

# Beyond clericalism, for the people's sake - on the empowerment of non-ordained ministers

## 1<sup>st</sup> World meeting of professional lay ministers

### Summary:

On the occasion of the World Synod of Bishops, theologically educated pastoral lay ministers from all continents will meet in Rome. These professional lay ministers should get to know about each other, meet and listen to each other.

The *world meeting* aims at lay ministers in various countries all over the world, i. e. non-ordained but theologically educated professional pastoral ministers. The meeting aims at an empowerment of this already long given reality of the Roman Catholic Church - a reality that still seems to be overshadowed by other ecclesial perspectives. This ministry in itself reveals an ecclesiological alternative to the "classical" dualism between clergy and laity.

The outcomes of the sharing and reflection, which the *world meeting* will offer, can influence the processes of the World Synod of Bishops. Therefore, in addition to the exchange of lay ministers on the different continents, there will also be a sharing and reflection with representatives of the Dicastery for the Laity and the Synod Secretariat, as well as with bishops of the universal Church.

The aim is to assemble around 20 lay ministers from different countries, including the Congo, India, the Philippines, countries in South America, Western and Eastern Europe, as well as representatives of academic theology from Africa, Asia, the Americas and Europe.

The initiator of this meeting is the Association of professional Pastoral Ministers in Germany, which at this moment might be the largest group of full-time lay theologians in the world. We also provide travel expenses for all participants.

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### More information:

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and soon: [www.lay-ministers.org](http://www.lay-ministers.org)