

St. Nicholas News

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



4th Sunday of Easter – Good Shepherd Sunday – 30 April 2023

POPE EXPANDS PARTICIPATION IN SYNOD TO LAITY WITH RIGHT TO VOTE



Pope Francis on April 26 dramatically expanded participation in the Vatican's upcoming Synod of Bishops to include lay men and women, for the first time granting them a right to be appointed as full voting members of the Catholic Church's primary consultative body.

In addition to the standard participation of bishops selected by the pope and

episcopal conferences from around the world, the new changes allow for the participation of 70 non-bishop members at the upcoming October gathering – 10 from each of the seven global regional bishops' conferences – with the request that young people be included and that 50% of those named be women. The first of the two-part synod gathering will take place in Rome this Oct. 4-29 and is expected to address church governance and a number of hot-button issues in the church, among them the role of women in the church and LGBTQ relationships. Among the newly announced changes is an altered composition of participants to provide greater gender parity among the members of Catholic religious orders invited to take part in the synod. While historically 10 members of men's religious orders have been elected to participate, they will be replaced by five religious women and five religious men. During the 2019 special synod for the nine-nation Amazon region, the last synod, there were 185 voting members, most of whom were bishops or priests. In addition, there were 14 religious-order priests and one religious brother who had been selected by the men's Union of Superiors General. While the women's International Union of Superiors General were allowed to elect 10 observers who could participate in the synod discussions, they were not full members and not granted a right to vote. For years, lay Catholics have lobbied for such a reform. In 2018, a petition circulated by church reform groups gained nearly 10,000 signatures requesting that women religious be granted the right to vote at the synod. An article that same year in the Vatican's daily newspaper, L'Osservatore Romano, labeled it "a clamorous injustice" that the Vatican had made a distinction not between priests and laypeople in deciding who would receive the right to vote, but between women and men. The April 26 changes will now eliminate the role of "auditors" – participants who observed the synod proceedings but were not granted a vote. As is customary, fraternal delegates from other Christian churches and communities will be invited to participate, along with outside experts. In addition, the October 2023 synod will introduce the role of "facilitators," who will be relied on to moderate various proceedings during the monthlong gathering. The Vatican has yet to release a list of invited outside participants. In an interview last month with Argentine newspaper La Nación, Francis had indicated that he intended to grant a right to all synod participants. "Everyone who participates in the synod will vote. Those who are guests or observers will not vote," he told the daily. "Whether male or female. Everyone, everyone. That word everyone for me is key." The Vatican synod office bulletin said that participation of non-bishop members will make concrete "an expression of episcopal collegiality within an entirely synodal Church" and serve as a continuation of the three-phase synodal consultation process that began in 2021 with global listening sessions, followed by continental assemblies, ahead of the Rome meetings. In total, non-bishop members are expected to represent less than 25% of the total members, which the synod office bulletin said would ensure that the "episcopal nature" of the synodal assembly is "confirmed."

Courtesy Christopher White—NCR

Remembered in Prayer

Saturday 6pm Mass

James and Ellen Holohan
Tommy O'Brien (5th A)
Joe Morrin (10th A)

Sunday 11.30am Mass

Geoffrey Spencer (2nd A)
Fr. Des O'Beirne (30th A)
Thomas (Tom) Devey (44th A)



Cup of Tea & Chat

This Sunday 30th April there will be a cup of tea or coffee after the 11.30am mass. You are welcome to join us. It's an opportunity to get know each other a little better. This will be a regular event on the last Sunday of each month.



Confirmation and First Holy Communion

Confirmation CBS Francis Street on Thursday 04 May at 11am. There is no 10am Mass that day.

Confirmation St. Brigid's and Warrenmount on Thursday 11 May at 11am. There is no 10am Mass that day.

First Communion CBS Francis St. & Warrenmount Saturday 20 May at 11am. No Eucharistic Service that day.
First Communion St. Brigid's Saturday 27 May at 11am. No Eucharistic Service that day.



Ceremony of Light

The Ceremony of Light for those making Confirmation in the Parish takes place on Tuesday 02 May at 7.30pm here in St. Nicholas of Myra. As well as the children, their parents & families, their Sponsors are also welcome to attend.

4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Penitential Rite

As we begin, rejoicing in the Lord who has overcome all evil, let us remember God's goodness.

You raise us to new life in your life. Lord have mercy

You are the source of our joy and hope. Christ have mercy

You send us to be your witnesses in the world.
Lord have mercy

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

Acts 2:2:14. 36-41

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed them in a loud voice: 'The whole House of Israel can be certain that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.' Hearing this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the apostles, 'What must we do, brothers?' 'You must repent,' Peter answered 'and every one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise that was made is for you and your children, and for all those who are far away, for all those whom the Lord our God will call to himself.' He spoke to them for a long time using many arguments, and he urged them, 'Save yourselves from this perverse generation'. They were convinced by his arguments, and they accepted what he said and were baptised. That very day about three thousand were added to their number.

2 Peter 1:17-21

Take The merit, in the sight of God, is in bearing it patiently when you are punished after doing your duty. This, in fact, is what you were called to do, because Christ suffered for you and left an example for you to follow the way he took. He had not done anything wrong, and there had been no perjury in his mouth. He was insulted and did not retaliate with insults; when he was tortured he made no threats but he put his trust in the righteous judge. He was bearing our faults in his own body on the cross, so that we might die to our faults and live for holiness; through his wounds you have been healed. You had gone astray like sheep but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me Alleluia!

John 10:1-10

Jesus said: 'I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and a brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.' Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand

what he meant by telling it to them. So Jesus spoke to them again: 'I tell you most solemnly, I am the gate of the sheepfold. All others who have come are thieves and brigands; but the sheep took no notice of them I am the gate. Anyone who enters through me will be safe: he will go freely in and out and be sure of finding pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full.

Prayer of the Faithful

As God our Father and Mother, your love draws us together as your people. We praise you. Lord hear us

Lord Jesus, you are the Living Word of God, filling us with hope, imagination and creativity. We praise you. Lord hear us

Holy Spirit of God, we pray for the leaders of our church, that they may recognise more fully the priesthood of all baptised Christians. We praise Lord hear us

Lord, we are sometimes overwhelmed by the world, by evil of violence and war. Help us to remember you are with us even in the darkest moments of our lives. Lord hear us

We remember, all who have died and especially those who have lost their lives through violence and war. We pray for those who inflict this evil, that their hearts may be changed. Lord hear us

Let us remember in silence, all who need our prayer and support.....Lord hear us



Reflection

As a leader, may you have the grace and wisdom to act kindly, learning to distinguish between what is Personal and what is not. May you be hospitable to criticism. May you never put yourself at the center of things. May you act not from arrogance but out of service. May you work on yourself, building up and refining the ways of your mind. May those who work with you know you see and respect them. May you learn to cultivate the art of presence in order to engage with those who meet you. When someone fails or disappoints you, may the graciousness with which you engage be their stairway to renewal and refinement. May you treasure the gifts of the mind through reading and creative thinking so that you continue as a servant of the frontier where the new will draw its enrichment from the old, and may you never become a functionary. May you know the wisdom of deep listening, the healing of wholesome words, the encouragement of the appreciative gaze, the decorum of held dignity, the springtime edge of the bleak question. May you have a mind that loves frontiers so that you can evoke the bright fields that lie beyond the view of the regular eye. May you have good friends to mirror your blind spots. May leadership be for you a true adventure of growth.

John O'Donohue