NEWBEC

THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST | 7 June 2026

WALKING TOGETHER TOWARDS A SYNODAL AND PROPHETIC CHURCH

A People for Missionary Discipleship

MONTHLY FOCUS:
CHURCH: Living Synodality

Empowering Initiators for the Body

We look on with great fervour on the focus of the month and on the pastoral pathways of: *Practising communal discernment, building a culture of listening, and collaboration (FD#143)*. Beginning our reflections this month, we look at the Great Initiator of our faith, and on the very week that we celebrate the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ.

In every endeavour we take in life and as disciples, it all begins with a spark, a little whisper, a little voice that invites us to take a step forward. More often than not, we allow ourselves to drum up delays and excuses, the 'I'll do it later' and the 'maybe not me'. Then, what does it take to start something good, to initiate for the community? St. Paul reminds us that the Spirit emboldens us with diverse gifts and capabilities. These gifts then enable us to be apostles, prophets, teachers and more importantly *equip the saints for the work of ministry.* Now, knowing that we, in fact, have these gifts, how can we answer the call to build up the body of Christ?

Who is the Initiator? How can we empower them? How do we recognise our initiative and our call to initiate?

The initiator is not the typical leader in the parish or ministry context, this person can come from any pew, a willing and active participant in the work of the Lord for His Body, the Church. Empowering such a person is a delicate task. Have we created spaces where those beyond the circle of leadership can stand up and take steps to contribute? Are we as a community open to listen to those whose voices we have yet to hear. Real conversations on the ground where the faithful share their hearts is where the truth lies, it is when we are able to listen to these, the spirit moves and allows some from there to initiate change and renewal.

It is easy to speak of the other or someone else who will initiate. We often think ourselves unworthy or underqualified. Responding to a need, a cry, a grievance seems like something to avoid. In a world where we are chasing positivity, goodness and light, how can we be the initiators of light in darkness, hope where grief and sorrow overwhelm. That little stirring, a second look or a persistent thought could be signs that the Lord is calling you to initiate something. Say yes! Allow the Spirit to empower you!

SCRIPTURE *of the* DAY

Deuteronomy: 8: 2-3, 14-16
Psalm 147: 12-15, 19-20
1 Corinthians 10: 16-17
John 6: 51-58

"A synodal Church is a Church which listens, which realises that listening "is more than simply hearing". It is a mutual listening in which everyone has something to learn."
- Pope Francis

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