

Opening Remarks of Press Interview: Opoku Onyinah

26 October 2023

Good afternoon, brothers and sister. I am going to give my reflection from Pentecostal perspective.

The invitation, which was thrown to the ecumenical bodies and other churches, was humility on the part of the Pope, and as such the Catholic Church. The synodic process is very open, transparent and offers people equal opportunity to share their views. Often, in meetings, the extroverts take advantage of the introverts. Here, everyone is given equal time to contribute.

I also consider this methodology of openness to speak whatever one has publicly as delicate. Delicate in the sense that there is no outside power controlling people of what to say and what not to say. People are free to express whatever they want to express without intimidation. This tendency makes the bishops and the other Catholics pour out the things which are on their hearts, including their strength and weaknesses in the presence of the invited delegates. And every contribution is very important. This is a sign of maturity at the highest level by the Catholic Church.

One thing that captures my attention is the spirituality of the synod; there is frequent intermittent break for silent prayer and discernment. This is a way of allowing the Holy Spirit to take his way in the discerning process and decision making. The decision which will finally be taken will be the decision of the Holy Spirit and the people, not only the bishops, the “big men”, or the Pope.

The synod is an excellent attempt to break down barriers of division and bring Christians together in the Christ-like journey we are taking. The Catholic Church has set a pave for Christian unity; I have learnt a lot from it, and it will be appropriate for other churches to follow the same.