

November 5, 2023

Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time



Synod Update: Round One Concludes: On October 28, the first of two month-long meetings of the Synod on Synodality concluded in Rome. The next and final gathering will be in October 2024. It is worth noting the purpose of this synod as it has had a tendency to get buried among the various hopes, dreams, and fears of various groups, especially in the west where we are so accustomed to linear thinking, goals, objectives, and expected outcomes. The topic is to examine and practice what it means for the Church to be synodal. It's more about a process than an outcome, much less a meeting to fix the problems of the Church. This is not to say that there will not be some recommendations made to the Pope at the end of October 2024. But these will be the result of having practiced being synodal which is the priority.

In Pope Francis' mind, being synodal means practicing a form of collegiality that involves the entire Body of Christ and not just the bishops. Indeed, the very makeup of the 364 voting delegates from around the world is meant to incarnate this collegiality by involving bishops, priests, a permanent deacon, women religious, lay women and lay men. This has never been done before but reflects the teaching of Vatican II wherein, by a vote of 2151 to 5 by the world's Catholic bishops, the Church made an epochal shift from seeing itself as an institution governed exclusively by papal primacy to one governed by collegiality, initially among the bishops in union with the Pope to collegiality by bishops **AND** the people of God in union with the Pope. While I don't have a crystal ball to see the future, it would not surprise me if this expansion in the collegial process becomes the new norm. In and of itself, this will be a significant advancement in the life of the Church even if this becomes the only tangible outcome of this synod. It will be very, very difficult to put this genie back in the bottle.

The document produced and agreed upon by at least 2/3 of the voting delegates, a requirement for everything that appeared in the final version of it, is understandably generic at this point. But there are some topics that will definitely be explored in greater depth over the next 11 months and brought back for deeper discussion in 2024. Some of them include: 1) that pastoral leadership by women in the Church in all areas be greatly expanded, including the possible ordination to the permanent diaconate; 2) that better structures be developed to address and remediate the ongoing global crisis of clergy sexual abuse; 3) that addressing climate change become normative within the Church; and 4) that the ongoing problem of racism, especially within the Church, be addressed. Many other topics were noted in the document but were less specific in what the delegates might recommend to the Pope for further action. This is not to say that these issues will fall off the radar. It simply indicates that the process of synodality by a global body, with far ranging concerns and understandings of issues, will require more time for an agreeable synthesis to emerge.

There will be much internal work done over the next 11 months by theologians and the delegates themselves to further refine the impulse of the Holy Spirit that was present in the October gathering. We will continue to pray the Synod Prayer each weekend as our way of participating in the process and will be looking into the creation of some small groups to reflect on the Phase One document and practice synodality ourselves. More on the latter point as things become organized. *-Fr. Michael*



SFA Snippet: Preschool Safety Parade - On Friday, first responders visited our campus and treated our preschoolers to a parade and some good advice. [Click here to watch.](#)

Mark Your Calendars - December 15 - Living Stations of the Creche, 6:30pm
Come experience the living Stations of the Creche, Friday, December 15, 2023 6:30pm to 8:30pm. Celebrating the 800th year of St. Francis' living nativity of Jesus' birth. Contact James Wahl, jim.wahl@stfrancisraleigh.org.

A click away  If you are receiving a paper copy, visit the parish website at www.stfrancisraleigh.org.

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The Franciscan School - Faith - Academics - Service

With the foundation of faith, academics and service at its core, The Franciscan School prepares confident, academically ready students who go out into the world ready for its challenges and always equipped to serve those in need! To learn more about The Franciscan School, [click here](#).

Feed the Need - Our Feed the Need ministry provides temporary meal assistance to members of our community who are facing life transitions including job loss, new baby, grief, hospitalizations, illness etc. If you (or someone you know) would benefit from meals made with love during a life transition, please [click here](#) to complete the form, or email feedtheneeds-fa@gmail.com and a ministry member will be in touch.

Stephen Ministry - The upcoming holidays can be filled with stress and anxiety. Stephen Ministers offer prayerful and emotional support by listening with their ears and hearts to your concerns. Email stephenministry@stfrancisraleigh.org or call 919-847-8205 x234 and leave a message. Contact Kathy Sales, kathy.sales@stfrancisraleigh.org.

November 5 - Curbside Care Ministry Care

Packages: Our Curbside Care Ministry provides Care packages you can keep in your car to hand out when needed. Pickup from the Stewardship Center the first full weekend each month. Donate supplies to this ministry at St. Francis serves. Contact Alyson Zwerneman, alysonzwerneman@gmail.com.

Nov 5 - Fall Parent Child Classes - Music is a fun way to connect with your child. Join us for fun, low pressure, hands on parent/child music courses for our youngest music lovers (0-5 years of age). Join us on Wednesdays for Making Music Praying Twice and/or Sing and Sign at the Community Center. [Register](#). Contact Jess Kelly, info@signsoflearning.com.

November 6 - Women's Ministry Craft Night, 6:30pm
Join the Women's Ministry for a craft/potluck event on 11/6 from 6:30-8:30pm. We'll be creating Blessing Bracelets. Make one for yourself and one to share as a gift to give to someone for whom you are grateful. Please bring a small appetizer or sweet treat to share. Cost: \$20. Contact Jess Kelly, sfawomensministry@gmail.com
[Parishioner Registration](#) / [Non-Parishioner Registration](#)



For the Lord heareth the poor, and despiseth not his prisoners. Psalm 69:33

Our faith calls us to help the poor, the immigrant, the stranger, those who hunger and thirst, and the prisoner. As it relates to the latter, it is a delicate balance when considering societal ills, an imperfect criminal justice system, as well as...

[Read more](#)

Volunteer Spotlight: [Marylou Holloway](#)

November 10-12: Fair Trade Market

Vendor Spotlight: Chimuk! Our annual Fair Trade and Alternative Gift Market is taking place again this November! This event provides an opportunity to purchase fair trade and alternative gifts from a variety of vendors that ensure fair wages and dignity for vulnerable people around the world. [Click here for more information](#). Contact JaVon Hansknecht, javon.hansknecht@stfrancisraleigh.org.

November 11-12, 18-19 - Our Lady of the Rosary Food Drive

We are seeking volunteers after each Mass on Sat. Nov 11 and Sun. Nov 12 to handout bags for the Our Lady of Rosary (OLR) food drive, and on the weekend of Sat. November 18 and Sun. November 19 to collect donation bags with the OLR food donation. [Register](#). Contact tessferrer89@yahoo.com

November 10 - Calling all Veterans! We proudly celebrate all those who have served or are currently serving our country - Friday during Morning Prayer, at 8:05am in the school courtyard, reception to follow in Jacoba. **New this year**, we are looking for 30-35 veterans to speak from 9:00-9:55 am to two different classes. [Please click here to sign up](#). In the comment section, please put the grade, or specific classroom you would be comfortable speaking. Contact grace.gates@stfrancisraleigh.org.

Nov 11- Habitat for Humanity - Catholic Coalition Day 1 Build, 8:10am. Day 1 Wall Build! Join us and other parishes in our diocese in building walls at the H4H warehouse. We will bless the walls and deliver them to the construction site. Come swing a hammer and help build a house for a family in need. [Register here](#). Contact Will Connelly, willbconnelly@gmail.com.

November 11 - Veterans Appreciation Breakfast, 9:00am

St. Francis' Knights of Columbus is hosting a breakfast at St. Luke the Evangelist Parish for all Veterans and their family members to recognize them for their service. The program will include a guest speaker from the US Military. There is no charge for this event. [Click here](#) to respond by November 6. Contact Mike Wrzesien, wrzesien1963@gmail.com.

November 12 - Always God's Children, 3:00pm

A confidential setting for those who identify as LGBTQ+, along with family and friends. This gathering provides a safe place to pray together, share our experiences, and talk over our concerns. Contact Kathy Sales, kathy.sales@stfrancisraleigh.org.

November 15 - Young Adult Ministry Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner and Discussion

Come join other young adults on November 15th, 6-8pm, for our Thanksgiving potluck dinner; where we will enjoy wonderful food and great company! We will examine prayers and expressions of Thanksgiving from our faith as well as other cultures. Please sign up for a dish by [clicking here!](#) Contact Brian.Herhold@gmail.com

Nov 14-21: Season 2 of "THE CHOSEN"

at St. Francis of Assisi Every Tuesday 9:45am in the Padua Rm. Angel Studios-THE CHOSEN is the first ever multi-season series about the life of Christ. Contact Tina Morgan, tandmmorgan@earthlink.net.

Through Dec 12: DivorceCare Fall Series, 6:00pm. Don't go through the pain of separation or divorce alone. Join the DivorceCare group where you'll find caring people who understand and provide practical counsel. [Register here](#). Meets online weekly for group discussion and topical videos with experts. Contact Bill Morgan, dejanuts@yahoo.com

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Convocation 2023 Highlights



Thank you to all who attended this year's Convocation. A special thank you to Sister Ilia Delio for an outstanding keynote presentation. And, thank you to our presenters, staff, and volunteers.

Employment Opportunities: Coordinator of Justice and Peace, Director of Formation, Coordinator of Middle School Formation, Director of Pastoral Care, Coordinator of Liturgy and Sacraments. See our website: <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/jobs/> Contact Trish Adamkowski, trish.adamkowski@stfrancisraleigh.org