

## Dispatches From The Synod From Sr. Angela Perez



My first working group: Archbishop Patrick O'Regan, (Australia), Reverend Opoku Onyinah (a fraternal delegate-Pentecostal), Archbishop Radoslaw Zmitrowicz, O.M.I. (Ukraine), Archbishop Stefan Oster, S.D.B. (Germany), Archbishop Charles Gabriel Palmer-Buckle (Ghana), Julia Oseka, Archbishop Joseph Thomas Pamplaniyil (India), Archbishop Franz-Josef Overbeck (Germany), Cardinal O'Malley, O.F.M.Cap. (USA), Dr. Mauricio Lopez Oropeza.

It is certainly a listening to the Holy Spirit. We listen to each other in our small circles. At the General Congregation, we listen to the reports of the working groups - *circoli minori*, as well as to free speeches and testimonies. This is a LOT of listening. From time to time, we are invited to a moment of silence to encourage interiorizing what we have heard. We listen to reflections from theologians. We pray and do all this as we try to discern the lead of the Holy Spirit.



*This is my first working group. Sr. Angela is wearing purple.*

The youngest woman in the Synod is Julia Oseka, who was in my first working group. She is an international student from Poland and currently a student at St. Joseph's College in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.



*Sr. Angela with Pope Francis.*



*Pope Francis taking his seat after leading us in prayer.*



*Sisters Angela Perez and Elizabeth Davis from the Newfoundland congregation.*

One of the opening statements from Cardinal Grech was from Pope Francis who said this Synod is a Synod during a time of war.

We each have a badge for entrance to Paul IV Hall and other venues, as well as to help us get to know each other at least by name. Indicated on the badge are four modules and the table number of our small circle - circoli minori.

I'm trying to share and to be respectful and to keep the spirit of confidentiality of the process, which is mostly praying, contributing to the question being discerned and listening to each other.

This article first appeared in Mercy Now – the newsletter of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas. For further information on the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas please visit: <https://sistersofmercy.org/>