



FutureChurch Synod Watch

Session II

Instrumentum Laboris

Working document for October 4 –
29, 2023 Synod Gathering

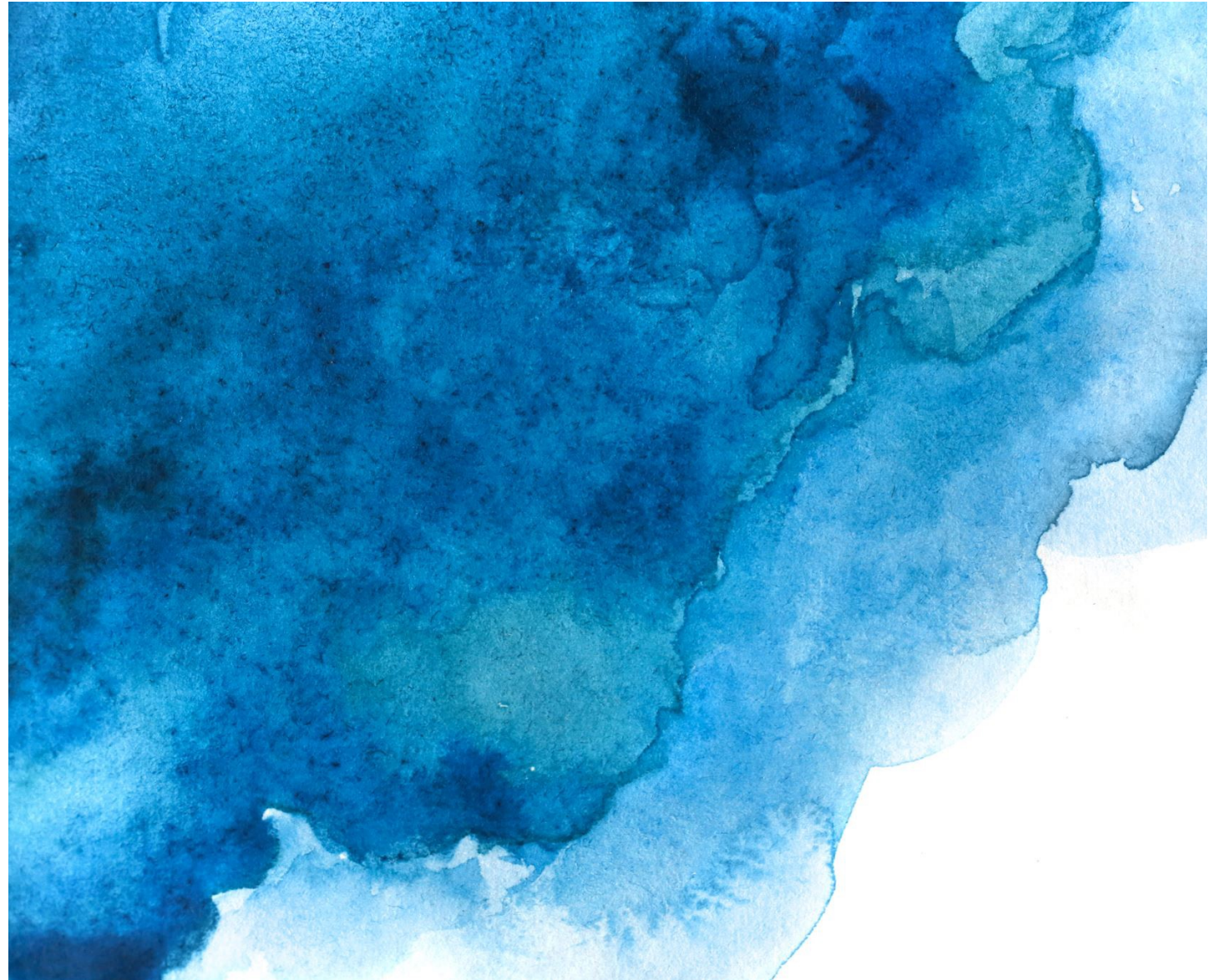
SYNOD

October 4 – 29, 2023

Approximately 370 participants 70 lay people – at least half women (Francis can appoint more)

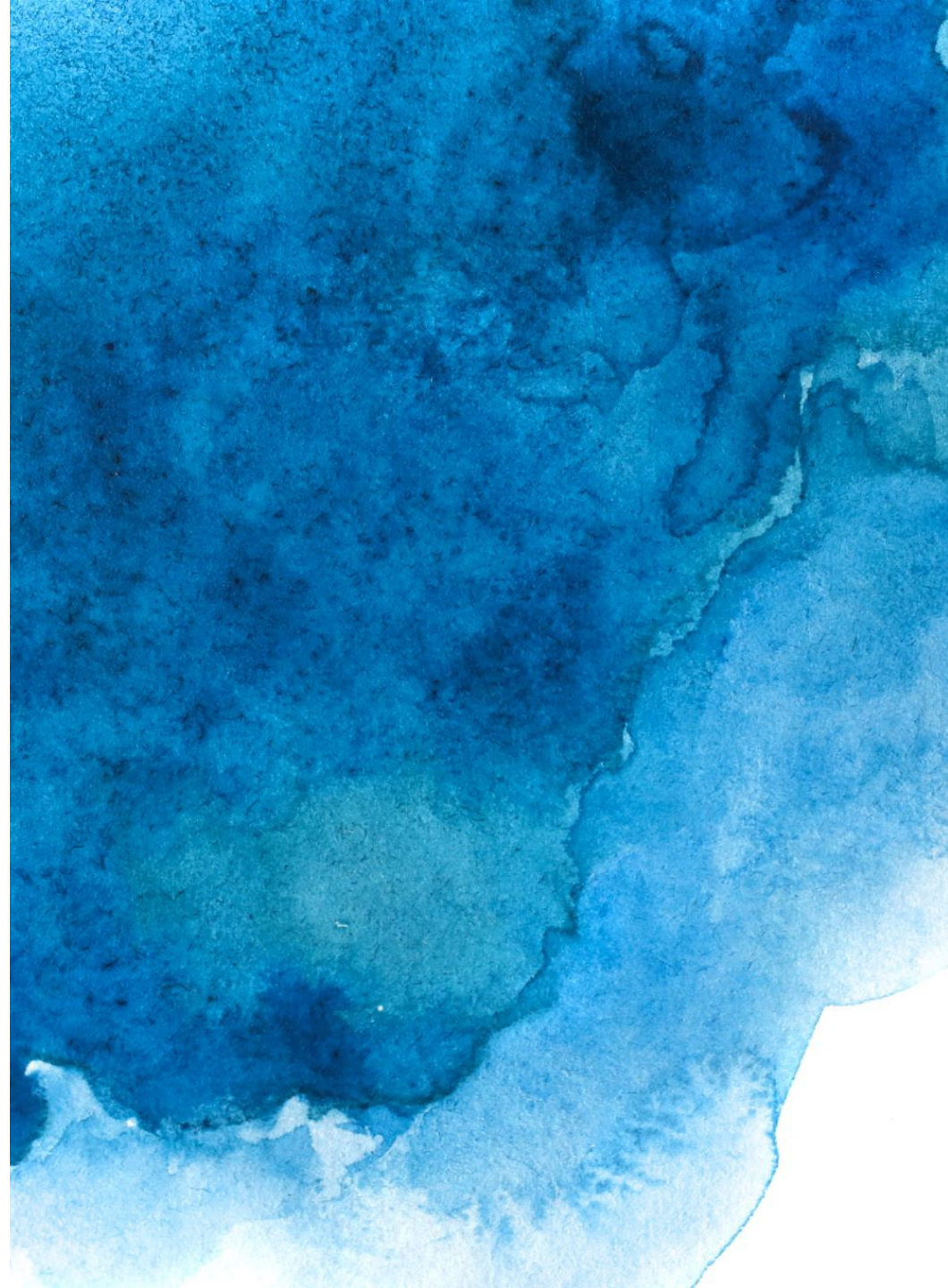
To date, the participant list has not been finalized by Francis

Meeting has been moved to a larger venue – Vatican auditorium



Synod participant guides

- The Instrumentum Laboris (IL)
- The Final Documents of the Continental Assemblies
- The report of the Digital Synod
- The Apostolic Constitution *Episcopalis communio*
- International Theological Commission docs *Synodality in the Life and Mission of the Church* (2018) and *The sensus fidei in the Life of the Church* (2014).



The IL is designed as a practical aid for a very new process.

Questions are posed, but other questions will emerge.

The synod is a privileged place to ask new questions, even if established magisterial teaching is involved.

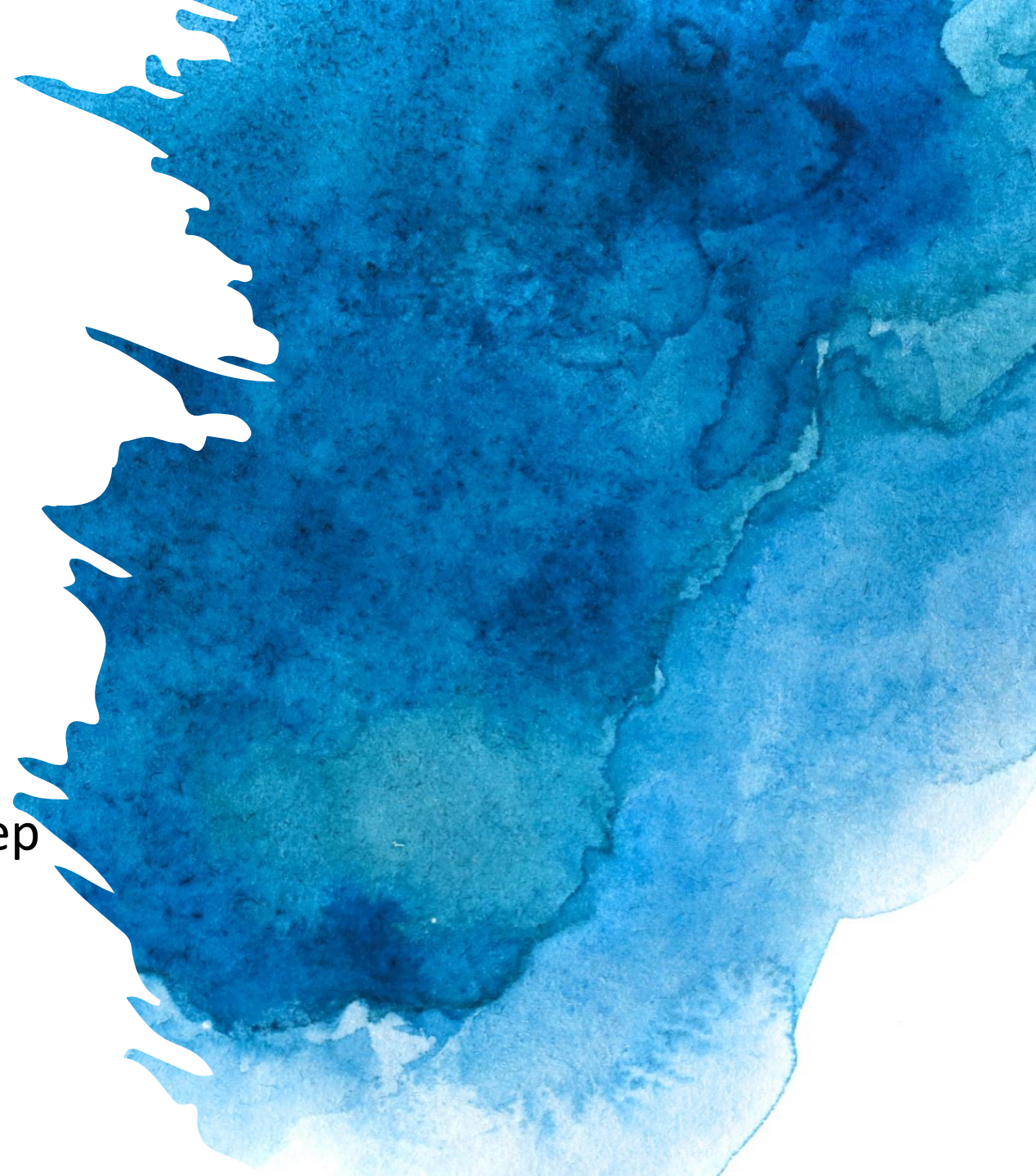


What Synod Participants will discern in October 2023

Section A – For a Synodal Church –
Fundamentals of a synodal church

Section B – Communion, Co-
Responsibility in Mission, Participation,
Governance and Authority

Gather the fruits, practical next steps –
theological & canon law renewal in prep
for October 2024



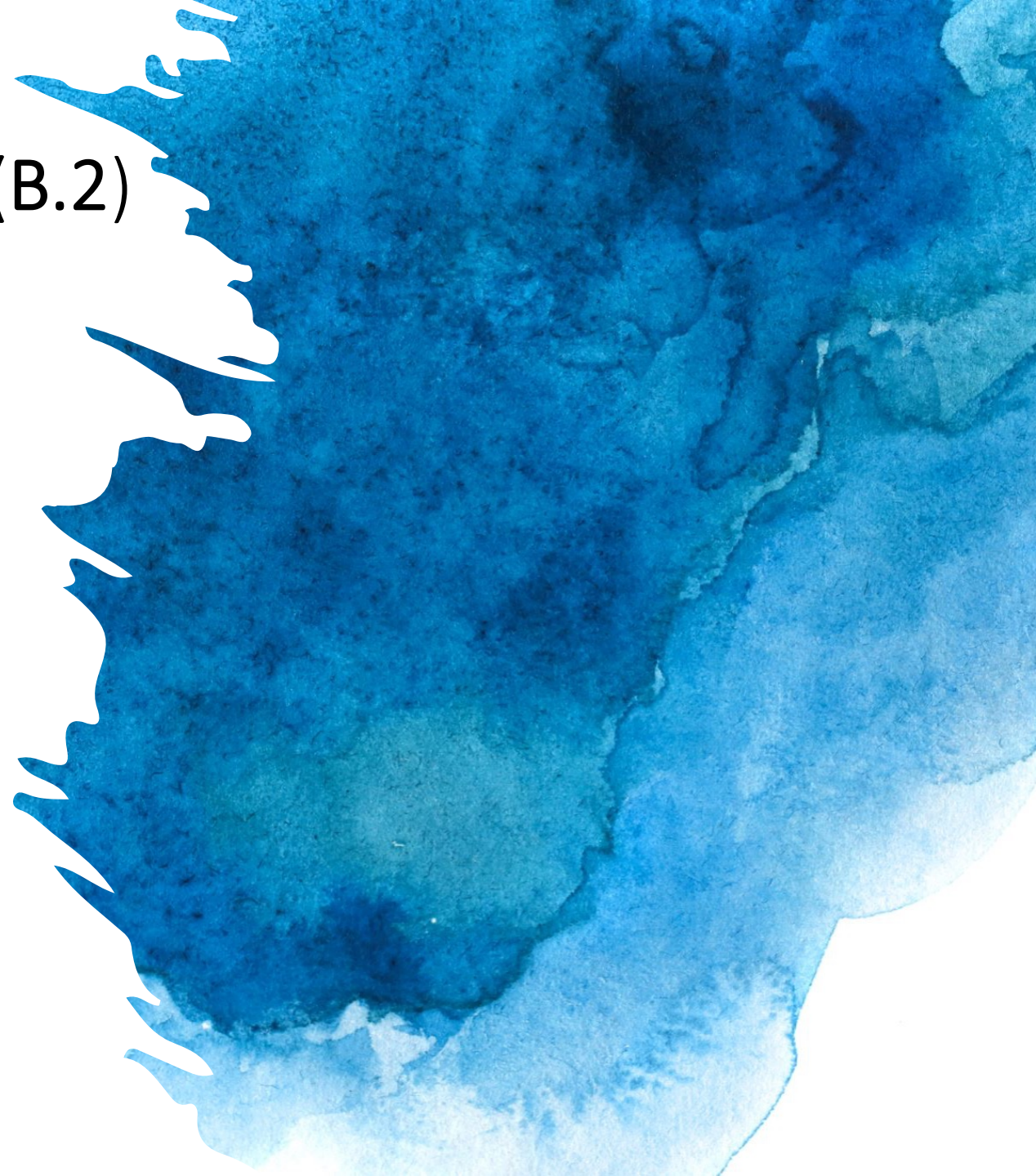
The main objective of the first session in October 2023 will be to outline paths of in-depth study to be carried out synodal style. Will need to sort out relevant actors.

A plan that will be completed in the second session in October 2024.



Co-responsibility in Mission (B.2)

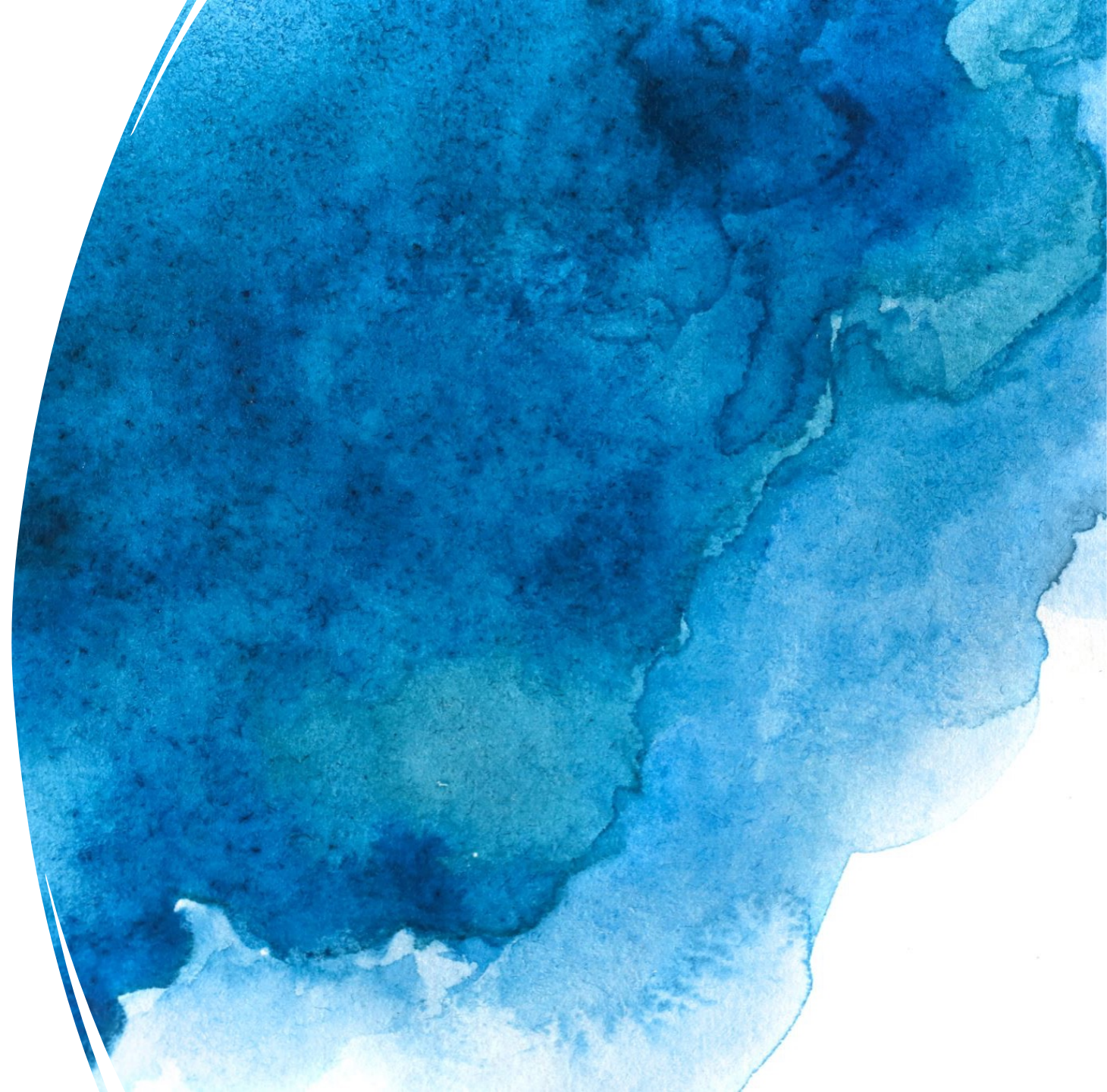
- Synodality and Mission are inseparable -- Pentecost
- Mission is not the marketing of a religious product, but the construction of a community in which relationships are a manifestation of God's love.



Mission

Key Questions

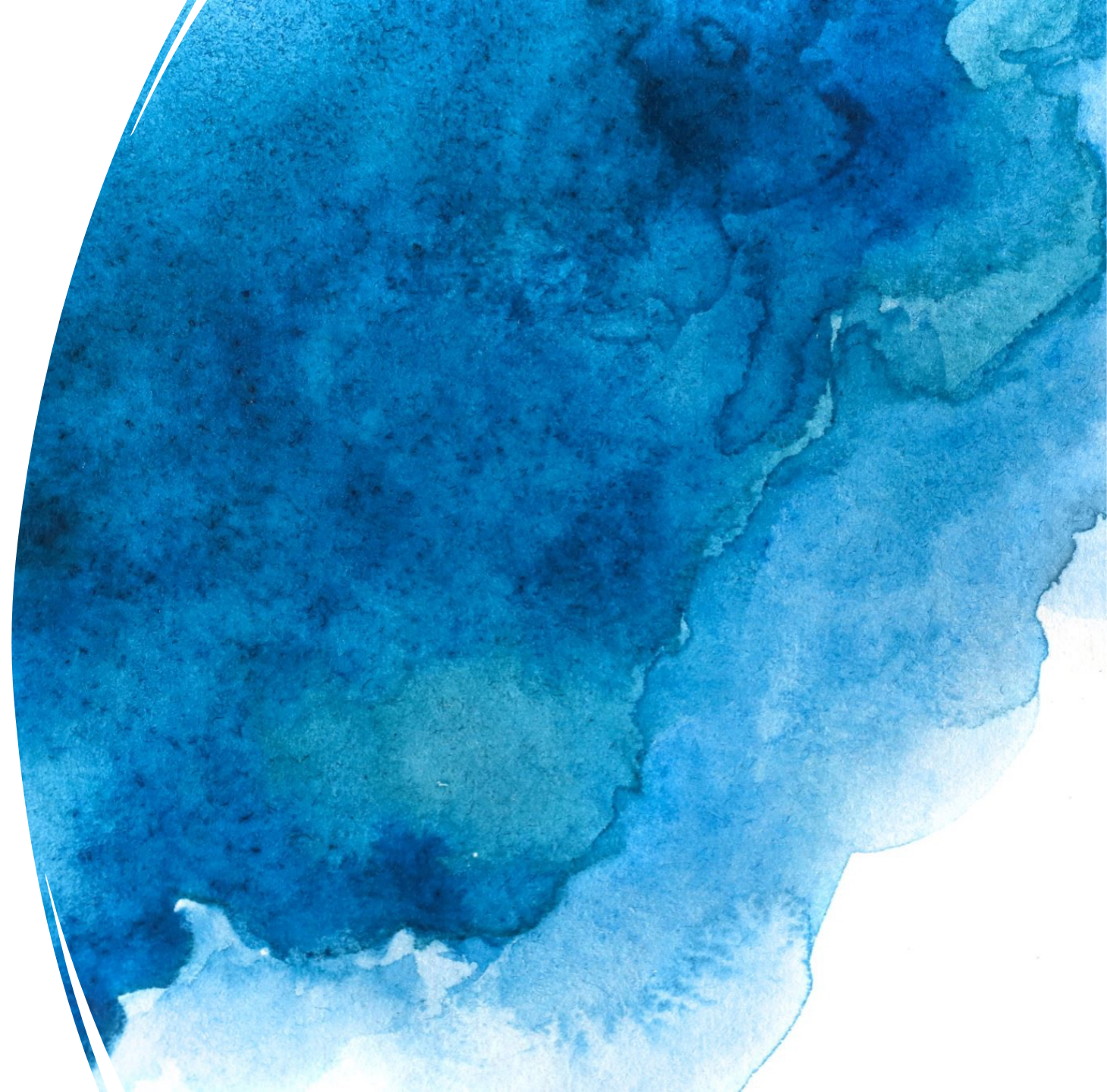
- How can we better share gifts and tasks in service of the Gospel?
- What are members willing to hold in common, *starting with each person's uniqueness*, by virtue of their direct relationship with Christ?



Mission

Key Ideas

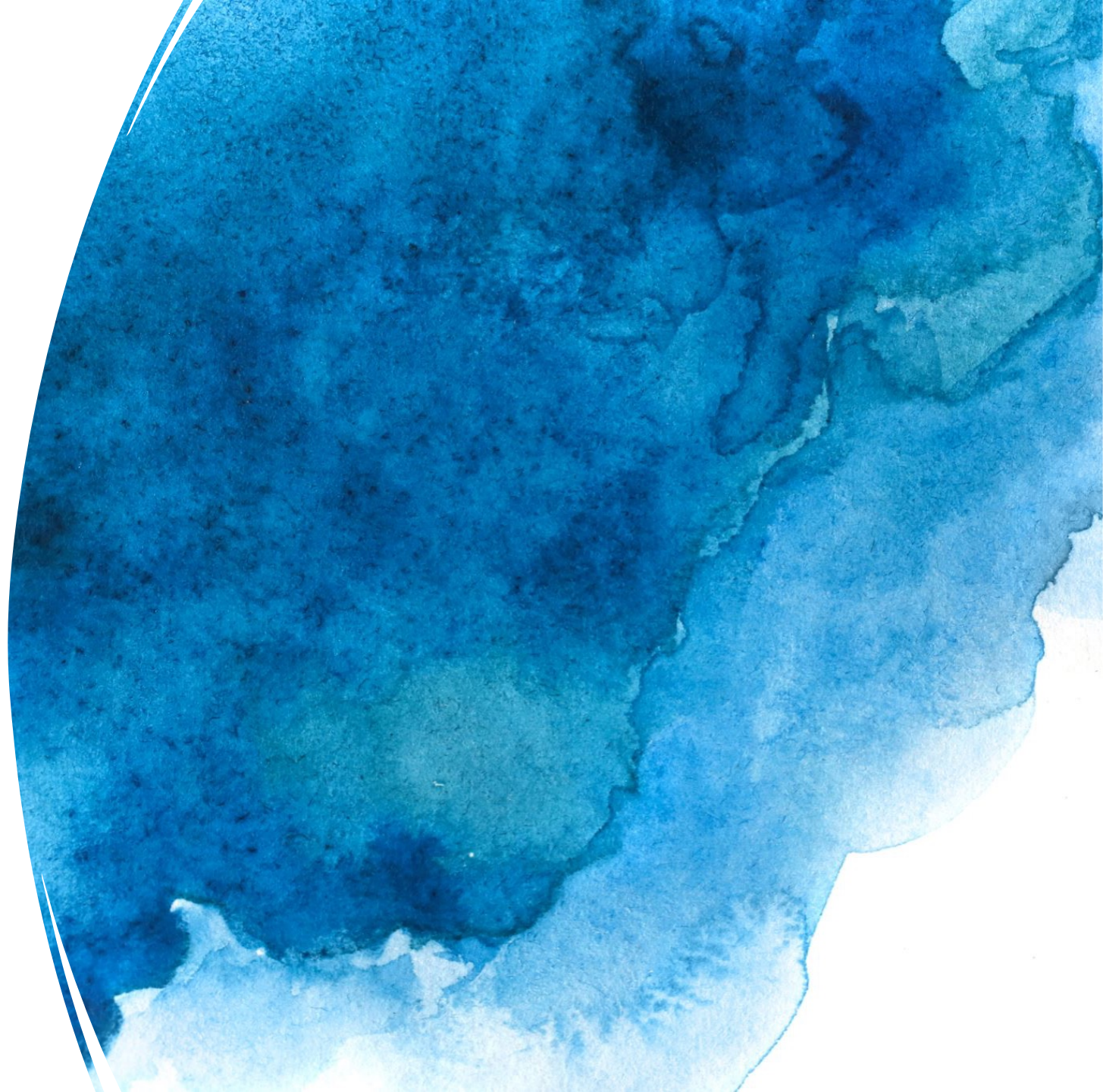
- In a missionary church, everyone is needed - synodal dimension
- Each member's contribution is precious, indispensable.
- A missionary synodal church has a duty to recognize and value each member's contribution "for the good of humanity."



Co-Responsibility

Key questions/ideas

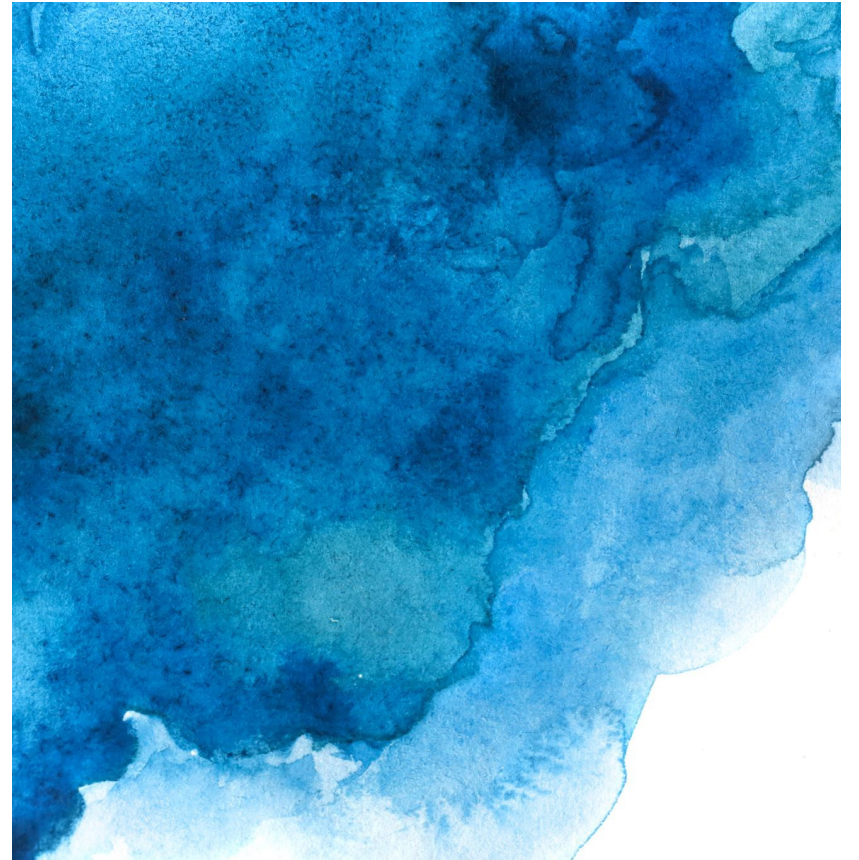
- How do we solicit the contributions of all?
- How do we value the diversity of charisms?
- How do we integrate hierarchical structures and charismatic gifts? (**CDF, *Iuvenescit Ecclesia*, May 2016**)
- *All points of view have something to contribute toward this discerning of the signs of the times (ex: include those impoverished as protagonists, not just as objects of ministry)*



Iuvenescit Ecclesia

CDF letter to the bishops

- 2016, Francis approved
- *Iuvenescit Ecclesia* is the most important official Catholic treatment of the charisms since *Lumen Gentium* (John Stayne-
<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/00211400221098013>)
- *Lumen Gentium* (4) does not treat charisms and hierarchical gifts equally. Charisms may be useful for the church, but hierarchical gifts are essential. As §17 puts it: ‘the priest alone can complete the building up of the Body in the eucharistic sacrifice.’
- What is emphasized in IE: Charisms are intrinsically linked with ministry.



The appointment of Archbishop Victor Manuel Fernandez on July 1 significant for synodality

Francis sent a clear message that the purpose... was not to control theologians, but to promote new ways of evangelization and doing theology in the modern world.

"The dicastery over which you will preside in other times came to use immoral methods. They were times when, rather than promoting theological knowledge, possible doctrinal errors were pursued," Francis wrote. "What I expect from you is certainly something very different."

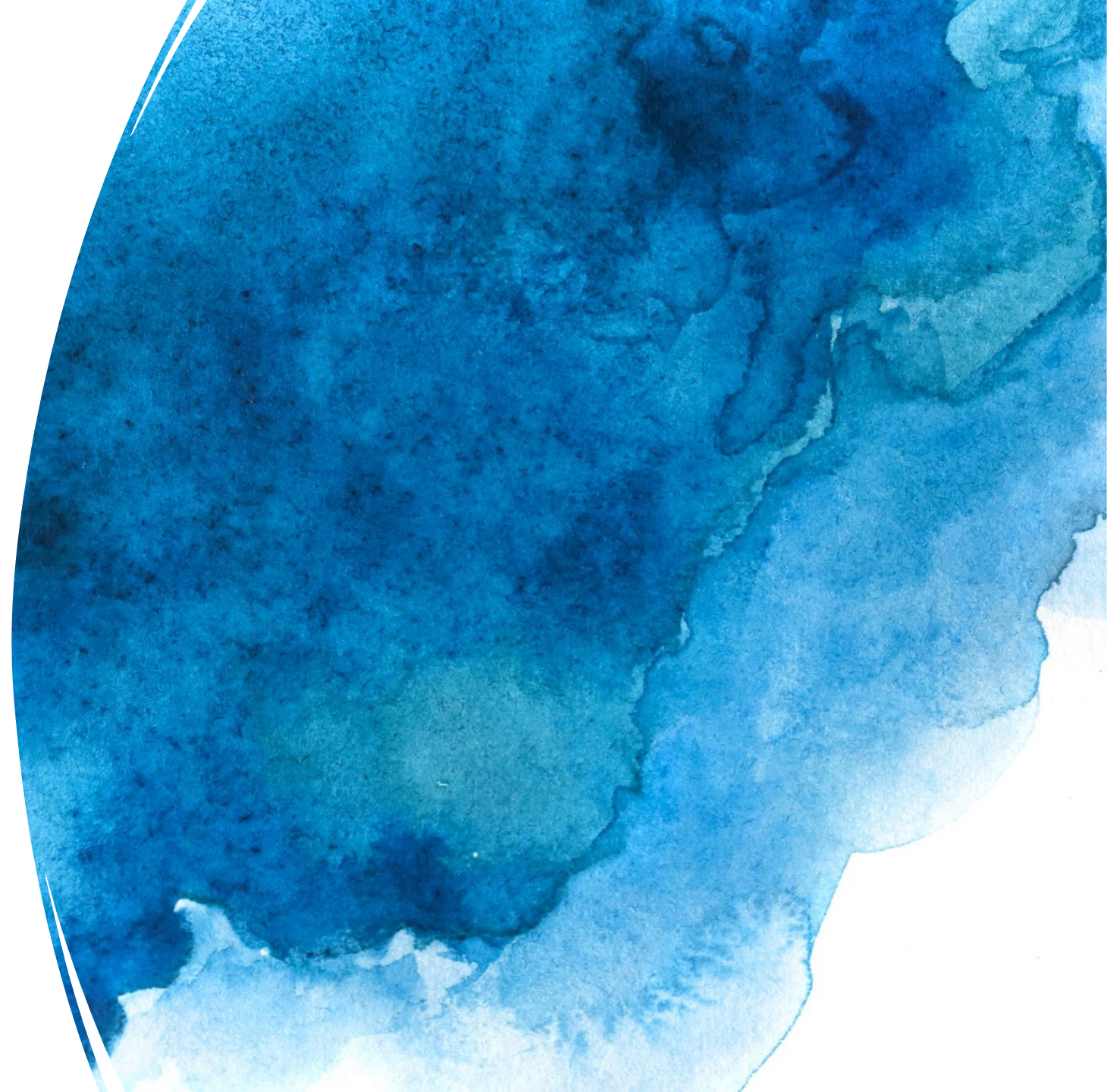
"The different lines of philosophical, theological and pastoral thought, if they allow themselves to be harmonized by the Spirit in respect and love, can also make the church grow," the pope continued. "This harmonious growth will preserve Christian doctrine more effectively than any mechanism of control."



Questions to be posed

B 2.1 How can we walk together towards a shared awareness of the meaning and content of mission?

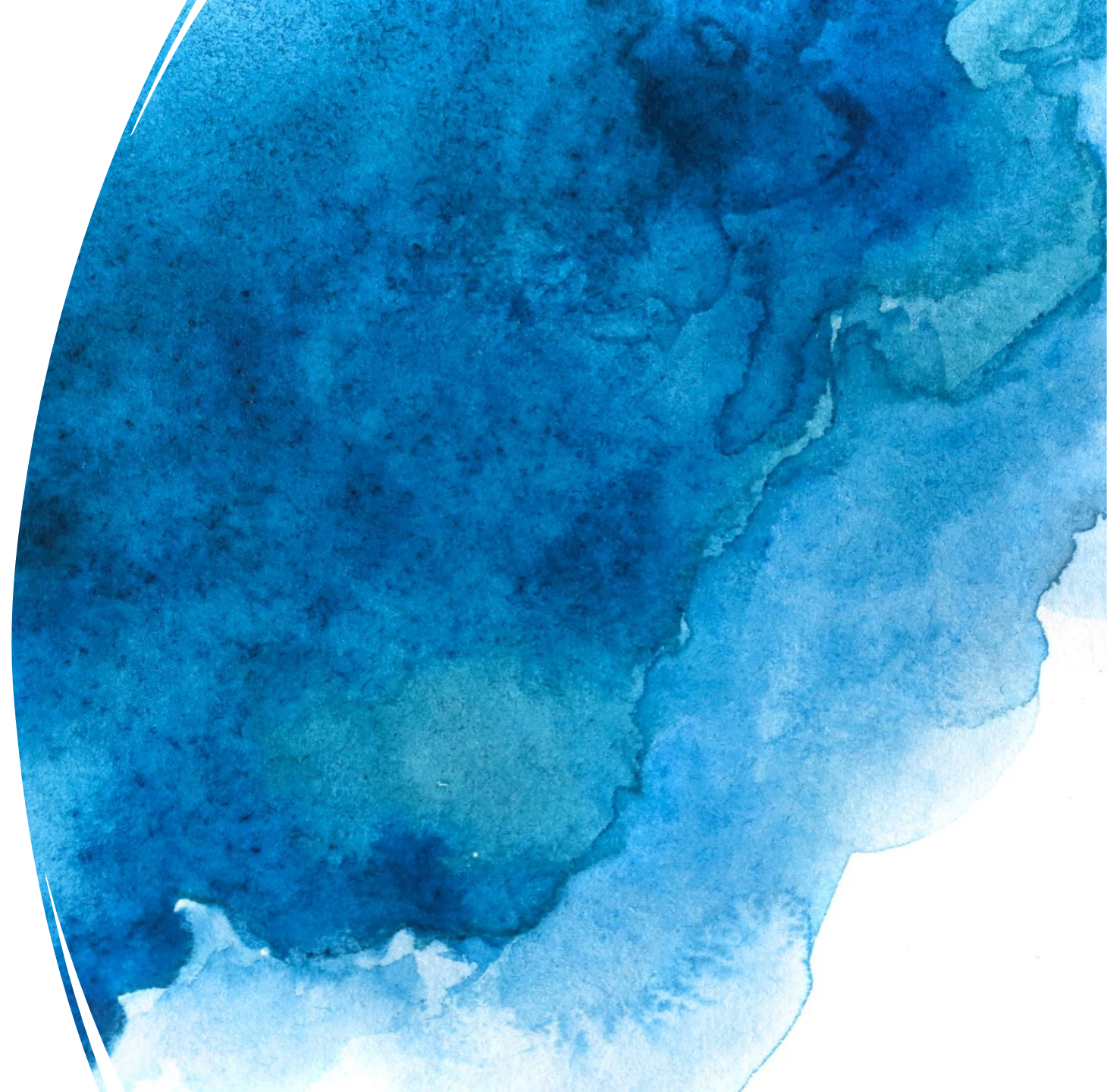
- renewal of the liturgical life of the local Church as a place of proclamation
- desire for a Church that is poor and close to those who suffer, capable of evangelizing through proximity
- prophetically opposing new and destructive colonialisms is the opening of places of unconditional service
- evangelizing in a digital environment



It's local!

B 2.2 What should be done so a synodal Church is also an 'all ministerial' missionary Church?

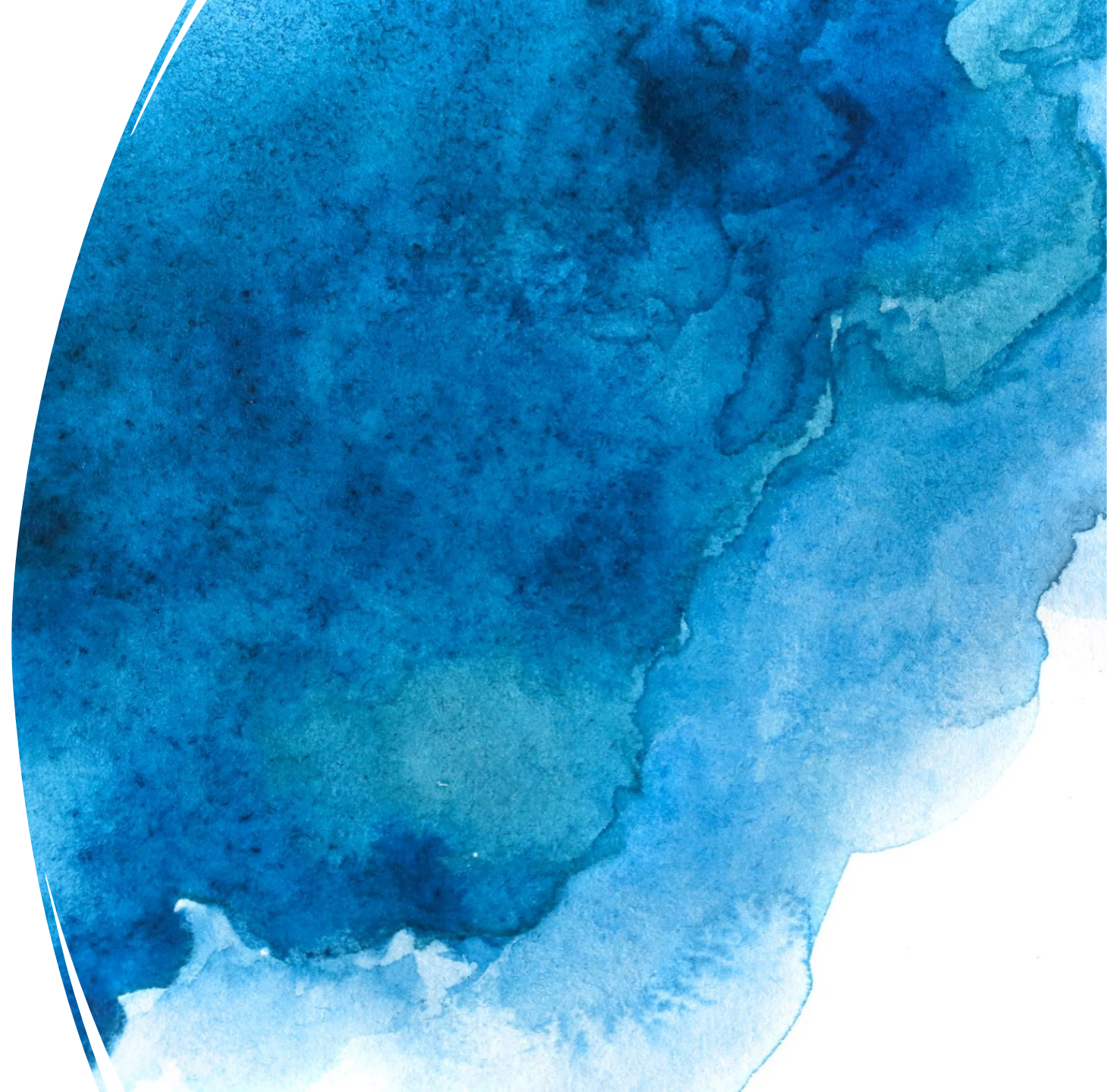
- overcome a vision that reserves any active function in the Church to ordained Ministers alone reducing the participation of the Baptised to a subordinated collaboration.
- The local church should be foremost in the discernment about ministries
- imagine new ministries at the service of a synodal Church
- greater recognition of baptismal ministries...through enacting forms of subsidiarity between the different levels of the Church
- Discerning together which ministries should be created and promoted in light of the signs of the times.



Women

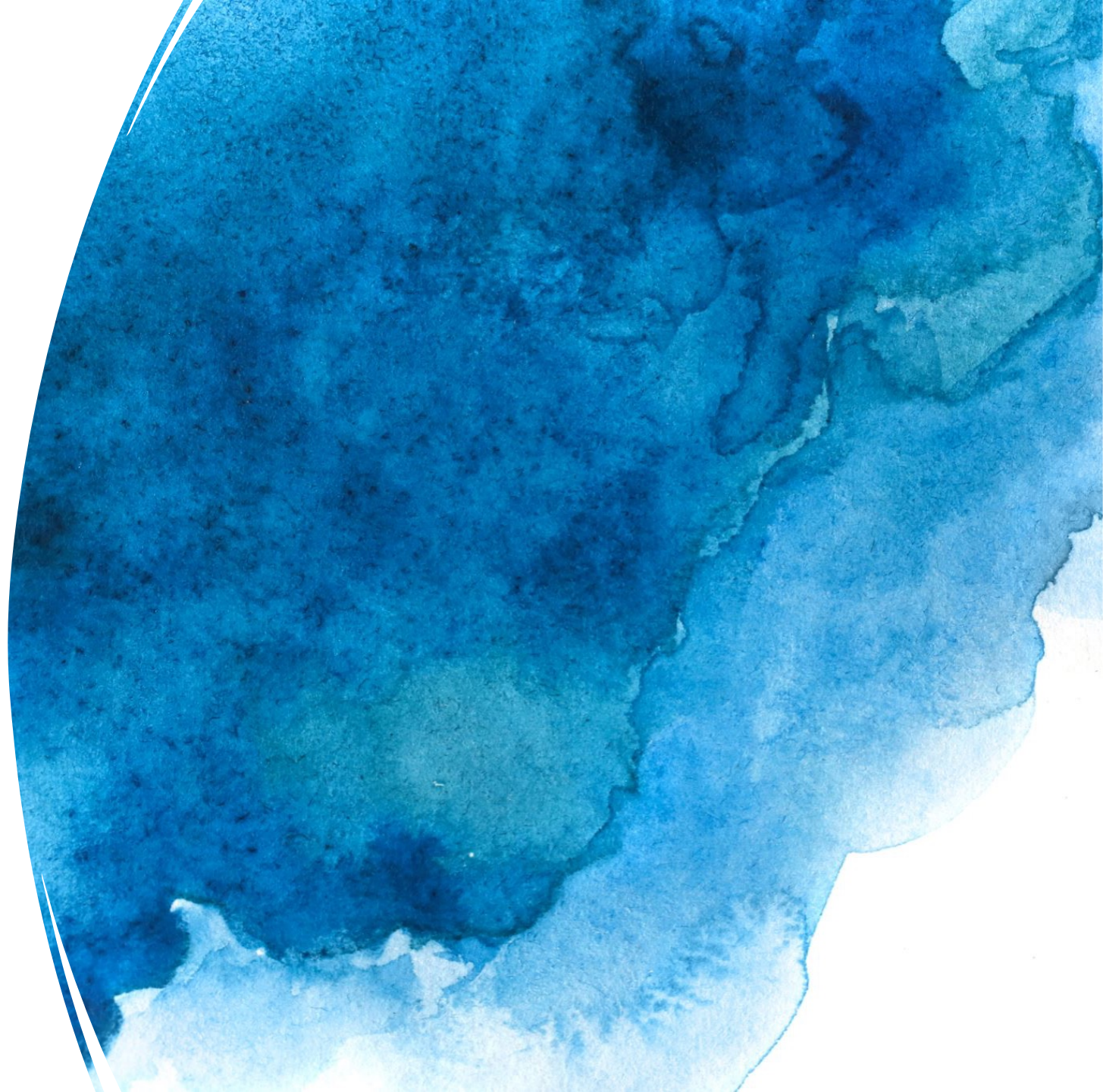
B 2.3 How can the Church of our time better fulfil its mission through greater recognition and promotion of the baptismal dignity of women?

- Continental Assemblies were unanimous in calling for attention to the experience, status and role of women The local church should be foremost in the discernment about ministries
- deeper reflection on the ecclesial relational failures
- desire for a greater presence of women in positions of responsibility and governance emerged as crucial elements



Women

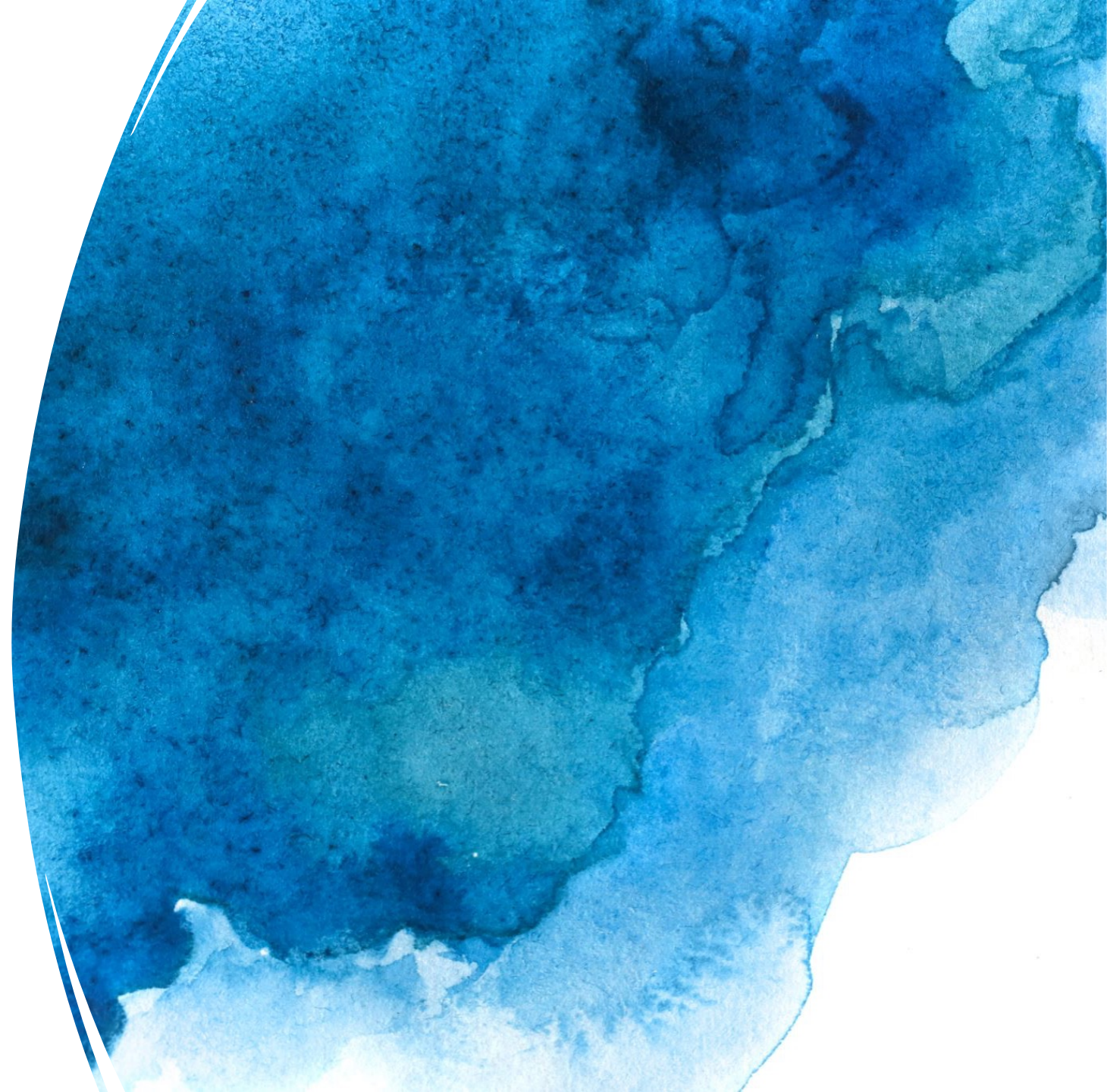
- What is the Spirit trying to teach us through women?
- All Continental Assemblies want more women in governance and ministry.
 - Ministry
 - Theological reflection
 - Working, free from abuse
 - Governance and greater transparency
 - Which new ministries?
- The diaconate?



Baptismal ministry/ordained ministry

B 2.4 How can we properly value ordained Ministry in its relationship with baptismal Ministries in a missionary perspective?

- Renewal of ministerial priesthood in synodal perspective
- Ordained ministry is for service
- Clericalism is overcome through good formation (not just priests, but also people)
- Clergy sex abuse must end



Reform of Bishops

B 2.5 How can we renew and promote the Bishop's ministry from a missionary synodal perspective?

- What renewal of the vision and exercise of episcopal ministry is needed for a synodal Church characterized by co-responsibility?
- To proceed with the renewal of the episcopal ministry within a more fully synodal Church requires cultural and structural changes...

