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**International Bishops' Conference of Saints Cyril and Methodius**

After having read and prayed with the DCS, I am feeling inspired. It is inspiring to see reports from around the world expressing hope and desire to begin a new journey that truly leads us to become a missional and Christ-centered Church. As point 13 of the document says: “Along this path, the lamp to our steps is the Word of God, which offers the light with which to reread, interpret and express the experience that has been lived.” (DCS 13) It’s gratifying to see the Church practicing listening to People of God in the synodal process, it’s now beginning to become a safe place where people can be creative, can express themselves and their faith. This has enabled contributors to speak openly about their concerns and their joys, and to raise issues such as the situation of the marginalized people, ecumenism, relations between clergy and laity and many other topics that are important to the whole Church, but are also specific to smaller communities. I am particularly pleased as a young woman that the document deals in detail with the issue of women’s participation in the Church’s life, knowing that in this subject there are still open questions. I think this is an important issue in the Eastern European context, because we have still not taken advantage of all the opportunities that the Church offers for women (for example, the practice of installing catechists).

There are also issues that I would consider particularly important to address at this next stage of the synod process. Based on contributions in the document, the issue of sustainability of our common earth was brought up, too. I think this is a huge challenge that is increasingly present in the life of whole world, but in the Eastern European context, there is still a lot of room for improvement. My experience is that we have still not done everything we can, and we are not really recognize the seriousness of the problem. The Church has a special responsibility in this environmental challenge. I hope that we can make progress in this during the synod process. The document also express “the universal concern regarding the meagre presence of the voice of young people in the synod process, as well as increasingly in the life of the Church” (DCS 35). As a young person and as someone who works with young people, I can say that it is essential to listen to the voice of young people, to have a deeper, more personal connection with them, because if the Church loses young people, it loses its future. Thus, we need to find ways to reach out to them. I hope that this also can be a fruit of the synod.

“If the Church is not synodal, no one can really feel fully at home.” (DCS 24) This is what I expect from the synodal process, and now from this continental stage: the synodality may manifest itself here and in everyday life in such a way that we can feel at home in the Church.