



May 11, 2023

Happening for the First Time in History! Pope Francis Gives Women the Right to Vote at Synod

~ by Gerard O'Connell for AMERICA Magazine and Christopher White for National Catholic Reporter

For the first time in the history of the synod, Pope Francis has given women the right to vote and has also made a radical change to the members of the Synod of Bishops on Synodality.

At the synod, which opens in October, between 21 and 25 percent of the members with a right to vote will not be bishops. These members will include consecrated women and men as well as lay women and men. All those who are members of the synod will have the right to vote.



Synod
2021
2023

Explaining the change in synod membership, Cardinal Hollerich, the relator general of the synod, said that instead of the 10 clerics belonging to Institutes of Consecrated Life and elected by the respective organizations representing

the superiors general could participate in the synod, this is no longer the case. Instead of 10 clerics, these groups will now be represented by “five women religious and five men religious” and “as members of the synod, they will have the right to vote.”

Cardinal Hollerich noted that “an additional 70 non-bishop members have been added who represent various groups of the faithful, of the people of God [priests, consecrated women, deacons, lay faithful] and who come from the local churches.” These will be chosen by Pope Francis from a list of 140 names presented to him by the seven international reunions of bishops’ conferences and the assembly of the patriarchs of Eastern Catholic Churches. The cardinal said that Francis requested that “50 percent of them be women, and that the presence of young people also be emphasized [in choosing these members].” All 70 will have a right to vote.

During the 2019 synod for the nine-nation Amazon regions, there were 185 voting members, most of whom were bishops or priests. 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.

In an interview last month with Argentine newspaper La Nacion, Francis had indicated that he intended to grant a right [to vote] to all synod participants. "Everyone who participates in the synod will vote."

While Pope Paul VI established the synod at the end of the Second Vatican Council in 1965, "synodality" – a Greek term that literally means "walking together" – has emerged as a key leitmotif of Francis' pontificate.

In October 2022, the theme "[Enlarge the space of your tent](#)" was chosen as the title of the synod's working document. That document, known in Latin as an *instrumentum laboris*, is currently being drafted.

With the addition of new members, Cardinal Grech, the secretary-general of the Synod, told reporters, the "space in the tent has expanded."

To read the entire articles, please click [here](#) and [here](#)

Synodality is Working: Women Getting a Vote at Vatican is Proof

~ by Sebastian Gomes for AMERICA Magazine

In his last interview before he died in 2012, Cardinal Carlo Martini of Milan observed that "the church is 200 years out of date." Last week, the Vatican's synod office announced that non-bishop participants at a synod, including lay women and men, will have voting rights for the first time. In this case, the church was only 10 years late.

The reason for granting votes to non-bishops is simple: The synods are consultative, not deliberative (i.e., legislative), bodies. In a synodal church, as Pope Francis envisions, why couldn't lay people and women religious also vote in such an assembly to advise the pope?

Since Francis began reforming the Synod of Bishops a decade ago. There has never been a convincing answer to that question – until last week’s decision. It is an exciting and positive step in the necessary empowerment of lay people and women religious in the leadership mission of the church. But more than that, it is an early sign that the synodal culture Francis envisions for the church is bearing fruit. To read the entire account, please click [here](#)

Synod Reforms Show Laity Voices Can No Longer Be Ignored

~ by Catherine E. Clifford, National Catholic Reporter

Pope Francis’ decision to include lay persons as full participants with voting rights in the upcoming Synod of Bishops is a significant step towards making the synod a body that more adequately represents and embodies an act of discernment by the whole people of God.

The successors of the Apostles are relearning the importance of consulting the whole church in the image of the first Apostles. A more synodal church – the goal of the present synodal process – better reflects the nature of the Christian community as followers of the Way, a community of disciples, on a shared journey of faith.

Speaking on the 50th Anniversary of its foundation, Pope Francis sketched out how the synod reflects the quality of synodality inherent in the whole church. “It is a mutual listening in which everyone has something to learn. The faithful people, the college of bishops, the Bishop of Rome: all listening together, all listening to the Holy Spirit, the ‘Spirit of Truth’ in order to know what he ‘says to the Churches’.



Prior to Vatican II, Catholic ecclesiology generally distinguished neatly between the “teaching church” and the “learning church” to highlight the pastoral teaching office of the bishops one hand, yet with a reductionist image of the laity as passive receivers of magisterial teaching on the other.

As experiences of pastoral and missionary conversion transform the hearts and mind, they naturally seek a more substantial embodiment in new structures and procedures. Their effective use will inevitably require renewed formation in ways of discernment. The voice of the laity can no longer be discounted in the exercise of the pastoral teaching office. To read the entire account please click [here](#)

Anne Schwelm, Director of the Holy Spirit Library at Cabrini University, shares the news of a vibrant new publication on Mother Cabrini...

Mother Cabrini, the First American Saint of the Catholic Church



"Mother Cabrini, the First American Saint of the Catholic Church" is the feature article in the recently released Spring 2023 issue of *Humanities: The Magazine of the National Endowment for the Humanities*. Penned by Nick Ripatrazone the article eloquently details Mother Cabrini's mission to serve the spiritual and temporal needs of the Italian immigrants. Ripatrazone's article cites preeminent biographies: *Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini* by Mother Saverio DeMaria, *Immigrant Saint: The Life of Mother Cabrini* by Pietro Di Donato, *Too Small a World: The Life of Francesca Cabrini* by Theodore Maynard, *To the Ends of the Earth: The Missionary Travels of Frances X. Cabrini* (translated by Sr. Philippa Provenzano, MSC), and "Mother Cabrini: Italian Immigrant of the Century" by Sr. Mary Louise Sullivan, MSC.

Images accompany the article. Beautifully written, I think everyone will enjoy it.

The article is available:

<https://www.neh.gov/article/mother-cabrini-first-american-saint-catholic-church>

Mother's Day is Sunday, May 14th

A Prayer in Gratitude for Our Mothers

Good and Gentle God,
we pray in gratitude for our mothers and for all the women who have joined with you in the wonder of bringing forth new life.

You who became human through a woman, grant to all mothers the courage they need to face the uncertain future that life with children always brings.

Give them the strength to live and to be loved in return, not perfectly, but humanly.

Give them the faithful support of family and friends as they care for the physical and spiritual growth of their children.

Give them joy and delight in their children to sustain them through the trials of motherhood.

Most of all, give them the wisdom to turn to you for help when they need it most. Amen.

~ Xavier University

Dear Cabrini Collaborator,

Title 42 is coming to an end this Thursday, May 11, and the House of Representatives is considering legislation ([H.R. 2 - the Secure the Border Act](#)) which proposes a crack down on the number of migrants crossing the border. The bill also proposes resuming construction of the border wall, ending the policy of "catch and release", increasing the number of Border Patrol Agents and requiring the detention of migrant families making it more likely that they will be deported to very dangerous situations.

It's clear that meaningful, collaborative border solutions are needed, now, more than ever. Both Democrats and Republicans in Congress must come together to pass needed immigration reforms, including border solutions that are secure, efficient and humane.

We are asking you to join us and be in solidarity with Jesuit Relief Services efforts in urging our representatives to vote **NO** on H.R. 2! Please click the [TAKE ACTION NOW](#) link below, scroll down and enter your info - it only takes a minute or two to complete and is of utmost importance!

Together in advocacy and prayer,

Guadalupe Province Immigration Commission

Sr. Yolanda Flores, MSC, Sr. Pietrina Raccuglia, MSC, Sr. Roselle Santivasi, MSC,
Sr. Lucille Souza, MSC, Lorraine Campanelli, Ariana Salas, and Karol Brewer

[TAKE ACTION NOW](#)

Sr. Regina's Gospel Message



As a very meaningful part of her 90th birthday celebration, Sr. Regina Palamara, MSC was invited during the special Mass in her honor at St. Finbar Church in Burbank, CA, to share a reflection with all those gathered.

To hear Sr. Regina's gospel message, please click [here](#)

Free Jazz Concerts on the Lawn



**Every Thursday in May at
6:30pm**

The [Multicultural Music Group](#) is back with jazz from around the world. Bring a blanket, a neighbor, and a picnic and enjoy great music and a sense of community!

FREE!

May 4: **Alec Castro Sextet** explores the African Influence on music of the Americas

May 11: **Rogério Boccato Quartet** plays the rhythms of Brazil

May 18: **Annette Aguilar Sextet** with Afro-Cuban and Afro-Brazilian jazz

May 25: **Pedro Giraudo Tango Quartet** gets you moving with the music of Argentina

In case of rain or unseasonably cold weather, these concerts will be held indoors.

Concerts at St. Frances X. Cabrini Shrine, NYC

One Minute Meditation

I Call You Friends

Prayer is an intimate sharing between friends, so we can imagine God as our intimate friend, with whom we share everything. We can talk to the Divine about our needs, complaints, and difficulties. We can ask for advice, offer thanksgiving, and make acts of faith or reparation for our sins. We can seek guidance for our children, or shed tears about illness or death. Quite frequently, the most efficacious way to pray is found in darkness, emptiness...when we find ourselves simply open to the vast mystery surrounding us, when we center our hearts on an obscure faith, and are absorbed into the Divine Presence. This is the contemplation of night, when darkness quiets the soul, and we surrender to the unknowing. ~ Beverly Lanzetta, *The Monk Within*



For more information and to purchase tickets: www.cis-nyc.org/celebrate

SAVE
the DATE

CABRINI OF WESTCHESTER

presents

AN EVENING

Under the Stars

50th Gala

ANNIVERSARY

Honoring

HIS EMINENCE TIMOTHY CARDINAL DOLAN
MICHAEL P. HOFFMAN
SR. ARLENE VAN DUSEN, MSC
SR. CATHERINE GARRY, MSC

Thursday
May 25, 2023

Abigail Kirsch at Tappan Hill Mansion
Tarrytown, New York

6 pm - Cocktail Reception
7 pm - Dinner

We would like to invite the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus to be our guests at this event. Please RSVP to Susan Herceg at (914) 693-6800 ext. 502 or sherceg@cabrini-eldercare.org if you plan on attending.

Prayer Requests

Baby Meadow

Sr. Dianne McKenna, MSC requests prayers for her cousin Bobby's granddaughter, Meadow, who is in Boston Hospital awaiting a heart transplant. Meadow is only 4 months-old. She is remaining in the hospital until she can receive a heart transplant. Sr. Dianne says we really need prayers for this little one.



For all mothers

May the blessing of the Divine be an especially bright benediction upon mothers everywhere on your blessed day. Happy Mother's Day! - *Author Unknown*

For a Special Intention

A member of the Cabrinian community asks your prayers and the intercession and guidance of Mother Cabrini for a special intention.

Sr. Benedict O'Donnell, MSC

Please keep Sr. Benedict in your prayers. She has been hospitalized once again for a medical condition. Please pray for her strength during this time of illness.

Sr. Angelina Randazzo, MSC

Kindly remember Sr. Angie in your prayers. She was recently hospitalized and is now at St. Cabrini Nursing Home for short-term rehabilitation. She would be grateful for our prayerful accompaniment.

Tom Woods

In recent days, we have joined with the MSCs at Sacred Heart Convent in praying for Tom Woods, a husband and father of three young children. Tom needed a heart transplant and underwent surgery on this past Tuesday evening. Please pray that the transplant will be successful and that he will recover fully.

In Loving Memory

Veronica Porter

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Veronica Porter who went home to God on May 7th at her home in West Chester, PA surrounded by her loving family. Veronica is the sister of Connie Scheetz from Seattle, WA.

Judith Tague

It is with sadness that we share the passing of Judith “Judy” Tague, Cabrini (College) University Class of 1974, on Wednesday, May 10th. Judy was a Special Education major at Cabrini. She is the sister of Jacque Tague Murray, Cabrini College University Class of 1969. May she rest in God’s peace. Please keep Jacque and her family in your prayers at this difficult time.

Gerd von Doemning

Your prayers are asked for Gerd von Doemning who passed away this past Friday, May 5th. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth, sister of Fredrick Scheetz from Seattle, WA. May he rest in God’s eternal light.

