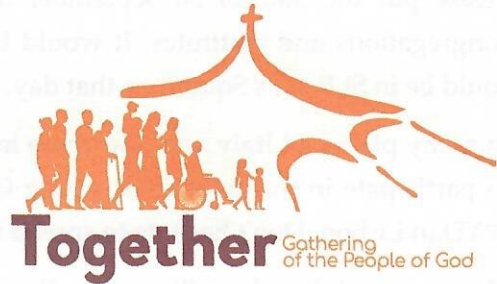




**DICASTERY FOR INSTITUTES OF
CONSECRATED LIFE AND SOCIETIES
OF APOSTOLIC LIFE**



To the Major Superiors of religious congregations & institutes of consecrated life

16 April 2023, Divine Mercy Sunday

Dear sisters,
Dear brothers,

On this Sunday of Divine Mercy, in the joy of the Resurrection, we send you our fraternal greetings in Christ our Lord.

As you may have heard, on Sunday 15 January the Holy Father announced a novel ecclesial initiative: "On Saturday 30 September, there will be an ecumenical prayer vigil in St Peter's Square, through which we will entrust to God the work of the 16th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops. For the young people who will come to the vigil, there will be a special programme throughout the weekend, led by the Taizé Community. From now on, I invite brothers and sisters of all Christian denominations to take part in this 'Gathering of the People of God'."

On the eve of the next synodal assembly, the holding of such an ecumenical prayer vigil, in the presence of Pope Francis, the synod participants, leaders of various Christian denominations, and thousands of young and old, will be a beautiful event of unity and peace.

We must tell you, dear brothers and sisters, that we need your help if this initiative is to bear beautiful fruits of communion. Only together will we be able to give the witness of unity, openness and synodality that the Church needs so much today. That is why the name "Together - Gathering of the People of God" was chosen.

With this letter, we would like to suggest several possible ways in which you can become involved from this moment on in the preparation of this gathering.

- Starting from today, your prayer would be an essential spiritual support. In the current challenging period that the Church and the world are going through, the silent prayer of consecrated persons seems to us more essential than ever.

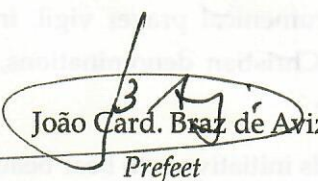
- Please put the date of 30 September in your diaries, as well as in the calendars of your congregations and institutes. It would be wonderful if many religious of every background could be in St Peter's Square on that day.
- In many places, in Italy and elsewhere in Europe, groups of young people will start preparing to participate in this event. For young Catholics, it will be experienced as a follow-up to the WYD in Lisbon. Don't hesitate to spread the word!
- The young adults who will come to Rome from Friday 29 September to Sunday 1 October will be welcomed in Rome, in families and communities. We are therefore looking for thousands of places to host them, even in very simple conditions.
- If "Casa per Ferie" were available that weekend, we would be very grateful to be able to accommodate guests, older adults, or people with special needs or reduced mobility.
- Similar prayer vigils could be held on the same day in parishes and monasteries around the world.

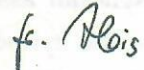
We share these suggestions with you as a way of expressing our desire to walk with you. The involvement of congregations and institutes of consecrated life will be an important witness for young adults who are seeking to give their lives as followers of Christ, and for all others as well.


If you have any questions or would like to consider participating in this event, we would be happy to help. You can find more information on the website www.together2023.net, or you can write to us at info@together2023.net with any questions or enquiries. In addition, a preparation team is being set up in Rome and will be available, especially in May and June, to visit, present and coordinate the preparations.

We entrust this project to your prayers so that the Holy Spirit may accompany the preparation of this gathering throughout the coming months.

In heartfelt communion,


João Card. Braz de Aviz
Prefect


Frère Alois
Prior of Taizé


✠ José Rodríguez Carballo, O.F.M.
Archbishop-Secretary