



Synod Enters Final Week Recalling Vatican II

~ by Christopher White, Vatican News for National Catholic Reporter

As Pope Francis' major summit on the future of the Catholic Church enters its final week, bishops and laity were reminded of the Second Vatican Council's emphasis on the church's "living tradition," including the participation and inclusion of all of the "people of God."



Synod participants continue their discussions as they prepare to make recommendations for the final report. The Synod meetings will conclude this week.

As delegates commenced work on their hotly anticipated final document from the monthlong meeting, Australian Fr. Ormond Rush — one of the world's leading scholars on Vatican II — encouraged the synod's more than 450 members to be attentive to the "traps" of "being drawn into ways of thinking that are not 'of God.' "

"These traps could lie in being anchored exclusively in the past,

or exclusively in the present, or not being open to the future fullness of divine truth to which the Spirit of truth is leading the church," said Rush on Oct. 23. "Discerning the difference between opportunities and traps is the task of all the faithful — laity, bishops, and theologians — everyone."

Rush's remarks, made during one of the synod's occasional open sessions, drew heavily on the writings of the late Pope Benedict XVI. As Fr. Joseph Ratzinger, the future longtime Vatican official and pontiff participated in the council and served as a drafter of some of its key texts. At the time, Ratzinger articulated a distinction between so-called "static" and "dynamic" understandings of the church's tradition.

Rush said the "living tradition" of the church, as taught by the council, is guided by the Holy Spirit through the interrelated means of the work of theologians, the lived experience of the church's faithful and the oversight of church authorities.

"Sounds like a synodal church, doesn't it?" Rush asked.

In recent weeks, [some](#) synod delegates [have expressed skepticism](#) over the inclusion of lay persons in the Synod of Bishops. Some delegates have also expressed frustration about the assembly's discussion of issues — such as better inclusion of LGBTQ persons and women's leadership in the church — that they argue have previously been settled by the church's tradition.



Rush, who has been a theological adviser to the Vatican's synod office, seemed to offer an indirect reply to those critics in his remarks, noting that the council taught that divine revelation is not something in the past, but rather an "ongoing encounter in the present."

"The same God, in the same Jesus Christ, through the enlightenment and empowerment of the same Holy Spirit, is forever engaging with, and dialoguing with, human beings in the ever-new here and now of history that relentlessly moves humanity into new perceptions, new questions and new insights, in diverse cultures and places, as the world-church courses through time into an unknown future until the eschaton," he said.

"This synod is a dialogue with God," he told the delegates, who are now preparing to begin making recommendations for the assembly's final report. "God is waiting for your reply." To read the entire article, please click [here](#)

A PostScript from Gerald O'Connell from *America Media*

In the last of his profoundly spiritual and inspiring talks to the Synod on October 23rd, Timothy Radcliffe, O.P. offered this warning to the Synod's participants as they prepared to return home: "The global culture of our time is often polarized, aggressive and dismissive of other people's view. The cry is: Whose side are you on?"

When we go home, people will ask, ‘Did you fight for our side? Did you oppose those unenlightened other people?’”

He advised them: We shall need to be profoundly prayerful to resist the temptation to succumb to this party-political way of thinking. That would be to fall back into the sterile, barren language of much of our society. It is not the synodal way. The synodal process is organic and ecological rather than competitive. It is more like planting a tree than winning a battle, and as such, will be hard for many to understand, sometimes including ourselves! But, if we keep our minds and hearts open to the people whom we have met here, vulnerable to their hopes and fears, their words will germinate in our lives, and ours in theirs. There will be an abundant harvest, a fuller truth. Then the church will be renewed.

Pope Francis emphasized, “the Spirit is the protagonist” at the synod and what is required is that all believers “listen to what the Spirit is saying to the church” in the 21st century

The Eucharistic Congress

“Oh, if only we knew how to always appreciate the benefit of Holy Communion! How much more fervent and recollected we would be, and how many more merits we would gather.”

~ Mother Cabrini



Sr. Evarlyne Ndeti, MSC novice (I.) and Sr. Abaynesh Lako were among the thousands of people attending the Eucharistic Congress.

More than 7,000 pilgrims from different parts of New York State gathered to commemorate the Holy Eucharist at Our Lady of Martyrs Shrine in Auriesville, NY. It was fascinating to see how people were moved to join in seeking the best ways of spreading Eucharistic knowledge and God’s love.

The Eucharistic celebration being the center of everything, we had two wonderful Masses

on Saturday and Sunday mornings. Among the celebrants of the Masses were some bishops, many priests, deacons, and seminarians. Men and women religious were also present together with the faithful. During their homilies both Bishops Terry LaValley and Edward Scharfenberger preached about the significance of the Eucharistic Lord upon all the believers. They illustrated how God's love and His mercy is revealed through His presence in the eucharist.

“God wants everyone to be part of communion and everyone to get a chance to go to heaven. Each and everyone of us,” said Bishop Edward Scharfenberger. They also shared some saints' stories of how they devoted themselves to the Eucharistic Lord. There was exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and the hearing of confessions throughout the weekend.



The procession takes place at the Eucharistic Congress at Our Lady of Martyrs Shrine in upstate New York.



From this photo one can get a sense of the large number of pilgrims taking part in the Eucharistic Congress.

We enjoyed listening to some of the keynote speakers, especially to Lisa Lickona who highlighted the lives of three powerful American women saints and their devotion to the eucharist. Mother Cabrini, being one of these wonderful women, our hearts were moved mostly with the way she described her. She spoke of Mother Cabrini's eucharistic devotion and how it developed from the early years of her childhood through her sister, Rosa, and how it continue to grow and bear fruits throughout her religious life. “Rosa (Cabrini's sister) went to adoration everyday and took her sister along, so Frances grew up from the Blessed Sacrament which is a great gift.

~ submitted by Sr. Evarlyne Ndeti, MSC novice

Along with Sr. Evarlyne, also attending the Eucharistic Congress were Sr. Abaynesh Lako, Julia Attaway, Executive Director, St. F.X. Cabrini Shrine, and Sonja Madera. They were there to represent the Shrine in New York City. Many people stopped by to speak with them about Mother Cabrini.

Friars Honor Cabrini of Westchester



Attending the Franciscan's Sharing Hope Celebration are from left: Pamela Guigli, Patricia Krasnausky, Fr. Brian Terry, Sr. Arlene Van Dusen, MSC, Sr. Romualda Molon, MSC, and Sr. Catherine Garry, MSC.

On Friday, October 6, 2023, Cabrini of Westchester was honored by the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement at their 30th Anniversary of the Sharing Hope Celebration Dinner at the Pierre Hotel in New York City. Along with fellow honorees, Bonnie Brae and My Brother Vinny, Cabrini was selected for this honor because it shares similar values including embracing the dignity of all people and ministering to those in need of physical and spiritual healing.



Sr. Arlene Van Dusen, MSC has the honor of accepting the award from Fr. Brian Terry.

Sr. Arlene Van Dusen, MSC, accepted the award on behalf of Cabrini of Westchester and our sponsors, the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. “Many thanks to the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement for recognizing the high-quality, compassionate eldercare that Cabrini has provided to countless individuals over the last 50 years. We are thrilled to be celebrating our 50th Anniversary this year and this award makes it even more special. We have been fortunate to have cared for a number of Franciscan Friars of the Atonement over the years and we are pleased to currently have 2 priests reside in the nursing home. We are most grateful to receive the 2023 Graymoor Award.”

~ submitted by Susan Herceg, Cabrini of Westchester

Celebrating Their Dedicated Service



October 12, 2023, was a special day at Cabrini of Westchester! Two events were held in honor of the employees: The Annual Employee Service Awards as well as The Annual Employee Barbecue.



For 30 years, with her smile, Candi Francomano, receptionist, has extended a warm welcome to all those coming to Cabrini of Westchester.

thanked the employees for their dedication, sharing, “Besides being unique individuals with special talents, you come from different professions and departments. Yet, together, you are the excellent, compassionate employees who have made Cabrini what it is today. We thank you for continuing to make Cabrini an excellent source of care for the elders in Westchester County.”

The service awards were held in Cabrini’s chapel and celebrated fifty-eight outstanding employees who were celebrating five, ten, fifteen, twenty, twenty-five, thirty and even forty years of service to the organization. Each of the awardees received a pin with a precious stone reflective of their years of service to Cabrini of Westchester. Special gifts were presented to those with 25 or more years of service.

Fr. Ron Galt, Vice President of Mission and Pastoral Care, bestowed blessings on all of the honorees and Patricia Krasnausky, President and CEO,



From left: 25 year award recipients: Patrick Rumble, Watch Engineer, Nancy Selsky, Occupational Therapist Supervisor, and Alice Charlise, Certified Nursing Assistant are honored.

In addition to the awards ceremony, all staff were treated to an employee barbecue in thanksgiving for the hard work and dedication they provide to the residents every day. With the cooperation of the beautiful weather, employees were able to dine outside on Cabrini’s North Patio and relax during their lunch break. Thank you to Director of Food Service, Enrique Vargas, and his team who provided a veritable feast to honor our caring and compassionate staff members! Delicious meals were also provided to the evening and night shifts. ~ submitted by Susan Herveg, Dir. of Development and PR, Cabrini of Westchester
More photos on following page.

Celebrating Their Dedicated Service



Photo above: The Recreation Team at Cabrini of Westchester has fun at the barbecue.

From left: Edmund Appiah, Jacqueline Rodriguez, Kristen McCauley, Maria Samuels, and Tanesha Richards-Roberts.

Photo left below: William Williams and Briceyda Rosa of the Housekeeping Staff enjoy the beautiful weather and the tasty dishes.

Photo right below: From left: Nursing Staff members: Camille Thompson, LPN, Christiana Kuaffo, CNA and Leonie Morris, LPN take time for a photo.



We give thanks for your caring and
compassionate hearts!

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



With joy & gratitude, the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart and the staff of Mother Cabrini Shrine invite you to

Mother Cabrini Shrine
for the
Chapel Re-dedication Celebration

Saturday
NOV.
18

Reception immediately
following Mass

4:00pm
Mass

From the Province Vocation Team...



Photo above: Sr. Yolanda Flores, MSC, speaks with a student about the Cabrini Sisters.

Photo right: Sr. Bezunesh Elias, joined Sr. Yolanda in attending the festival and in getting to know some other vocation representatives. St. John's University holds this event annually.

Today, Sr. Yolanda Flores, MSC, Vocation Director and Sr. Bezunesh Elias, novice, traveled to St. John's University in Jamaica, New York to participate in the Vocation Festival being held there.

Sr. Yolanda and Sr. Bezunesh are sharing informational vocation materials on the Missionary Sisters, as well as, telling students about Cabrini Immigrant Services. They share the news of Mother Cabrini and her Sisters' outreach to immigrants among the many of ministries of the MSCs.



Prayer Requests

Lauren Gardner Arvites

Lauren Gardner Arvites, is the daughter of Cabrini High School Fine Art Department Chair, Cissie Gardner. Lauren recently underwent transplant surgery. "Lauren is doing remarkably well. The kidney and pancreas are both working from the beginning of the transplant. It was a good match and were healthy organs which helped."

Please continue to pray for Lauren's full recovery. Her mother, Cissie, is spending the week with Lauren who is expected to be discharged from the hospital but will remain in Dallas under close medical supervision. Lauren's husband is a Catholic school educator. They have a son. The entire family appreciates your ongoing prayers.

Hannah Bailey

JoAnn Seaman, Executive Director of the Mother Cabrini Shrine in Golden, CO, asks for our prayers for her daughter, Hannah. Hannah will be having surgery on November 2nd. Please pray that her procedure will go well and that she will recover quickly.

Nancy Golen

Your prayers are requested for Nancy Golen, a longtime member of the Cabrinian community. Nancy is experiencing some health issues at this time and would be grateful for our prayerful accompaniment especially in the upcoming weeks.



Prayers for a good friend

Prayers are asked for a dear person who recently sustained a nasty fall and resultant hospitalization. She is currently doing rehab and is coming along very well. Please pray for her stamina and strength that she will recover fully and that she will soon resume her regular activities. She would be most grateful for our prayers.

Anthony Russo

Rosemary Gehrlein, employee of Cabrini University, asks for your continued prayers for her brother, Anthony Russo (Cabrini College '75) as he begins another round of chemotherapy for pancreatic cancer that has metastasized to

the liver. In addition, he will be undergoing a radiation procedure in a few weeks to target the tumors. Rosemary thanks everyone for their prayers thus far and asks that you please continue to ask God to guide Anthony's doctors in finding the route to bring his cancer into remission.

In Loving Memory

Gerald Pino

Your prayers are asked for the repose of the soul of Gerald Pino, who returned home to God this past week after a long illness. He is husband of Sr. Bernadette Anello's cousin Joann. Please keep Sr. Bernadette's family members in your prayers at this sad time.

Anne A. Skleder, PhD

It is with sadness that we share the untimely passing of Anne A. Skleder, PhD, the 10th president of Brenau University. Anne passed away after a lengthy battle with leukemia. Many in the Cabrinian community will remember Anne who served as a provost at Cabrini University for several years. We extend our deep condolences to Anne's family. May she rest in God's eternal light.

One Minute Meditation

Reading the Signs of Love

Hope lets us see the presence and the action of the holy in our everyday lives. Sometimes, in this troubled world of ours, we forget that love is all around us. We imagine the worst of other people and withdraw into our own shells. But try this simple test: Stand still in any crowded place and watch the people around you. Within a very short time you will begin to see love, and you will see it over and over. A young mother talking to her child, a couple as they walk by, an older man holding the door for a stranger – small signs of love are everywhere. The more you look, the more you will see.

We are surrounded by love.
~ Steven Charleston, Ladder to the Light