

Explore the Theme — “Plant Dreams”

Lent is a growing season for the global church & the SHCJ, a time to listen deeply to Pope Francis’ dream that the Synod be a time for planting our dreams

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**FOR EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON
a time for every purpose under heaven
... a time to plant ...
... a time to pluck up what is planted ...**
Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

A growing season is the period of the year when crops and other plants grow successfully. The length of a growing season varies from place to place. Most crops need a growing season of at least 90 days. **In tropical regions**, [like Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya and Chad] where it is warm year-round, the growing season can last the entire year. In some tropical places, however, the growing season is interrupted by a rainy season. During this time, it is too wet to grow crops **In temperate regions**, which have warm summers and cold winters, [like England, Wales, Ireland, France, Italy, USA and Chile] the length of the growing season depends mostly on temperature. Some growing seasons last as long as eight months. Europe and most of the Americas enjoy long growing seasons like this. Adapted from “Growing Season,” *National Geographic Society*

Lent is a growing season: The word “Lent” means “spring.”

A General Chapter is a growing season:

“Unless the grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies ...”

A Church Synod is a growing season, too:

In the Preparatory Document for the Synod on Synodality, Pope Francis repeats what he said in 2018 in his opening address to the Synod on Young People —

“We recall that the purpose of the Synod, and therefore of this consultation, is not to produce documents, but “to plant dreams, draw forth prophecies and visions, allow hope to flourish, inspire trust, bind up wounds, weave together relationships, awaken a dawn of hope, learn from one another and create a bright resourcefulness that will enlighten minds, warm hearts, give strength to our hands.”



“The seed is in the ground. Rest in hope as darkness does its work.”



What dreams am I planting in this growing season for our Society ,, for our global church?