



APORTES PARA EL SINODO

LUGARES

ENGLISH

PLACES: Brief Notes for a Theological Anthropology with a Synodal Emphasis¹

The Pastoral Constitution *Gaudium et Spes* at number 22 declares that the mystery of the human being is perfectly included in the mystery of the Incarnate Word. With this indication, an example is given of the intimate intertwining between Christology and anthropology to the point of affirming with authors such as Adolphe Gesché that "the union of these two theological epistemes shows that God [finds] us in his humanity, which is ours" ². The event of the Incarnation has, at its deepest root, the will of God who seeks to walk with human beings in the same humanity, not outside of it. God finds in the human being his you, his interlocutors. We are his image.

In April 2024, the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith offered the declaration "Dignitas Infinita on human dignity". In this text, eminently anthropological-theological, the Church affirms once again that every human being has an ontological dignity that derives from being the image and likeness of God (Gen 1:26-27). The inviolable character of the constitutive dignity of man and woman is affirmed starting from the biblical, magisterial and theological foundations, elements that are put into dialogue with the questions of culture and new territories to explore. In times in which the understanding of who the human being is are the subject of discussion, of new perspectives on the body, on interpersonal relationships and on the links between the human being and the creation that welcomes him as a common home, proposing some notes for thinking about a theological anthropology in a synodal perspective represents a broad challenge that demands from theology a word attentive to the modulations of the present time. Then the question returns on what it means to think about Christian (theological) anthropology having as its horizon the ecclesial experience of the Synod. The *Instrumentum Laboris* explicitly signals the concern that emerged from the moment of listening regarding the realization of the communion that radiates outside the Church. It wants to show how the Gospel is good news for every man because God himself has assumed humanity, giving theological meaning to the understanding of anthropology. If the synodal Church intends to realize a shared path, a practice of listening and discernment and promote dynamics of accompaniment, it must begin by returning to the question of the subjects who participate in these processes. For this it is necessary to think about anthropology and its new challenges. The Christian announcement is not limited to a single group and even less to an elite. It is a universal announcement (Mt 28,19-20), an element highlighted by the *Instrumentum* itself. It is therefore necessary to impress upon the synodal work perspectives that help to give a synodal orientation to theological anthropology, that is, to promote the centrality of the shared journey, the search for common horizons of justice

and human promotion and the ever new announcement of the salvation offered by God to every man (Jn 3:16).