

# St. Nicholas News

Francis Street Parish, Dublin 8. --- 01-5157512 --- 01-5611390



5th Sunday of Easter 15 May 2022

## MAJOR REFORM INTRODUCED BY POPE FRANCIS



Francesca Di Giovanni, who was named by Pope Francis as the first woman to hold a high-ranking post in the Vatican's Secretariat of State

Pope Francis introduced a landmark reform that will allow any baptised lay Catholic, including women, to head most Vatican departments under a new constitution for the Holy See's central administration. For centuries, the departments have been headed by male clerics, usually cardinals or bishops, but that could change from June 5 when the new charter takes effect after more than nine years of work. The 54-page constitution, called *Praedicate Evangelium* (Preach the Gospel), was released on the ninth anniversary of Francis' installation as pope in 2013, and replaces one issued in 1988 by Pope John Paul II. Its preamble says the "pope, bishops and other ordained ministers are not the only evangelisers in the Church", adding that lay men and women "should have roles of government and responsibility" in the central administration, known as the Curia. The principles section of the constitution says "any member of the faithful can head a dicastery (Curia department) or organism" if the pope decides they are qualified and appoints them. Under the 1988 constitution, the departments - with a few exceptions - were to be headed by a cardinal or bishop and assisted by a secretary, experts and administrators. The new constitution makes no distinction between lay men and lay women, though experts said at least two departments - the department for bishops and the department for clergy - will remain headed by men because only men can be priests in the Catholic Church. The department for consecrated life, which is responsible for religious orders, could conceivably be headed by a nun in the future, the experts said. It is now led by a cardinal. The new constitution said the role of lay Catholics in governing roles in the Curia was "essential" because of their familiarity with family life and "social reality". The pope will head the evangelisation office himself, highlighting the importance he gives to spreading and reviving the faith. Francis has already named a number of lay people, among them women, to Vatican departments. Last year, he for the first time named a woman to the number two position in the governorship of Vatican City, making Sister Raffaella Petrini the highest-ranking woman in the world's smallest state. Also last year, he named Italian nun Sister Alessandra Smerilli to the interim position of secretary of the Vatican's development office, which deals with justice and peace issues. In addition, Francis has named Nathalie Becquart, a French member of the Xaviere Missionary Sisters, as co-undersecretary of the Synod of Bishops, which prepares major meetings of world bishops held every few years.

*Courtesy Reuters  
website*

## NOTICES

### First Communion

Monday 16 May Presentation  
Primary Warrenmount First  
Communion at 11am. No  
10am Mass that day.

This Celebration is not open to the general public but limited to the children, their families and guests. Thank you for your understanding and patience.



### Remembered in Prayer

#### Saturday 6pm Mass

Christine Mahoney  
(Month's Mind)  
Brendan Byrne  
(Birthday Remembrance)  
Harry Harkness (24th  
Anniversary)  
May Byrne (25th Anniversary)

#### Sunday 11.30am Mass

Tom Gregory  
(1st Anniversary)  
Mary and Richard Finn  
Evelyn McCarthy  
(14th Anniversary)  
Danny Gill  
(Recently Deceased)  
William Grogan



### NCAD Summer School

Applications for the NCAD  
CEAD Summer School  
Programme 2022 are now  
open for bookings. Enjoy 3  
and 5 day art and design  
courses - open to all  
experience levels.

Courses run between June  
20th and July 8th 2022.

If you're interested head to  
the [NCAD website](#) for much  
more information.

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

### Penitential Rite

Our God is present in our midst. Let us remember that loving presence.

You call us to recognise your presence in all people.  
Lord have mercy

You call us to recognise your presence in those who are imprisoned in poverty, hunger and lack of opportunity. Christ have mercy

You call us to spread your good news.  
Lord have mercy

May our compassionate God have mercy on us, forgive us our sin and bring us to life everlasting. Amen

### Acts of the Apostles 14:21-27

Paul and Barnabas went back through Lystra and Iconium to Antioch. They put fresh heart into the disciples, encouraging them to persevere in the faith. 'We all have to experience many hardships' they said 'before we enter the kingdom of God.' In each of these churches they appointed elders, and with prayer and fasting they commended them to the Lord in whom they had come to believe. They passed through Pisidia and reached Pamphylia. Then after proclaiming the word at Perga they went down to Attalia and from there sailed for Antioch, where they had originally been commended to the grace of God for the work they had now completed. On their arrival they assembled the church and gave an account of all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith to the pagans.

### Book of Revelation 21:1-5

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth; the first heaven and the first earth had disappeared now, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the holy city, and the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, as beautiful as a bride all dressed for her husband. Then I heard a loud voice call from the throne, 'You see this city? Here God lives among men. He will make his home among them; they shall be his people, and he will be their God; his name is God-with-them. He will wipe away all tears from their eyes; there will be no more death, and no more mourning or sadness. The world of the past has gone.' Then the One sitting on the throne spoke: 'Now I am making the whole of creation new.'

Alleluia, Alleluia  
I give you a new commandment:  
love one another just as I have loved you,  
says the Lord. Alleluia

### John 13:31-33,34-35

When Judas had gone Jesus said: 'Now has the Son of

Man been glorified, and in him God has been glorified. If God has been glorified in him, God will in turn glorify him in himself, and will glorify him very soon. 'My little children, I shall not be with you much longer. I give you a new commandment: love one another; just as I have loved you, you also must love one another. By this love you have for one another, everyone will know that you are my disciples.'

### Prayer of the Faithful

Father, Son and Spirit, you are the very essence of love. Draw us into that profound circle. Lord hear us

Our deepest need is to love and be loved. Give us the courage to step beyond the boundaries of our own little lives. Lord hear us

To love as Jesus did, means to learn to live for someone other than myself. Help us Lord, to stretch the horizons of our daily lives, so there is always room for others. Lord hear us

We remember, with joy and thanksgiving, all those who have died and those who have died needlessly through violence and war. May we be united again in the kingdom of God's love. Lord hear us

Give us a vision of ourselves and our world where hatred, discrimination and violence cannot exist. Lord hear us

In silence, we put aside our own needs, no matter how urgent or important and we call to mind all who need our prayer and support.....Lord hear us

### Reflection

There is a lovely disarray that comes with attraction. When you find yourself deeply attracted to someone, you gradually begin to lose your grip on the frames that order your life. Indeed, much of your life becomes blurred as that countenance comes into clearer focus. A relentless magnet draws all your thoughts towards it. Wherever you are, you find yourself thinking about the one who has become the horizon of your longing. When you are together, time becomes unmercifully swift. It always ends too soon. No sooner have you parted than you are already imagining your next meeting, counting the hours. The magnetic draw of that presence renders you delightfully helpless. A stranger you never knew until recently has invaded your mind; every fibre of your being longs to be closer. It is always astonishing how love can strike. No context is love-proof, no convention or commitment impervious. Even a lifestyle which is perfectly insulated, where the personality is controlled, all the days ordered and all actions in sequence, can to its own dismay find that an unexpected spark has landed; it begins to smoulder until it is finally unquenchable. The force of Love always brings disturbance; in the concealed terrain of the human heart Love remains a light sleeper.

*John O'Donohue*