



OFFICE of the
VICE-CHANCELLOR



UNIVERSITY
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Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, distinguished guests, staff, and fellow graduates.

While working this week I've had an article open next to me with the title "Synodality, a more complete way of being Church."

When I began my theological journey here, I wasn't quite yet baptised, and I felt acutely the gap between where I was and whatever being "complete" may feel like.

I was seeking to know more, to be more, to do more in my new life of faith.

Doing ecclesiology has helped me to comprehend the same journey - in history - of the Church.

Synodality places that journey within a vision, a model, a culture, that I can claim as my hope. And that I can point my children towards as the authenticity that the Catholic Church is called to embrace today. The authenticity that is, so often, not visible.

Synodality is made real for us today by the prophets who turn our desire for renewal back onto ourselves. They remind us that our journey of communion, participation and mission, begins with our own feet. That it is our own eyes that should look around and observe the inertia that has settled, the thoughtless barriers that are erected, the vocations dismissed and the lights subdued.

I have committed to theology because I want to work for the transformation that would make synodality reality – a reality where the Church is overflowing generosity of hospitality, encounter, and engagement with our world. Where my children are inspired by the leadership of a diversity of wonderful, empowered Catholics, who show them what it looks like to deeply live their baptism and to be missionary disciples.

I have committed to synodality because I want a more complete way of being Church for the entire People of God.

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