



# TOGETHER AT THE TABLE

AN INTERNATIONAL GATHERING  
INSPIRING SYNODAL ACTION IN MISSION

## BIOGRAPHIES

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**Cardinal Mario Grech** serves as the General Secretary of the Secretariat of the Synod, a Catholic from Malta where he grew up and spent his early years. Born in Qala, a village on the island of Gozo, Cardinal Grech attended primary and secondary school at the Victoria Lyceum and then studied philosophy and theology at the Gozo diocesan seminary.

Following priestly ordination in 1984, he pursued higher studies in Rome, obtaining a licentiate in civil law at the Pontifical Lateran University and a doctorate in canon law at the Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum).

Upon return to his home country, he exercised his ministry at the Cathedral of Gozo, at the national shrine of Tá-Pinu and served as pastor in the parish of Kercem.

In November 2005 Pope Benedict XVI appointed him as Bishop of Gozo, where he served until October 2019, when he was appointed by Pope Francis as pro-Secretary General of the Synod of Bishops. He received episcopal consecration in January 2006. And in September 2020 he was appointed as Secretary General of the Synod of Bishops.

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**Dr. Julie Sullivan** is the 30th president of Santa Clara University. She is both the first layperson and first woman president in the University's history. Located in the heart of Silicon Valley, Santa Clara University blends high-tech innovation with a social consciousness grounded in the Jesuit, Catholic tradition of educating the whole person.

A visionary academic leader, President Sullivan is a passionate champion for the tenets of Catholic social teaching, including creating opportunities and economic inclusion through education, dismantling racism and building belonging, and promoting environmental sustainability.

Prior to joining Santa Clara, President Sullivan served as president of the University of St. Thomas in Minnesota for nine years (2013-2022) where she was highly regarded for her leadership in creating innovative academic programs, supporting student well-being and success, and increasing the

visibility and reputation of the university. While at St. Thomas, President Sullivan launched the Dougherty Family College as a pathway toward a bachelor's degree for underserved students, raised more than \$100 million in new scholarships, and completed the university's transition from Division III to Division I athletics. She also established a new School of Nursing and the Morrison Family College of Health, which prioritizes culturally responsive health practices and sustainable approaches in the field.

President Sullivan's higher education experience includes serving as the executive vice president and provost at the University of San Diego (2005-2013) and as a professor of business and accounting at the University of California-San Diego (2003-2005) and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (1987-2003).

In addition to extensive non-profit board work, President Sullivan has 19 cumulative years of public company board service and 15 years of private company board service, spanning a number of industries. She most recently served on the boards of Loyola University Chicago, Catholic Charities of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, and the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities, among others.

A native of Florida, President Sullivan is a first-generation college graduate with three degrees from the University of Florida—a bachelor's degree in accounting, a master's degree in taxation, and a Ph.D. in business. She is an avid sports fan and dog lover and enjoys exercise, any water activity, traveling with her husband, and family time with children and grandchildren.

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**Dean Agbonkhianmeghe E. Orobator, S.J.,** grew up in Benin City, Nigeria, practicing traditional African religion. After visiting the local Jesuit parish as a teen for Easter vigil Mass, Dean Orobator became enamored with Catholicism and the Jesuit Order. He saw the works of the American Jesuits as fully devoted to the service of others, resonant of an African anthropology of Ubuntu that teaches "a person is a person through other persons." After two years of college, where he studied linguistics and African languages, he joined the Jesuits in 1986 and was ordained in 1998.

Fluent in four languages, Dean Orobator received his Ph.D in theology and religious studies from the University of Leeds in England, his MBA from Georgetown University, and his licentiate in sacred theology from JST-SCU, from which he also received an honorary doctorate in 2012. He received a bachelor's degree in theology from Hekima University College in Nairobi, Kenya, and a bachelor's degree in philosophy from Institut de Philosophie Saint Pierre Canisius in Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

He was previously provincial superior of the Jesuits of the Eastern Africa Province. He has taught theology and religious studies at Hekima University College, St. Augustine College of South Africa in Johannesburg, and Marquette University in Milwaukee. He serves on the board of directors of Theological Studies and the board of directors of Georgetown University.

He is author of the books "Theology Brewed in an African Pot;" "Religion and Faith in Africa: Confessions of an Animist," based on Duffy Lectures he delivered at Boston College; and "The Pope and the Pandemic: Lessons in Leadership in a Time of Crisis," a Catholic Media Association award winner. He is editor of "The Church We Want: African Catholics Look to Vatican III," co-editor of "Feminist Catholic Theological Ethics: Conversations in the World Church," and a member of the editorial board of the journal Marriage, Families & Spirituality.

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**Dr. Rita Dollard-O'Malley**, is the Provincial Assistant for Ignatian Spirituality of the Midwest Jesuits. She is a longtime Ignatian educator and spiritual director whose undergraduate studies were at John Carroll University and her D.Min at San Francisco Theological Seminary.

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**Bishop Oscar Cantú** has served the Catholic Church with great dedication and leadership throughout his priestly and episcopal ministry. Educated in Catholic schools, Bishop Cantú received his Bachelor of Arts from the University of Dallas and went on to earn both a Master of Divinity and a Master of Theological Studies from the University of St. Thomas in Houston. He completed his theological education in Rome at the Pontifical Gregorian University, earning a Licentiate (S.T.L.) and a Doctorate in Sacred Theology (S.T.D.) with a focus on Dogmatic Theology.

Ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston in 1994, Bishop Cantú ministered in several parishes across the Houston area, including Holy Name Parish, where he had been baptized. In 2008, Pope Benedict XVI appointed him Auxiliary Bishop of San Antonio, and in 2013, he became the Bishop of Las Cruces, New Mexico, where he served until 2018 when Pope Francis appointed him Coadjutor Bishop of San José. On May 1, 2019, Bishop Cantú became the third Bishop of San José, guiding the diocese with a pastoral heart and a commitment to spiritual renewal and growth.

Bishop Cantú holds key leadership roles within the U.S. Church. He currently serves as the Chairman for the USCCB Subcommittee on Hispanic Affairs and as the President of the California Catholic Conference of Bishops. His leadership extends beyond the U.S. borders, as he recently represented the USCCB at the CELAM (Consejo Episcopal Latinoamericano y Caribeño), working alongside bishops from Latin America and the Caribbean to strengthen the Church's mission and outreach in the region.

With a continued commitment to serving the diverse communities of the Diocese of San José, Bishop Cantú focuses on promoting human dignity, addressing social justice issues, and supporting the pastoral and spiritual needs of all people, especially those on the margins of society.

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**Fr. Matthew Carnes, S.J.**, serves as Vice President for Mission and Ministry at Santa Clara University, as well as Executive Director of the Ignatian Center for Jesuit Education and Professor of Political Science. In this role, he is charged with strengthening and promoting the University's Jesuit Catholic mission and character in ways that are bold, inclusive, and reflective of the rich diversity of the University community.

Prior to joining Santa Clara University, he was an associate professor at Georgetown University in the Department of Government and the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service, and he served as Vice Dean for Faculty Affairs in the School of Foreign Service (2023-2024) and as the Director of the Center for Latin American Studies (2016-2022).

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**Dr. Léocadie Lushombo, i.t., PhD** is a consecrated, member of the Teresian Association and Assistant Professor of Theological Ethics at the Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University (JST-SCU). She has been appointed to the prestigious eight-person Study Group 3 by the Vatican

Secretariat of the Synod of Bishops. This group of scholars will address key topics raised by the Synod on Synodality on "hearing the cry of the poor and the earth."

The Study Group brings together experts in various fields, including Catholic social teaching, theological ethics, practical/pastoral theology, spirituality, and formation. Dr. Lushombo's expertise will be invaluable as the group delves into critical issues facing the Church.

She earned her PhD in Theological Ethics from Boston College (USA), a Sacred Theology Licentiate Degree from the School of Theology and Ministry/Boston College and completed master's degrees in Theological Ethics at the Catholic Theological Union/Chicago, in Sustainable Development at the Universidad Pontificio Comillas/Spain, and in Economics & Development at the Catholic University of Central Africa/Cameroon. Lushombo's research area is Christian Ethics. With grounds in Moral Theology, she focuses on Political Theology, Decolonial & liberation theology, Economics & Catholic Social Thoughts, African Theological Ethics and Inculturation, Nonviolence, and Just Peace Ethics.

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**Fr. Ivan Montelongo, J.C.L** is the Judicial Vicar of the Diocese of El Paso in Texas. Father Ivan, who was ordained into the priesthood in 2020, completed his Licentiate in Canon Law (J.C.L.) at the Catholic University of America in Washington and is a graduate of Mundelein Seminary, where he received his Licentiate in Sacred Theology. He was recently serving as the Pastoral Vicar at St. Stephen Deacon and Martyr Parish and also served as the Pastoral Vicar at St. Raphael Catholic Church. In addition, Fr. Ivan was a voting delegate in the Synod on Synodality. Fr. Ivan is from El Paso, Texas, and attended Socorro High School.



**Santa Clara**  
**Jesuit School of Theology**