

EMBRACING  
VULNERABILITY  
ON THE SYNODAL  
JOURNEY



INTERNATIONAL UNION  
SUPERIORS GENERAL

## PRESS RELEASE

### The XXII Plenary Assembly of the UISG has concluded

*“We commit myself to live vulnerable synodality through service as a leader”*

**Rome, 10 May 2022**

The **XXII Plenary Assembly of the UISG**, reserved for the Superiors General of the member Congregations, took place **from May 2 to 6**, in presence and online.

Sr. Jolanda Kafka, outgoing President of the UISG, summarized the experience with these words in the final message of the Assembly:

*“Walking by building bridges with people, especially those most in need, is a call to be closer to those who need us and are waiting for us. I perceived, in the environment in which we were, a broad communion, it was as if when a person spoke, we met in her and she was reflected in us. I feel grateful for this path we are taking.”*

**Around 700 Superiors General from more than 70 countries** participated: about 520 in presence and the others online.

The contribution of more than 10 speakers and the profound exchange at the tables and in the online working groups made it possible to go deeper into the real issues and challenges that we are living at the moment, accepting vulnerability in a synodal style, to which we are called as Church.

The technological organization of the UISG made it possible for the Superiors attending online to feel ‘involved and part of the journey’. In the previous two years, thanks to technology, we have been able to nurture communion and mutual support among sisters around the world. Today, as religious, we reap the fruits.

In her final message, Sr Franca Zonta, USIG Vice-president, expressed her gratitude: "*It was a great joy to meet again. When we took the decision, it was not easy, but we thought that, either in presence or online, we needed to meet. Being here is like saying: we did it. It's good to be together again*".

One of the fruits of the event was the final commitment, pronounced by all the sisters in the afternoon of Friday 6 May:

***"I commit myself to live vulnerable synodality through service as a leader, animating it within the community together with the people of God."***

### **Elections of the President and the new Council of the UISG**

On 9 and 10 May the meeting of the 52 Delegates of the 36 Constellations of the UISG took place in Rome. The Council of Delegates elected members of the Executive Board, and the Executive Board elected the new President and Vice President of the UISG, who will remain in office until 2025.

#### **President:**

**Sr. Nadia Coppa** Adorers of the Blood of Christ

#### **Vice-President:**

**Sr. Mary Teresa Barron** Sisters of Our Lady of the Apostles

#### **Councillors:**

**Sr. Roxanne Schares** School Sisters of Our Lady

**Sr. Theodosia Baki** Tertiary Sisters of St. Francis

**Sr. Graciela Francovic** Daughters of Jesus

**Sr. Theresa Purayidathil** Daughters of the Church

**Sr. M. Jose Gay Miguel** Teresian Carmelites Missionaries

**Sr. Miriam Altenhofen** Missionary Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit

**Sr. Rita Calvo** Order of the Company of Mary Our Lady

**Sr. Antonietta Papa**                      Missionary Daughters of Mary  
**Sr. Dolores Lahr**                         Sisters of St. Joseph of Chambéry  
**Patricia Villaroel**                        Sisters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary  
**Sr. Anna Josephina D'Souza**      Missionary Sisters of the Catholic Apostolate

**The newly- elected President, Sr. Nadia Coppa, Superior General of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ since 2017, addressing the delegates, said:**

*"For me it is a great joy to welcome this call. I am very grateful for the journey that, as Superiors, we have made together in these years. And it is in the wake of the steps already taken that we will continue to walk together as consecrated women, and a sign of shared life and hope in the Church.*

*Our mission is to make vulnerability an opportunity to embrace wounded humanity, to welcome one another and to walk together: this is what the Church asks of us and what the world wishes to see from us - women religious."*

**Final messages of the Plenary Assembly:**

Sr. Patricia Murray, Executive Secretary (English) [here](#)

Sr. Franca Zonta (Italian) [here](#)

Sr. Jolanta Kafka (Spanish) [here](#)

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