

## **Diary on the synodal path**

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This is not church! This is politics. And, since that's the way it is in politics, sometimes a tough tone prevails. It is all about being right and being proved right. Although only the statutes of the synodal path were to be adopted on the second day, I received the impression that everything had already been arranged, discussed, and planned beforehand. Each objection was nipped in the bud and the arguments of the preservers were refused. The applause as well as the results of the elections reflect the entire situation: there are many reformers and few reservers. The reformers, the laity in particular, call the shots. They also conduct priests and bishops.

This is called inversion of power. Priests and bishops were not allowed to concelebrate mass in the morning. They had to celebrate mass in their hotel rooms later.

There wasn't even scheduled a mass on the last day of the synodal assembly, although there is no reason for that with regard to celebrants: with so many bishops and priests you could have drawn on nearly unlimited resources. What a sad commentary on the synodal path. The clergy are hogtied. Is this the church the reformers have in mind?

On the occasion of such an important event, one should think that the Eucharist is celebrated with dignity and ardency, according to its significance as source and culmination of the whole ecclesiastical life as well as the church's essential mission.

I have seen better times in church, and, to be honest, I liked it better then. The synodal assembly lacks the connecting element, which is Christ. Apart from the Eucharist disaster, Adoration is replaced by meditations led by laypeople. This is about man, what he can do, what he wants and claims. Welcome to our new church.

This is sobering. But at the same time I know and I believe that God will never abandon His church. The church, with Christ in its heart, will never perish. The moment seems to have come when we should ask ourselves: Whom do I want to follow? A church with Jesus in its centre, or a church giving priority to man's will? It's good to ask oneself this question. Only a minority seems to still follow Jesus. But from a handful of Christians who acknowledge Jesus as founder of the church, the church can grow again and thrive.

So I pray: Lord, let us always look at you, let us progress towards the spring of OUR church in a hopeful way! Send your Holy Spirit and renew the face of the earth!