the Holy Spirit can say through each one to advance and build the Church, in a spirit of humility and repentance.

## DOCILITY TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

We are pleased with the place given to listening in the synodal process and to docility to the Holy Spirit in resolving tensions.

It is thanks to this listening that the charisms of each member of the Church can be discerned, and that each one can be given his or her place, not all being called to fulfil the same functions, as in the image of the body we can find in Saint Paul. But each one being at the service of his brother, and of the building up of the whole Church in a spirit of charity.”

Cathy Brenti



ACCORDING TO POPE FRANCIS IN HIS LETTER OF AUGUST 15TH, 2022, RE-DISCOVERING OF THE MANY MINISTRIES, BASED ON CHARISMS, SHOULD BE PART OF THE SYNOD! THEOLOGIAN FROM THE CCR CAN HELP THE BISHOPS TO RECOGNIZE THESE DE FACTO MINISTRIES.

KEES SLIJKERMAN

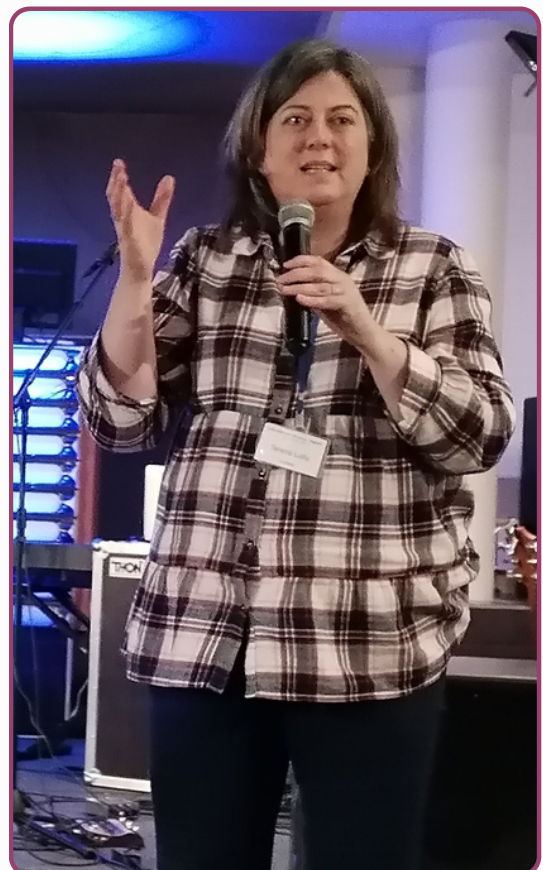
## SOUND FORMATION IS ESSENTIAL

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To make a good contribution to the whole church, sound formation is essential. The online formation program, provided by Charis-International is excellent. Two participants share their experiences. Two short testimonies...

### Top calibre formation, fresh insights

Teresa Lally: The Integral Formation Programme and the Servant Leadership courses run by CHARIS are top calibre! Fantastic teaching from wonderful teachers from around the world who have been in Charismatic Renewal for years. Their wisdom and experience provide fresh insights and at the same time confirm so much of what the Holy Spirit does and is doing. I have learned things I did not know about my faith and the Church especially in the Integral Formation Programme and wish everyone would access these truths! I found the courses encouraging and inspiring and they gave me a deeper insight into what it means to be in CCR. I love the international dimension of the courses too. God is good!"





### **Worldwide experience and wisdom in all areas**

Zoltan Vegh: "I found these lessons very useful, available in a very flexible way. These teachings were supported by the worldwide experience and wisdom of the charismatic renewal. With the Integral Formation Programme, you can expand your existing knowledge base. Many countries and communities choose to develop their own formation programs, but the Integral Formation Programme provides new insights in all areas, sometimes even new areas to consider. The monthly online small group meetings are excellent opportunity to share with and get to know charismatics from various cultural background and social network."

**Registration is open:** [www.charis.international/en/integral-formation-program](http://www.charis.international/en/integral-formation-program)

Cathy Brenti, Zoltan Vegh and Teresa Lally are members of the Coordinating team of the European CHARIS Continental Service of Communion

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**Previous editions of this info-letter:** <http://isidor.se/ccreurope>

**Mailing list:** This Info-Letter is available to all interested persons.

Submit requests to [vegh.zoltan.gyula@gmail.com](mailto:vegh.zoltan.gyula@gmail.com) with the subject "EUCHARISIL" and this message:

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**CHARIS**