



SYMPOSIUM OF EPISCOPAL CONFERENCES OF AFRICA AND MADAGASCAR

Press Statement

For Immediate Release

Accra, January 18, 2024

**AFRICAN AND EUROPEAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONVENE IN
NAIROBI FOR SEMINAR**

The Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar (SECAM) and the Council of European Bishops' Conferences (CCEE) are set to hold their seventh joint seminar from January 23 to 26, 2024, at the Mariapolis Retreat Centre, Nairobi, Kenya. This seminal event, under the theme "**Synodality: Africa and Europe Walking Together,**" marks a continued commitment to fostering deeper communion and solidarity between the Churches of Africa and Europe.

Since the inception of these seminars in 2004, this collaboration has become a vital platform for dialogue and mutual understanding. The upcoming seminar, initially scheduled for 2021 but postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, promises to build upon the rich discussions of the past while looking ahead to new horizons in the Church's mission within an increasingly globalized context.

The seminar will feature 20 bishops, ten from each continent, alongside 8 facilitators and assistants. It begins on Tuesday, January 23, with the arrival of delegates, followed by a packed agenda including masses, prayer sessions, and in-depth discussions. Key highlights of the program include presentations and dialogues on "Understanding the Emerging Synodal Church in the light of 'Praedicate



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Evangelium” and insights into the continental impressions of the first session of the Synod on Synodality held in Rome in October 2023.

A special focus will be placed on listening to the voices of young people in both continents, recognizing their crucial role in shaping the future of the Church. The seminar will culminate in a final statement on January 25, followed by a closing Mass and dinner at Christ the King Parish.

This event signifies a continued commitment to the spirit of synodality and mutual enrichment between the Churches of Africa and Europe. The seminar stands as a testament to the power of dialogue and collaboration across continents, seeking to understand and address the unique challenges and opportunities presented in both contexts.

As the world faces unprecedented changes and challenges, the Church's role in promoting justice, peace, and solidarity becomes ever more crucial. This seminar embodies that role, providing a platform for shared learning and cooperative action between these two vital limbs of the Universal Church.

End of Statement



Rev. Fr. Rafael Simbine Junior
Secretary General of SECAM