



October 12, 2023

Sisters attend Vatican Synod - witness 'dismantling of the hierarchical'

~Rhina Guidos – Global Sisters Report



VATICAN CITY - On the third day of the Synod of Bishops, Mercy Sr. Angela Perez, of Guam, noted that since women haven't been allowed into such synods as full members before, she had no reference point, nothing to compare it to, yet as normal as the gathering seems, she also understands something is different and historic.

"I'm experiencing and witnessing the dismantling of the hierarchical," she told Global Sisters Report, describing the scene inside the synod hall — where cardinals, bishops, young and older lay Catholics, and women religious like herself are sitting together at roundtables, without hierarchical distinctions.

Pope Francis, like the other some 460 participants in the synod, is also sitting at a roundtable — the head of the Catholic Church being treated, more or less, just like everyone else in the room.

"It reminds me of when we have our chapter, the Sisters of Mercy, that that's how we gather — and to gather there like that and the Pope in the circle at one of those tables with the other participants, it's just very positive to see that," she told GSR.

Likewise, Sr. Iris Altagracia González, of the Dominican Republic and a member of the Congregación de las Hijas de Jesús (Daughters of Jesus), said she quickly realized that for all the seemingly normal procedures, she noticed, too, something is different. She told the Global



Sr. Angela Perez, RSM

Sisters Report on October 6th, I realized the enormity, that I'm attending something really historic, really significant for the Church. I think this is not a synod like the others."

It's puzzling for her to hear people outside the synod express worries about its discussions, since she believes that what's largely taking place is a conversation — a listening to oneself, others, and God, she said.

The atmosphere inside the synod hall has been one of great welcome, both women said. But it's also one that's making way for a different manner of leading the church and that includes listening to a wider circle of voices and letting the Holy Spirit guide conversations.

"What I'm witnessing is a different leadership style, like servant leadership style, where we're all gathered at the table and participating, contributing. The voices at my table are the voice of a young person, a laywoman, and in my case, an older woman, a religious, and then the others are bishops, all together at the table sharing," Perez said.

And at the center of it all, the Holy Spirit is the one in charge, not a person, she said. To read the entire account, please click [here](#)

As the Synod on Synodality is taking place in Rome, Global Sisters Report, in conjunction with National Catholic Reporter, is offering these resources as an easy one-stop place to find information about this historic event.

Global Sisters Report/National Catholic Reporter coverage: [Synod on Synodality](#)

NCR's weekly synod podcast: [The Vatican Briefing](#)

List of sister participants in the synod: [Sisters involved in synod on synodality](#)

Official synod on synodality resources: [Synod schedule](#), [List of synod participants](#)

Other resources: [Vatican News](#), [Vatican Media Live](#)

FutureChurch resources: [Synod Watch](#), [Synod on Synodality 2021-2024](#)



Sr. Iris Altagracia
Gonzalez

‘Giving Back’ to Our Neighbors

On Monday, October 9th, Cabrini Immigrant Services (CIS), Dobbs Ferry, NY held a Giving Back Program. Despite being off from school for Indigenous Day, some of our high school students gave up their late sleep to help make packets of toiletries for those in need.

We have been working with our asylum seekers who are residing in a neighboring town. They have been attending many of our programs that are held at CIS. Our students made 150 packets of toiletries for the adults and 25 packages of ‘goodies’ for the children. In addition, we made 150 packets of toiletries for a homeless shelter in Westchester County. Some of the adult packets included toothbrushes, toothpaste, handwarmers, hats, gloves, socks, hand sanitizers, etc. The children’s packets had crayons, coloring books, a stuffed animal, sticker books and animal crackers.



Photo above: On a day off from school, these young people give generously of their time at Cabrini Immigrant Services in Dobbs Ferry, NY to create packets of essentials for those in need.

Thank you to the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation for allowing our students to give back to those in need.

~ submitted by: Lorraine Campanelli, Director, CIS



Photos left and below: Displaying the fruits of their hard work, young CIS volunteers take a moment to pose with the brightly colored packets containing the fun items that children will love.



Asylum 101

On October 5, Cabrini Immigrant Services-NYC and St. Frances Cabrini Shrine hosted Asylum 101, a program designed to help our neighbors untangle what's going on with immigration.



The program began with CIS-NYC attorney Ariana Salas defining what asylum is, and discussing common myths about asylum-seekers. She described how the process works and told the audience the extent of the logjam in processing cases.

Experts in immigration presented Asylum 101 for neighbors in the community surrounding CIS-NYC and the St. F.X. Cabrini Shrine.

Tiburcio Segoviano, a CIS-NYC social worker, then gave an overview

of how Cabrini Immigrant Services supports new migrants and helps them adapt to life here. Community advocate Amelia Scodoris finished up the program by speaking about ways people can volunteer or advocate for change. She also invited them to sign up to for an upcoming advocacy training session to be held at the CIS-NYC offices.

It was a lively, engaging evening, and our guests had a range of opinions and many questions. We were fortunate to have an immigration case manager from Congressman Adriano Espaillat's office in the audience. His perspective from a Federal level complemented the expertise of the presenters and led to animated but thoughtful discussion. We look forward to continuing to engage our broader community in topics related to immigration. ~ submitted by Julia Attaway and Amelia Scodoris

Do you have a loved one or a special intention
you would like to hold up in prayer?
Prayer requests are always welcome in The Update.
Kindly send your requests to:
Cabrini-news@mothercabrini.org



Cabrini Mission Foundation Gala
Friday, October 13th

The livestream will commence at 7:00 pm
<https://youtube.com/live/EHJx-ljLcVc>

Hope that you can join in the festivities!

One Minute Meditation

God is With Us

Time and again people heard God's word" "Do not be afraid, I am with you. I am your strength and will support you." God will not always take away our difficult situations because they are often a natural part of life, but we do know that this loving presence will always hold onto us, support us and strengthen us. We have this promise constantly in the scriptures. All we need to do is reach out in faith and trust. We will lessen our worry only if we believe more completely that God's fidelity and love will support and comfort us no matter what painful, difficult or fearful situations come to us. We will learn how to deal with our fears if we allow ourselves to believe more totally in God's power working in us and through us. ~ Joyce Rupp, *Fresh Bread*

Gala Registration is Open!

Friday, November 17, 2023

Pinnacle Club at the Grand Hyatt
5:30 p.m.

[Visit our Gala Website for tickets and table sponsorship opportunities.](#)



MOTHER CABRINI SHRINE
GALA 2023

Friday, November 17th at 5:30 pm

PINNACLE CLUB
AT THE GRAND HYATT DENVER

CHAPEL DEDICATION
Saturday, November 18th at 4:00 pm
AT MOTHER CABRINI SHRINE

MotherCabriniShrine.org

Prayer Requests

All those suffering in the Middle East conflict

We pray for all those who have died; for those who have lost family members; for those who have sustained injuries; for those who have been abducted; and for all those whose lives, homes, and livelihoods have been shattered. We pray for an end to the violence and for the gift of peace.

Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus – Provincial Assembly

Kindly continue your prayers for the Missionary Sisters, Cabrini Lay Missionaries (CLMs), and lay collaborators as they gather next week in North Jersey for the Provincial Assembly. Please pray that their deliberations will be inspired and guided by the Holy Spirit. Please pray, too, for their safe travel to and from the meeting.

With a Grateful Heart

Prayer for Preston

In recent weeks we have prayed for Preston, the great nephew of Cabrini High School alumna and trustee Florence Wingerter. Florence shares, “My family wants to express their sincere thanks to the Cabrini community and ask that they continue to pray for Preston.”

In Loving Memory

Andy Anagnos

Sr. Bernadette Anello, MSC asks our prayers for an extended family member, Andy Anagnos, who returned home to God this week after a battle with cancer. He was a loving husband to Jennifer and great dad to his young daughters, Veronica and Penelope. Please keep all of them in prayer.

