



28th Sunday Ordinary Time — 13 October 2024

LGBTQ ISSUES SURFACE INSIDE AND OUTSIDE VATICAN SYNOD



An African bishop took to the microphone to make the case for greater pastoral accompaniment of polygamous couples. A day later, a priest took to the floor, giving an almost identical version of the prelate's remarks, but replacing the word polygamy with

LGBTQ. These were just two scenes from the opening days of Pope Francis' final Rome gathering of his yearslong synod on synodality project that officially comes to a conclusion here this month. Several members confirmed these anecdotes but asked for anonymity. Delegates are officially barred from discussing specifics of the conversations that took place inside the Vatican's synod hall. The members told the National Catholic Reporter that hot-button issues are being discussed both inside the room and on the sidelines, though the pope has directed that some of the synod's most contentious issues be sent to study groups for further studies. Among the issues are the role of women's ministries and LGBTQ inclusion in the church. The Vatican's doctrine chief told synod delegates on Oct. 2 that the time is not ripe to pursue women deacons. But at a Vatican press conference on Oct. 9, Deacon Geert De Cubber of Belgium told reporters that the issue is still being discussed inside the assembly. After spending a month together last year discussing the future of the Catholic Church, some 400 synod delegates have returned to the Eternal City. To a person, the assembly members I've interviewed attest to the fact that there's a deeper sense of trust this year among the body and participants are more at ease with the process and people that have been entrusted with steering the synod forward. While hopes are high that the synod will produce concrete results, organizers are emphasizing that the major focus of the month is to deepen the practice of synodality. The issues before them, they say, are to create better structures for the church to become more inclusive and better capable of listening to all its members. Perhaps that's why – at least according to two accounts – there was a greater sense of convergence when two delegates from two different cultures relied on the same logic to make the case for something the other might find objectionable. The African bishop argued that while polygamous relationships may not live up to the Gospel ideal, there is still a need to accompany people in such relationships and include them in the life of the church. Another synod delegate made the same argument on behalf of LGBTQ people. Even if questions about LGBTQ Catholics have been officially moved off the synod agenda, some delegates are still using the synod's convening power to consider how the church might be more welcoming. A five-minute walk from the synod hall, inside the Jesuit's global headquarters, more than 70 synod delegates, Vatican officials and other church leaders gathered on Oct. 8 for a dialogue on LGBTQ inclusion in the church. The event, which was organized by the Jesuit ministry Outreach, was closed to the press, but according to an article on its website, it included five testimonials from gay, lesbian and bisexual Catholics from Africa, Europe and Latin America. Multiple reports from attendees and panelists emphasized that the realities of LGBTQ

Catholics are not simply a niche Western issue, but a concern for the universal church. One African panelist reportedly praised Francis' own support for decriminalization of homosexuality, while expressing dismay that Catholic bishops on the continent are not following suit. (Full Article [here](#))

Courtesy Christopher White NCR

Remembered this Weekend

We remember all belong to us who have died.



Three Parish Bible Group

Would you like to meet in a small group maybe once a week to read the Sunday mass readings and reflect, share and pray with them? It could be a great way to deepen your faith and meet others who worship in the Liberties. If you would like to know more, please email Father Colin at fathercolinrothery@gmail.com or call 01-4426296



Films, Photos and more

Friends of Iveagh Markets in association with StayCity are holding a series of short film screenings, photo exhibits and a walk and talk around Iveagh Markets as part of OpenHouseDublin2024 on 19th October. Drop in any time between 12noon and 5pm. More: [Here](#).



St. Bernadette Relics

In October, the relics of St Bernadette will visit two more churches in Dublin: Mary Immaculate, Inchicore, October 23-24; and Adam & Eve's, Merchants Quay, October 25-26. For more information, visit www.stbernadette.ie

28TH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

Penitential Rite

Our God, is a God of respect and trust.
As we begin our celebration let us trust in him.

From of old, you have loved us Lord have mercy

From of old, you have trusted us. Christ have mercy

From of old, you have respected us. Lord have mercy

May the God of respect and trust, forgive us our sin and bring us to life everlasting. Amen

Wisdom 7:7-11

I prayed, and understanding was given me; I entreated, and the spirit of Wisdom came to me. I esteemed her more than sceptres and thrones; compared with her, I held riches as nothing. I reckoned no priceless stone to be her peer, for compared with her, all gold is a pinch of sand, and beside her silver ranks as mud. I loved her more than health or beauty, preferred her to the light, since her radiance never sleeps. In her company all good things came to me, at her hands riches not to be numbered.

Hebrews 4:12-13

The word of God is something alive and active: it cuts like any double-edged sword but more finely: it can slip through the place where the soul is divided from the spirit, or joints from the marrow; it can judge the secret emotions and thoughts. No created thing can hide from him; everything is uncovered and open to the eyes of the one to whom we must give account of ourselves.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
How happy are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Alleluia

Mark 10:17-27

Jesus was setting out on a journey when a man ran up, knelt before him and put this question to him, 'Good master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: You must not kill; You must not commit adultery; You must not steal; You must not bring false witness; You must not defraud; Honour your father and mother.' And he said to him, 'Master, I have kept all these from my earliest days.' Jesus looked steadily at him and loved him, and he said, 'There is one thing you lack. Go and sell everything you own and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.' But his face fell at these words and he went away sad, for he was a man of great wealth. Jesus looked round and said to his disciples, 'How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!' The disciples were astounded

by these words, but Jesus insisted, 'My children,' he said to them, 'how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.' They were more astonished than ever. 'In that case' they said to one another 'who can be saved?' Jesus gazed at them. 'For men' he said 'it is impossible, but not for God: because everything is possible for God.'

Prayer of the Faithful

God our Father and Mother, your love gathers us together as one people. We thank you. Lord hear us

Through the gift of your Spirit grant us the wisdom to know what is truly important in our lives. Lord hear us

Lord, help us not to get trapped in our work lives and not to become overly attached to money and goods. Lord hear us

We remember, all who have died, and especially those around the world who are losing their lives to violence, hunger and war. Lord hear us

Help us Lord, as a community, to be inclusive, compassionate and creative. Lord hear us

In silence, we call to mind all who need our prayer and support.....Lord hear us



Reflection

When the rhythm of the heart becomes hectic, time takes on the strain until it breaks; then all the unattended stress falls in on the mind like an endless, increasing weight. The light in the mind becomes dim. Things you could take in your stride before now become laboursome events of will. Weariness invades your spirit. Gravity begins falling inside you, dragging down every bone. The tide you never valued has gone out. and you are marooned on unsure ground. Something within you has closed down; and you cannot push yourself back to life. You have been forced to enter empty time. The desire that drove you has relinquished. There is nothing else to do now but rest and patiently learn to receive the self you have forsaken in the race of days. At first your thinking will darken and sadness take over like listless weather. The flow of unwept tears will frighten you. You have travelled too fast over false ground; now your soul has come to take you back. Take refuge in your senses, open up to all the small miracles you rushed through. Become inclined to watch the way of rain when it falls slow and free. Imitate the habit of twilight, taking time to open the well of colour that fostered the brightness of day. Draw alongside the silence of stone until its calmness can claim you. Be excessively gentle with yourself. Stay clear of those vexed in spirit. Learn to linger around someone of ease who feels they have all the time in the world. Gradually, you will return to yourself, having learned a new respect for your heart and the joy that dwells far within slow time.

John O'Donohue