



27th Sunday Ordinary Time — 08 October 2023

OPENING THE SYNOD THE POPE BEGS CHURCH NOT TO IMPOSE BURDENS



Pope Francis on Oct. 4 officially opened a long-anticipated Vatican summit on the very future of Catholicism, encouraging its participants — bishops and laypeople alike — to reject the temptations of doctrinal rigidity and to embrace a vision of the church that is open and welcoming to all. "The blessing and welcoming gaze of Jesus prevents us from falling into some dangerous temptations: of being a rigid church, which arms itself against the world and looks backward; of being a lukewarm church, which surrenders to the fashions of the world; of being a tired church, turned in on itself," Francis said in a homily in St. Peter's Square that marked the start of the monthlong Synod of Bishops' synod on synodality. Some 450 delegates from all over the world have descended onto Rome for the occasion, representing a wide array of views and often sharp divisions on some of the hot button issues facing the church, such as clergy abuse, the role of women's ministry, inclusion of LGBTQ Catholics and other questions surrounding the structure of church authority. While the synod will allow widespread debate on these issues, the pope used his opening homily to caution against relying on "human strategies, political calculations or ideological battles" and instead urged "unity and friendship" in the weeks ahead. "This is the primary task of the synod: to refocus our gaze on God, to be a church that looks mercifully at humanity," he said. "A church that is united and fraternal, that listens and dialogues; a church that blesses and encourages, that helps those who seek the Lord, that lovingly stirs up the indifferent, that opens paths in order to draw people into the beauty of faith. A church that has God at its center and, therefore, is not divided internally and is never harsh externally," he continued. Francis went on to draw a parallel to the Second Vatican Council, the series of pivotal 1962-65 assemblies that instituted a number of church reforms, and were widely viewed as opening the institution up to the modern world. "It is necessary first of all that the church should never depart from the sacred patrimony of truth received from the fathers," said Francis, quoting Pope John XXIII, who convened the council. "But at the same time she must ever look to the present, to the new conditions and new forms of life introduced into the modern world which have opened new avenues to the Catholic apostolate." As the Mass began, lay delegates joined bishops — including the newest men just elevated to the College of Cardinals on Sept. 30 — in the official procession to the altar. Their walk together was set against the facade of St. Peter's Basilica as the pontiff looked on, amid a thinly attended congregation in the square. The 86-year-old Francis, who has made synodality the centrepiece of his papacy and the primary vehicle for implementing church reforms, told those gathered under the warm October sun that in the month ahead, they are invited to be a church that "does not impose burdens" and instead "repeats to everyone: 'Come, you who are weary and oppressed, come, you who have lost your way or feel far away, come, you who have closed the doors to hope: the church is here for you!'" Speaking briefly off the cuff, Francis repeated a refrain that he has used often in recent months: that the church should be open to "tutti, tutti, tutti" — "everyone, everyone, everyone."

Courtesy Christopher White—National Catholic Reporter

St. Vincent de Paul

Next weekend the local St. Vincent Paul Conference are taking up their collection outside the church. Please be as generous as you can. The money collected is spent locally. Thank you.



Robert Emmet CDP/SICCD

There's a great range of courses now available in the Autumn/Winter programme of classes from Robert Emmet CDP/SICCD - Booking via <http://recdp.ie> or call 016708880 @cdp_robertemmet @SICCD



Marriage Encounter Weekend

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of Catholic Marriage Encounter in Ireland a weekend has been scheduled for November 10 to 12. Venue: The Focolare Centre, Prosperous, Co. Kildare. Eircode W91 XR23. This weekend is available to all married couples at no fixed charge beyond the deposit of €50 per couple and a voluntary donation. Register online <https://www.marriageencounter.ie>



Towards Peace

Towards Peace is a service offering spiritual support for anybody who has been abused, physically emotionally, sexually, spiritually, in a religious/church environment. The Office hours are Monday and Tuesday 9am - 4pm and Wednesday 9am - 12noon. For further information phone 01 5053028 or 086 7710533 or visit www.towardspeace.ie

27TH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

Penitential Rite

As we begin our celebration, rejoicing in the Lord, let us remember God's immense love and his hopes for us.

You challenge us to seek new possibilities.
Lord have mercy

You challenge us to be hopeful in the face of despair.
Christ have mercy

You challenge us to be creative in facing our life's journey. Lord have mercy

May our loving and creative Lord, give us confidence in his mercy, forgive us our sin and accompany us on the journey of our life. Amen

Isaiah 5:1-7

Let me sing to my friend the song of his love for his vineyard. My friend had a vineyard on a fertile hillside. He dug the soil, cleared it of stones, and planted choice vines in it. In the middle he built a tower, he dug a press there too. He expected it to yield grapes, but sour grapes were all that it gave. And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, I ask you to judge between my vineyard and me. What could I have done for my vineyard that I have not done? I expected it to yield grapes. Why did it yield sour grapes instead? Very well, I will tell you what I am going to do to my vineyard: I will take away its hedge for it to be grazed on, and knock down its wall for it to be trampled on. I will lay it waste, unpruned, undug; overgrown by the briar and the thorn. I will command the clouds to rain no rain on it. Yes, the vineyard of the Lord God of hosts is the House of Israel, and the men of Judah that chosen plant. He expected justice, but found bloodshed, integrity, but only a cry of distress.

Philippians 4:6-9

There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, fill your minds with everything that is true, everything that is noble, everything that is good and pure, everything that we love and honour, and everything that can be thought virtuous or worthy of praise. Keep doing all the things that you learnt from me and have been taught by me and have heard or seen that I do. Then the God of peace will be with you.

Alleluia, alleluia!
I chose you from the world to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last says the Lord. Alleluia!

Matthew 21:33-43

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people : 'Listen to another parable. There was a man, a landowner, who planted a vineyard; he fenced it round,

dug a winepress in it and built a tower; then he leased it to tenants and went abroad. When vintage time drew near he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his servants, thrashed one, killed another and stoned a third. Next he sent some more servants, this time a larger number, and they dealt with them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them. "They will respect my son" he said. But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, "This is the heir. Come on, let us kill him and take over his inheritance." So they seized him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' They answered, 'He will bring those wretches to a wretched end and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will deliver the produce to him when the season arrives'.

Prayer of the Faithful

God our Father and Mother, we thank for your love and your trust in us. It bestows on us a value and dignity that can never be taken from us. We thank you. Lord hear us

Lord, may we take this opportunity that the Synod provides, to reshape our lives, our church and our world, to reflect your love and compassion. Lord hear us

Our faith must always find expression in concern for others. For those who are struggling to manage their lives, may we be for them, the strength and comfort of God. Lord hear us

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

May we have the courage to live prophetically, challenging the vicious destruction of war. Lord hear us

In silence, we put aside our own needs as we remember those who need our prayer and support.....Lord hear us



Reflection

People are unreasonable, illogical, self-centered... love them anyway.

If you do good, people will accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives... do good anyway.

If you are successful, you win false friends and true enemies... be successful anyway.

The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow... do good anyway.

Honesty and frankness will make you vulnerable... be honest and frank anyway.

People love underdogs but follow only top dogs... follow some underdog anyway.

What you spend years building what may be destroyed overnight... build anyway.

People really need help but may attack you if you try to help... help people anyway.

If you give the world the best you have, you may get kicked in the teeth... but give the world the best you have... Anyway.