



October 5, 2023

## Opening Momentous Vatican Summit, Pope Francis Begg Church to 'not impose burdens'

*~ by Christopher White, Vatican News*

Pope Francis on October 4 officially opened a long-anticipated Vatican summit on the very future of Catholicism, encouraging its participants — both bishops and lay people 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," said Francis in a homily in St. Peter's Square that marked the start of the month-long Synod of Bishops.

Some 450 delegates from all over the world have descended on 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.



Synod participants gather for Mass at the Vatican on October 4.

"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.

The 86-year-old Francis, who has made synodality the [centerpiece](#) 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." To read the full account, please click [here](#)

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### **Address Update**

Sr. Regina Palamara, MSC  
Park Avenue Senior Apartment  
730 North Whitnall Highway – Apt. 111  
Burbank, CA 91505

This is updated information. Kindly make a notation.



For reservations and event details

Please contact:

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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 17<sup>th</sup>* at 5:30 pm

PINNACLE CLUB  
AT THE GRAND HYATT DENVER

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CHAPEL DEDICATION

*Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup>* at 4:00 pm

AT MOTHER CABRINI SHRINE

MotherCabriniShrine.org

# Prayer Requests

## ***Joan McFarland***

Prayers are requested for Joan McFarland who is hospitalized with heart issues. Please keep her return to good health in your prayers. Her family would be most grateful.

## ***Prayers for a Friend***

A friend asks for prayers for a family member who was recently diagnosed with ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease). Please pray for the strength to accept this suffering with dignity and grace.

## ***Prayers for the Assembly of the Missionary Sisters***

During the week of October 15<sup>th</sup>, the Missionary Sisters, Cabrini Lay Missionaries (CLMs), and lay collaborators will be gathering in North Jersey for the Provincial Assembly. Please pray that the Holy Spirit will be present to them during the proceedings and will guide and inspire their discussions and decision making. Pray too, that everyone's travels to and from the meeting will be safe.

