



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

October 5, 2023

Synod begins work with focus on Holy Spirit and listening



Pope Francis opened the work of the assembly of the Synod of Bishops asking members to meditate on ancient theological texts about the Holy Spirit, have the courage to be honest about their disagreements and focus much more on listening than on sharing their opinions.

The synodal process “is not easy, but it’s beautiful, very beautiful,” Pope Francis told some 364 other synod members and 85 non-voting experts,

ecumenical delegates and facilitators the afternoon of Oct. 4 as the synod work began in the Vatican audience hall.

“A certain asceticism” is needed for the synod, the pope said. He asked forgiveness from journalists trying to cover the monthlong meeting but insisted “a certain fasting from public words” would be needed to ensure the proper spiritual atmosphere for the synod members.

[Read the Full Story from Catholic News Service](#)

Pope, In Document On Climate Crisis, Criticizes Science ‘Deniers’



After warning the world against ignoring the cries of the earth and the poor with his 2015 encyclical, “Laudato Si’, On Care for Our Common Home,” Pope Francis intensified his critique with “Laudate Deum” (“Praise God”), warning against the selfish obsession with human power and the “irresponsible derision” of the reality of climate change.

“When human beings claim to take God’s place, they become their own worst enemies,” he said, explaining the title of the document released at the Vatican Oct. 4, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of ecology.

The new document, addressed “to all people of good will on the climate crisis,” is a follow-up to “clarify and complete” his 2015 encyclical because, he wrote, over the past eight years, “our responses have not been adequate, while the world in which we live is collapsing and may be nearing the breaking point.”

The bulk of the 15-page “apostolic exhortation” is dedicated to a severe rebuke of the “resistance and confusion” regarding the global climate crisis and its link to human activity as well as of the growing “technocratic paradigm underlying the current process of environmental decay.”

[Read the Full Story from Catholic News Service](#)

More than 700 participate in Eucharistic Procession through streets of Hazleton



More than 700 people participated in a Eucharistic Procession throughout the streets of South Hazleton on Sunday, Oct. 1, 2023.

The procession immediately followed a bilingual Mass held at Saint Gabriel Church, the primary worship site of Annunciation Parish, which began at 11 a.m.

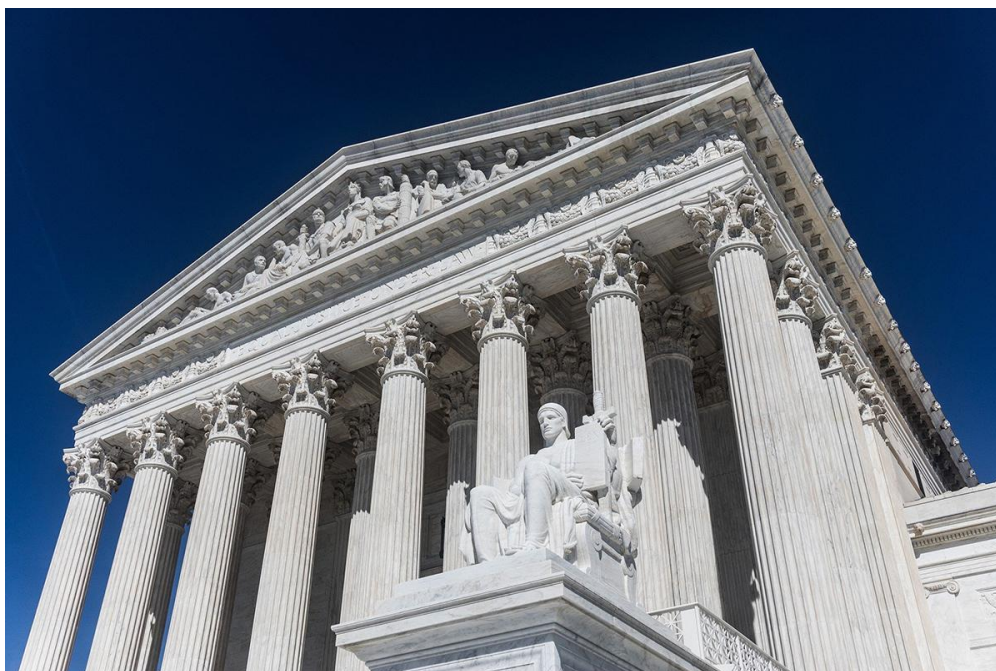
The procession weaved its way through several small side-streets of the Mountain City before ending with Solemn Benediction back on the steps of the historic Hazleton church.

The procession was held as the Catholic Church in the United States has entered its second phase of the U.S. Bishops' National Eucharistic Revival, a three-year initiative by the prelates to inspire belief in the Eucharist following a 2019 Pew Research study that suggested only about one-third of U.S. Catholics believe the Church's teaching that the Eucharist is truly the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.

The second phase of the revival, the Year of Parish Revival, is meant to foster Eucharistic devotion at the parish level.

Look for more coverage of the Hazleton procession in the October 12th edition of *The Catholic Light*.

Supreme Court's Docket This Term Could Address Social Media, Abortion And Guns



The Supreme Court's new term began Oct. 2, and on its docket will be legal challenges concerning both the First and Second Amendments, as well as potentially other related major cases.

Texas and Florida both have passed laws designed to combat what they alleged were social media companies' content policies that disproportionately restricted conservatives through what critics called censoring, shadow-banning or de-platforming. Those laws are currently blocked from enforcement while the court considers the matter.

Among controversies over such allegations includes an effort by social media companies to reduce the spread of inaccurate information about the COVID-19 pandemic or COVID-19 vaccines.

[Read the Full Story from Our Sunday Visitor](#)

**Red Mass to be celebrated at Cathedral of
Saint Peter on Oct. 6**



The Diocese of Scranton's annual Red Mass will be celebrated on Friday, Oct. 6, at 12:10 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will be the principal celebrant and homilist.

Historically, the Red Mass is attended by judges, lawyers and legislators for the purpose of invoking God's blessing and guidance in the administration of justice. Its traditional name is derived from the color of vestments worn by the celebrants of the Mass, symbolizing the tongues of fire, which indicate the presence of the Holy Spirit. Moreover, the robes of the attending royal judges were, in ancient days, bright scarlet.

The public is invited to the Red Mass to pray for those in the legal profession. Members of the county bar associations from across the 11-county Diocese and the Diocesan Tribunal staff are also invited to participate.

[Click Here for More Information on How to Watch the Red Mass on Oct.](#)

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Bishop Joseph C. Bambera announces clergy appointments



On Sept. 29, 2023, the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, announced several clergy appointments that will take effect at varying times throughout the month of October.

[Click Here for More on the Clergy Appointments Announced on Sept. 29, 2023](#)

Creating Cardinals From 16 Nations, Pope Asks Them To Join Church ‘Symphony’



Coming from different parts of the world and having different experiences and talents, members of the College of Cardinals are called to create a “symphony,” listening to one another and to the Holy Spirit, Pope Francis said.

Creating 21 new cardinals from 16 nations Sept. 30, the pope used the biblical story of Pentecost to remind the prelates of the roots of their faith, and he invoked the image of a symphony to emphasize their call to be both faithful and creative.

On a warm autumn morning, with shrubs and flowers decorating the steps of St. Peter’s Basilica, Pope Francis held his ninth consistory to create new cardinals. The Vatican said 12,000 people attended the ceremony.

Cardinal Robert F. Prevost, the 68-year-old Chicago-born prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops, was the only U.S. prelate to receive his red hat at the consistory. He was joined by French Cardinal Christophe Pierre, the 77-year-old nuncio to the United States.

[Read the Full Story from Catholic News Service](#)

Your support of the 2023 Diocesan Annual Appeal helps to support the work of Catholic Social Services



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Your gift to the
Diocesan Annual Appeal
helped Catholic Social Services
food pantries serve 25,402
households/individuals last year

Your financial gift to the 2023 Diocesan Annual Appeal helps ensure that vital assistance to thousands of individuals and families facing poverty and hardship each year is able to continue.

Your gifts allow us to provide essential items like food, clothing and shelter to many of our brothers and sisters who are also working full-time but because of economic conditions are having trouble making ends meet.

Catholic Social Services also assists veterans at Saint Francis Commons in Scranton and Saint Hedwig's Veterans Village in Kingston and operates pregnancy and maternal health programming as well as children and youth programs.

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Diocese of Scranton
300 Wyoming Avenue,
Scranton, PA 18503-1279
(570) 207-2238
www.dioceseofscranton.org