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Call for Papers: Volume 8 Issue 1

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Call for Papers

New Horizons:

A Peer-reviewed Graduate Journal

Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University

Volume 8 Issue 1: The Synodal Way of the Laity

Next year will be a pivotal time for Pope Francis' papacy. The Synod on Synodality will come to an end in 2024, and this will draw a new horizon for the Church for years to come. The Synod has inspired Catholics around the world to share their visions for the Church. Perhaps more than anything else, the communal dialogue that has ensued from this process will become the legacy of the Synod on Synodality. Pope Francis, in fact, said that,

[T]he purpose of the Synod is not to produce documents, but to plant dream, 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.[1]

The Synod on Synodality invites us to come together to discern the *sensus fidelium*, the "Church's own instinct of faith." [2] This invitation is especially important for the laity, who often feel left out of the magisterial decisions of the Church. The Synod seeks to advance one of the visions of the Second Vatican Council, which states in *Lumen Gentium* that, "[T]he laity are called in a special way to make the Church present and operative in those places and circumstances where only through them can it become the salt of the earth." [3]

What is the future of the laity in the Church? What is the synodal way of the laity? *New Horizons* invites submissions on the theme of lay ministry and ecclesial unity. We also welcome submissions that provide theological reflection on related topics, such as the crisis of clericalism, the vocational call of lay women and men, and such pressing issues. While these prompts are meant to guide submissions, they are not limiting in their scope.

Academic papers should be formatted according to the *Chicago Manual of Style*, 17th. Ed., and comprise between 2,000-4,000 words. Homilies and pastoral reflections are held to the same word count. Poetry, prayer, artwork, and photography are highly welcomed components of the journal.

Submissions should be uploaded by 12 PM on October 30, 2023, to newhorizonsjst@scu.edu.

Accepted submissions will be published in February 2024. Please email Jesús Muñoz jemunoz@scu.edu with any questions or inquiries.

[1] Pope Francis, "Fifteenth General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops."

[2] International Theological Commission, *Sensus Fidei*, Art. 3.

[3] The Catholic Church, *Lumen Gentium*, Art. 33