



# BISHOPS' SYNOD FOR AFRICA

## PROPOSITIONS: SUMMARY

VATICAN CITY, 23 OCTOBER 2009

### INTRODUCTION

Proposition 1 - Documentation Presented to the Supreme Pontiff

### I - ECCLESIA IN SYNODO

Proposition 2 - The Synod of a New Pentecost

Proposition 3 - Ecclesial communion

Proposition 4 - Ecclesial Communion at the Regional and Continental Levels

### II - SYNODALIA THEMATA

#### *A) Reconciliation*

Proposition 5 - The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Proposition 6 - The Non-Sacramental Form of Celebrating Reconciliation

Proposition 7 - Inculturating the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Proposition 8 - Pastoral Practices in Reconciliation

Proposition 9 - The Spirituality of Reconciliation

Proposition 10 - Ecumenical Dialogue

Proposition 11 - Interreligious Dialogue

Proposition 12 - Islam

Proposition 13 - African Traditional Religion

#### *B) Iustitia*

Proposition 14 - Justice

...Accordingly, gathered in Synod, the Bishops of the Church-Family of God in Africa, in the company of Priests, Deacons, Religious and Lay Faithful, commit themselves:

...to being architects of just structures in our societies, in the light of the Justice which comes from God.

#### Proposition 15 - Security in Society

The Synod calls upon all members of the Church in Africa to promote justice for everyone and respect for human rights through civic education and by building up a culture of justice and peace. To accomplish this, Dioceses and Parishes should establish Commissions for Justice and Peace, in collaboration with local community leaders, who may act as intermediaries.

#### Proposition 16 - The Brain Drain

#### Proposition 17 - Social Justice and the Eradication of Poverty

... We therefore propose that:

1. the Church-Family of God in Africa recommits herself to the service of the poor, orphans and marginalized in imitation of life in the early days of the Church;

2. As in the case of the early Church, the Church in Africa and its Islands must develop an internal system for taking care of their needs. With regard to emergency situations (catastrophic disasters), it is imperative to develop relationships of solidarity between the different dioceses and within the episcopal conferences themselves. For this reason, there is an urgent need to establish a solidarity fund on the continental level through the CARITAS network. At the same time, the Church should endeavour to promote and inculcate a holistic perception of work as an expression of grace and solidarity. In this way, human talent will be acknowledged and employed as needed for the good of all.

#### Proposition 18 - Social Doctrine of the Church

#### Proposition 19 - Education

#### Proposition 20 - Maputo Protocol

### **C) Pax**

#### Proposition 21 - Peace

... Diocesan, National and Regional Peace-Building Councils be set up within the Justice and Peace Commission, with a counterpart on the continental level, established to liaise with the "African Peace and Solidarity Initiative" at SECAM;

... Justice and Peace Commissions, at the national and regional level, set up a monitoring desk for the prevention and resolution of conflicts;

### **D) Argumenta adnexa**

#### Proposition 22 - Environmental Protection and Reconciliation with Creation

#### Proposition 23 - Arms' Trade

#### Proposition 24 - Good Governance

#### Proposition 25 - Politics

#### Proposition 26 - Elections

#### Proposition 27 - Religious Liberty

#### Proposition 28 - Migrants and Refugees

#### Proposition 29 - Natural Resources

#### Proposition 30 - Land and Water

#### Proposition 32 - Respect for Ethnic Diversity

#### Proposition 33 - Inculturation

### III - PROMOTORES

#### A) *Ecclesia*

Proposition 34 - Evangelization

Proposition 35 - Small Christian Communities

Proposition 36 - The Challenges Posed by the New Religious Movements

Proposition 37 - The Laity

Proposition 38 - The Family

Proposition 39 - Priests

Proposition 40 - Seminarians

Proposition 41 - Permanent Deacons

Proposition 42 - Consecrated Life

Proposition 43 - Catechesis

Proposition 44 - Catechists

#### B) *In Christo roborati*

Proposition 45 - Eucharistic Source of Communion and Reconciliation

Proposition 46 - The Power of the Word of God

#### C) *Ecclesia agens*

Proposition 47 - Women in Africa

... the greater integration of women into Church structures and decision-making processes;

Proposition 48 - Youth

Proposition 49 - Children

Proposition 50 - Persons with Disabilities

Proposition 50 - Persons with Disabilities

Proposition 51 - HIV / AIDS

Proposition 52 - Malaria

Proposition 53 - Drugs and Alcohol

Proposition 54 - Concern for Prisoners

Proposition 55 - Abolition of the Death Penalty

Proposition 56 - Media

Proposition 57 - Mary, Our Lady of Africa