

TODAY'S READINGS

What God has joined together, no human being must separate. (Mark 10:9)

Today's readings could not be more appropriate! This morning, Pope Francis will open the Synod on the Family. For the next three weeks, he will meet with bishops from around the world to talk about the joys and the challenges of family life today. Together, they will ask how the Church can best serve and reach out to all families, no matter their situation. So how encouraging that we hear about God's power to take two married people and make them into "one body" (Genesis 2:24)!

Yet the Gospel reading brings a note of sadness and challenge since it focuses on divorce and remarriage. Jesus' words can sound harsh, especially if we have been through a divorce or if a loved one is part of a wounded or broken marriage.

Think about the pain that divorced couples feel. A relationship that began with high hopes has devolved into rejection and pain. What once was "one body" has been torn apart (Genesis 2:24). Does Jesus really sit in condemnation? No. He doesn't dwell on what went wrong in the past. He wants to meet us where we are and offer us healing and restoration.

If you are divorced, know that Jesus loves you deeply. Think about his encounter with the woman at the well (John 4:4-42). He didn't condemn her, even though she had been married five times and was living with a man who was not her husband. Instead, he brought her to repentance, healed her, and sent her home to proclaim the good news.

Our Father wants to mend the wounds that happen in every relationship. He wants to reconcile us, transform us, and use us to proclaim his kingdom. So let's pray for the synod, that the Spirit will help the bishops find just the right way to announce this healing, transforming power of God for every family!

"Jesus, continue to guide your Church. Pour your grace on every family. Let your love flow through us so that we can be your witnesses."

Taken from *The Word Among Us*, October 2015, Vol. 34, Number 9: Used with permission.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Sunday 4	Gn 2:18-24 / Heb 2:9-11 / Mk 10:2-16
Monday 5	Jon 1:1-2—2:2,11 / Lk 10:25-37
<i>Bl. Francis Xavier Seelos</i>	
Tuesday 6	Jon 3:1-10 / Lk 10:38-42
<i>St. Bruno, Bl. Marie-Rose Durocher</i>	
Wednesday 7	Jon 4:1-11 / Lk 11:1-4
<i>Our Lady of the Rosary</i>	
Thursday 8	Mal 3:13-20 / Lk 11:5-13
Friday 9	Jl 1:13-15; 2:1-2 / Lk 11:15-26
<i>St. Denis and his companions, St. John Leonardi</i>	
Saturday 10	Jl 4:12-21 / Lk 11:27-28
Sunday 11	Wis 7:7-11 / Heb 4:12-13 / Mk 10:17-30

WELCOME!

Visitors to the Cathedral, we want you to know how welcome you are—whether you have come from another part of the country, from across the world, or from another parish here in the Archdiocese or across the river. Thank you for praying with us. Thank you also for your generosity, which helps us to celebrate our liturgies in a fitting and beautiful way, and to offer a wide range of services to needy people in the Washington, DC area. Enjoy your visit!

PARISH CALENDAR

October 4 - 11

Sunday 4—A second collection for Cathedral maintenance is taken at all Masses.

The 8:30am Mass is cancelled. Cardinal Wuerl celebrates the Red Mass at 10am in English.

Padre Rafael tendrá las confesiones después de la misa de 1 de la tarde.

Monday 5—The Parish Council meets at 6:45pm in the East Conference Room.

Tuesday 6—Fr. Jacek Orzechowski, OFM gives a reflection on "Laudato, Si" at 7pm in the North Conference Room.

Legión de María se reúne a las 5:30 de la tarde hasta las 7 en el salón del Oeste.

El grupo de Oración se reúne a las 7 de la tarde en el salón de conferencias del Oeste.

Saturday 10—The Sacred Scripture course ([pre-registration required](#)) with Fr. Jack Hurley meets at 10am in the East Conference Room.

The Paderborn Cathedral Choir (Dommusik Paderborn, Paderborn, Germany) sings at the 5:30pm Vigil Mass and gives a brief concert after Mass.

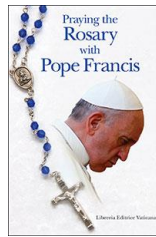
Sunday 11—The Little Sisters of the Poor accept donations after all Masses.

The 175th Anniversary Multicultural celebrations are held in the North Conference Room after the 8:30am, 10am, 11:30am & 1pm Masses.

Las clases de Catequesis, Catecumenado y Catequesis Familiar comienzan a las 11:00 de la mañana.

NEWS & NOTES

“Mary’s gaze! How important this is! How many things can we say with a look! . . . Often a look says more than words; it says what words do not or dare not say . . . She looks at us as a Mother, with tenderness, mercy and love. That was how she gazed at her Son Jesus at all the moments of his life – joyful, luminous, sorrowful, glorious – as we contemplate in the mysteries of the Holy Rosary, simply and lovingly.” (Pope Francis, October 12, 2013)



“Mary’s gaze!” – Pray the Holy Rosary in October – October is dedicated to the [Holy Rosary](#), with the Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary celebrated on Wednesday, **October 7**. Pope Francis tells us that we are to contemplate the mysteries of the Holy Rosary “simply and lovingly,” gazing at Jesus as Mary did “at all the moments of his life.” Need an aid? Consider the booklet of meditations on the 20 mysteries of the Rosary, [“Praying the Rosary with Pope Francis.”](#)

Little Sisters of the Poor – The Little Sisters of the Poor will be at St. Matthew’s next weekend, **October 10-11**, to request our assistance with their mission of caring for the elderly poor. The sisters will be at the doors of the Cathedral after each Mass to accept voluntary gifts of support. Please be generous. Thank you for your kindness to them.

October 12, the Cathedral will open at 7:30am and close at 1pm. Masses will be celebrated at 8am and 12:10pm, and there will be no confessions. The parish offices will be closed.

Columbus Day – On Columbus Day, Monday,

FAITH IN ACTION

Adult English as a Second Language Classes

When? **September 29 to December 17** (10 weeks) Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30pm

Where? St. Matthew’s Education Center, 1726 N Street, NW

How much? \$40

Students may register in person on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings until October 15, between 6 and 8pm at St. Matthew’s Education Center. Language instruction is provided at Level 1 (Beginner) through Level 5 (Advanced). For more information, visit

<http://www.stmatthewscathedral.org/outreach/clases-de-ingles-english-language-classes> or contact Peter Bihl at stmattsssl@gmail.com.

Fall Semester of Spanish as a Second Language for Adults – The 10-week fall semester runs from **September 29 to December 17**. Classes are held Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings, 6:30-8:30pm. Language instruction is provided at Level 1 to Level 3. Students registering for Level 2 and Level 3 instruction must have the prior approval of the Level 2 lead instructor and priority registration. Priority registration is given to St. Matthew’s parishioners and those currently involved in a ministry. Students may register in person on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings between 6 and 8pm at St. Matthew’s Education Center, 1726 N Street, NW. The cost is \$80. Contact: Peter Bihl at stmattsssl@gmail.com

MASS INTENTIONS

October 4 – 11

Sunday, October 4

5:30pm (October 3 Vigil) – Moises Lopez
7am – Dynesti Lazina Maraj
10am – All Parishioners
11:30am – Richard S. Schweiker
1pm – Francisco De León
5:30pm – Teresa Cruz

Monday, October 5

7am – Mantiang & Family
8am – Juanario Reyes
12:10pm – Micheline NG Chay Hing
5:30pm – Chuck Burgess

Tuesday, October 6

7am – Faustin Dessources
8am – Francisco De León
12:10pm – Thanksgiving
5:30pm – Alfonso Araque

Wednesday, October 7

7am – Anne Marie Darmedy Coakley
8am – Tere & Hilario Cundin
12:10pm – Trevlyn Cubitt (living)
5:30pm – Ernst Dessources

Thursday, October 8

7am – Andrés Maciel, Jr.
8am – Carl Dessources
12:10pm – Matthew Gallen
5:30pm – Rose Dessources

Friday, October 9

7am – Spiro Mouflouze
8am – Bill Coleman
12:10pm – Conrad Sabelino
5:30pm – Special Intention JA & V (living)

Saturday, October 10

8am – Tracy Marshall
12:10pm – The Lange Family (living)
5:30pm – Max Hayden

Sunday, October 11

7am – Ellma A. Rios
8:30am – Lucina P. Frere
10am – Ephrem O’Brien Day
11:30am – All Parishioners
1pm – Fausto & Ricardina Rios
5:30pm – Bessie Guzman (living)

FAITH FORMATION

For more information or to follow up on items below, contact Theresa Prymuszewski, Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation, at 202-587-5139 or tprymuszewski@stmatthewscathedral.org.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) Call for Team Members and Interested Seekers –

Would you like to learn more about your faith by sharing it with others? Would you like to be part of a team of other Catholics who help others in learn more about the Catholic faith as a sponsor, sponsor coordinator, Wednesday evening presenter, or hospitality coordinator? Join our RCIA team!

RCIA – is an ongoing process for adults who would like to explore our Catholic faith. Newcomers are always welcome! RCIA meets on Wednesdays, 7–9pm, in the North Conference Room.

Sunday Children's Faith Formation – Will not meet Sunday, October 4, Sessions reconvene on Sunday, **October 11**. See you then. Registrations still accepted.

Spiritual Direction – St. Matthew's provides and refers interested persons to qualified spiritual directors.

Fall Small Faith-Sharing Groups – Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home – Pope Francis' new encyclical gets its title from the phrase, "Laudato Si', mi Signore," meaning "Praised be to you, my Lord" from St. Francis' of Assisi's Canticle of the Creatures. Do you want to learn more about Pope Francis' vision for the Church and how we can take care of our common home? Would you like to discuss "Laudato Si'" with other Catholics? Join one of our upcoming small faith-sharing groups! We will read and reflect on "Laudato Si'" over six weeks starting the second week of October. These peer-led, small group discussions will allow you to connect more deeply with your faith, reinvigorate your spirit, and enliven your experiences in daily life. Contact Tricia Schmitt at Tricia.Schmittdc@gmail.com for more information.

Pope Francis' Encyclical Letter, **Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home**, is available online. Search by the title or [click here to read Laudato Si' \(en español\)](#).

Fall Small Group Leaders – Are you interested in co-leading a small faith-sharing group this fall? We will read and discuss the Papal encyclical Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home (see above). "Laudato Si', mi' Signore" – "Praise be to you, my Lord" – reminds us

that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us. If you are interested in serving as a small group leader this fall, please call Tricia Schmitt at Tricia.schmittdc@gmail.com.

Grupo Pequeño de Líderes en el Otoño – ¿Estaría interesado en dirigir un grupo pequeño de fe compartida este otoño? Leeremos y discutiremos la Encíclica Papal "Laudato Si', en el cuidado de nuestra casa en común. "Laudato Si', mi' Signore" – "Gracias a ti, mi Señor" – nos recuerda que nuestra casa es como una hermana con quien compartimos nuestra vida y una madre maravillosa que abre sus brazos para abrazarnos. Necesitamos su ayuda para formar pequeños grupos de fe, compartida. Puede ponerse en contacto con: tricia.schmittdec@gmail.com si está interesada en servir como líder de un grupo pequeño este otoño.

Register Now for Faith Foundations Six-Session Sacred Scripture Course (above) – The Archdiocese of Washington's Faith Foundations course on Sacred Scripture will be taught at St. Matthew's by our own Fr. Jack Hurley. The first session will be given on Saturday, **October 10**. Register with Theresa Prymuszewski at tprymuszewski@stmatthewscathedral.org.

AROUND THE ARCHDIOESE

Northwest Center's 29th Annual Indian Summer Ball – Join the Northwest Center on Saturday, **October 17**, 8pm to Midnight at the Organization of American States in DC for dinner, open bar, live music and dancing. All proceeds directly benefit the pregnancy center and maternity home. Contact Sheena Byrne at sheena@northwestcenter.net or 202-483-2857 or visit www.northwestcenter.net/events for ticket and sponsorship information.

LECTURAS DE HOY

Lo que Dios unió, que no lo separe el hombre. (Marcos 10, 9)
 A veces estas palabras son demasiado duras, especialmente para quienes han pasado por un divorcio o un matrimonio fracasado. Decimos que Jesús sabe lo que dice y que Dios tiene poder para sanar hasta a los matrimonios peor avenidos; pero también es cierto que algunos divorcios se producen por abuso físico o psicológico, infidelidad persistente u otra causa grave.

Es difícil tratar de imaginarse el dolor que experimentan los matrimonios que se divorcian. Aquello hermoso que una vez comenzó con ideales elevados y gozosos y con las mejores intenciones, ha degenerado en rechazo, desconfianza, aislamiento y desamor, al punto de dejar profundas heridas en toda la familia. ¿Cómo puede Jesús condenar a personas como éstas? La respuesta es que no las condena. Dios no envió a su Hijo a condenar al mundo, sino a salvarlo (Juan 3, 17) y en realidad el Señor desea encontrarnos dondequiera nos hallemos en la vida y nos ofrece su poder sanador y restaurador.

Si estás divorciado o divorciada, has de saber que Jesús te ama siempre y comparte tu dolor y tu sufrimiento. Acuérdate del encuentro que tuvo con la mujer junto al pozo (Juan 4, 1-42). No la condenó, aunque después de haber estado casada cinco veces, vivía con un hombre sin casarse. Más bien, la llevó al arrepentimiento y le ofreció curarle sus heridas con el agua viva de su amor.

Así pues, sea que alguien esté casado, separado o divorciado, es preciso que sepa que Dios lo ama, que nunca lo condena ni lo rechaza; por el contrario, lo que el Señor desea hacer es curarle las heridas. Cualquiera sea la situación en que te encuentres tú, querido lector, el Señor puede transformarte con el tiempo e incluso usarte para proclamar su Reino.

“Jesús, Señor mío, ayúdame a trabajar por la unidad en el matrimonio. Derrama tu gracia sobre todas las familias que han sufrido por causa del divorcio. Cura sus heridas, alivia el sufrimiento y devuélveles la esperanza.”

Escogida con el permiso de la Palabra Entre Nosotros. Vol 34, Numero 9; octubre 2015.

LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA

Domingo 4	Gén 2:18-24 / Heb 2:9-11 / Mc 10:2-16
Lunes 5	Jon 1:1-2—2:2,11 / Lc 10:25-37
<i>Beato Francis Xavier Seelos</i>	
Martes 6	Jon 3:1-10 / Lc 10:38-42
<i>San Bruno, Beata María Rosa Durocher</i>	
Miércoles 7	Jon 4:1-11 / Lc 11:1-4
<i>Nuestra Señora la Virgen del Rosario</i>	
Jueves 8	Mal 3:13-20 / Lc 11:5-13
Viernes 9	Jl 1:13-15; 2:1-2 / Lc 11:15-26
<i>San Dionicio y compañeros y San Juan Leonardi</i>	
Sábado 10	Jl 4:12-21 / Lc 11:27-28
Domingo 11	Sab 7:7-11 / Heb 4:12-13 / Mc 10:17-30

NOTICIAS DE LA PARROQUIA

Clases de inglés como segundo idioma para adultos

¿Cuándo? 29 de septiembre a 17 de diciembre, 2015 (diez semanas)
 Los martes, miércoles y jueves de 6:30 a 8:30 de la noche

¿Dónde? St. Matthew's Education Center (Centro de Educación de San Mateo), 1726 N Street, NW

¿Cuánto? \$40

Los estudiantes pueden matricularse en persona, los martes, miércoles o jueves en la tarde entre las 6:00 y las 8:00 de la noche, en el St. Matthew's Education Center. Las clases de inglés serán impartidas desde el Nivel 1 (principiante) hasta el Nivel 5 (avanzado). Para más información, por favor visite <http://www.stmatthewscathedral.org/outreach/clases-de-ingles-english-language-classes> o póngase en contacto con Peter Bihl al stmattsesl@gmail.com.



Las Hermanas de los

Pobres nos Visitan –

Las hermanas de los pobres, visitarán la Catedral este fin de semana, **10-11 de**

octubre para aceptar

donaciones después de todas las misas en las puertas de la Catedral. Agradecerán cualquier ayuda que puedan ofrecerles a ellas.

Próximamente – El lunes **12 de octubre**, es el Día de Cristóbal Colón. La Catedral abrirá a las 7:30 de la mañana y cerrará a la 1:00 de la tarde. Las misas serán a las 8:00 y 12:10 del mediodía. No habrá confesiones ese día. La rectoría estará cerrada.

Día de Retiro y Servicio de Sanación en

Español – *“El progreso de la vida espiritual: como saber si estás avanzando o retrocediendo - en la espiritualidad de San Juan de la Cruz y Sta. Teresa de Avila”*. El retiro será dirigido por el Padre Felipe Scott y tendrá lugar el **7 de noviembre** en el gimnasio del colegio Mother of God en Gaithersburg, Maryland. Donación \$25. Para mayor información, llamar a Vicky al 301-926-7014 o al vhshneider1@aol.com.

175th PARISH ANNIVERSARY



Call for Cathedral Parish Life Photos – Do you have photos of your parents' or grandparents' wedding at St. Matthew's? Photos of baptisms? Or of your family standing in front of the altar at Easter? The 175th Anniversary Publications Committee seeks historic photos of events at St. Matthew's for potential use in our anniversary documents. Please submit photos with the date and description of the event to Dan Evans at 175thanniversary@stmatthewscathedral.org or contact Dan at 202-587-5138. We can assist with scanning and copying your originals. All submissions will become part of the Cathedral Archives.



Memories Wanted! – Your help is needed to mark the 175th Anniversary of the Parish of St. Matthew the Apostle, now the Cathedral Parish, and since 1939, the seat of the Archdiocese of Washington. **You are invited to share stories and memories of how your Catholic faith has shaped your life, your faith and your family.**

Maybe you have a story of how your Catholic education has made a

difference to your future, how you drew closer to your faith because of your Cathedral involvement, or how Catholic Charities or a Cathedral program or ministry offered you help, hope, or the chance to serve others when you needed it. Share your favorite memories of parish festivals, volunteering, liturgies, social justice events, Christmas Masses and Easter mornings.

The anniversary celebration of our parish is best marked by the inspirations, gratitude, joy, and power of faith. Your stories and those of your ancestors reflect how St. Matthew's has shared the joy of the Gospel in downtown Washington, DC for 175 years. **Check the website front page for a link to the featured and archived stories!**

Please email stories, in **250 words or less**, to reply@stmatthewscathedral.org, or mail them to Msgr. W. Ronald Jameson at Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle, 1725 Rhode Island Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20036-3001, with "Anniversary Story" in the email heading or on the envelope.

MILESTONES IN CATHEDRAL HISTORY

1926 – The Chapel of the Sacred Heart (now the Blessed Sacrament Chapel) is dedicated. The pendentive mosaics of the Four Evangelists are put in place.

MARRIAGE

Couples who are interested in celebrating the Sacrament of Marriage at the Cathedral are encouraged to visit the parish website to review our guidelines for weddings. The next step is to call the Rectory at 202-347-3215 and ask for the priest of your choice or the priest on duty, who can speak to you about marriage preparation and the possibility of scheduling your

wedding at the Cathedral. Couples are expected to contact us **at least nine (9) months in advance** of the date on which they hope to celebrate their wedding.

BAPTISM

Parents who wish to have their child baptized at the Cathedral should contact the Baptismal Coordinator at 202-347-3215 X555 or baptism@stmatthewscathedral.org. Parents are encouraged to contact us **at least six (6) months in advance** of a desired baptismal date, and may ask for the priest of their choice to perform the Baptism. Early contact allows parents to be scheduled for the necessary sacramental formation session and godparents to obtain letters from their pastor.

If you are a registered parishioner at St. Matthew's and need a letter of good standing in order to be a godparent for a baptism to be celebrated at another parish, please call the Cathedral rectory at 202-347-3215 to ask about obtaining a letter.

CATHEDRAL GIFTS

St. Matthew's is pleased to offer a 48-page souvenir book on our beautiful Cathedral church featuring its history, art and architecture with photographs by local photographer, Neil Greentree. Also available are sets of note cards picturing the art of the Cathedral, boxed sets of Christmas cards featuring St. Matthew's Crèche, Christmas ornaments and CD recordings of the Schola Cantorum. Items may be purchased in the Rectory or by contacting us at gharrington@stmatthewscathedral.org or 202-347-3215 x517. Visa, MasterCard, and Discover are accepted.

POPE FRANCIS:

A Troubadour of Hope On The Path of Ecological Conversion

A focused conversation on the Encyclical Letter *Laudato Si'* with Fr. Jacek Orzechowski, OFM



WHEN:

Tuesday, OCTOBER 6 at 7:00pm

WHERE:

ST. MATTHEW'S CATHEDRAL
1725 Rhode Island Avenue, NW
North Conference Room
(entrance near the parking garage)
Two blocks north of the Farragut North Metro station, four blocks north of the Farragut West Metro station

"I urgently appeal, then, for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet. We need a conversation which includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all."

– POPE FRANCIS



FR. JACEK ORZECZOWSKI, OFM was born and grew up in Poland. After immigrating to the United States in 1988, he joined the Franciscan Friars of Holy Name Province and obtained a Master of Divinity degree from Washington Theological Union. For the past seven years, he has been ministering at the St. Camillus multicultural parish in Silver Spring, MD. He also serves as chair of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Directorate of Holy Name Province and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Franciscan Action Network. Fr. Jacek credits his fellow countryman, Saint John Paul II, with inspiring him as a young man to be actively involved in the struggle for human dignity, justice for immigrants, peace, and care for creation.



This event is open to the public and free of charge.
A suggested donation of \$15 would be welcomed and much appreciated.

Sponsored by the Faith Formation and Social Justice Committees of the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle.

Multicultural Celebration

Celebrating St. Matthew's many cultures

Join Us!

For a day of celebration with
traditional food, dress, music and dance

Sunday, October 11th, 2015

9:30am to 3:30pm

Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle



Celebración Multicultural

Celebrando las diversas culturas

de San Mateo

¡Únase a nosotros!

Por un día de celebración con comida
típica, trajes tradicionales, música y baile

Domingo 11 de octubre de 2015

9:30 de la mañana a 3:30 de la tarde

Catedral de San Mateo Apóstol



Monsignor W. Ronald Jameson
and the Staff of the Cathedral Parish of
St. Matthew the Apostle
cordially invite you to

St. Matthew's 175th Anniversary Gala

Saturday, October 17, 2015

Cocktails 6:00 pm

Dinner 7:00 pm

Dancing

National Press Club

Ballroom, 13th Floor

529 14th St. NW

Washington, DC

For directions and parking information, visit <https://www.press.org/about/visit-us>.

Semiformal attire

\$175 per person

Please reply by October 13, using the form on the reverse.

St. Matthew's 175th Anniversary Gala

Yes! I/we accept your invitation to the St. Matthew's 175th Anniversary Gala on October 17.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Number of guests: _____ at \$175 each, total \$_____

For those interested in reserving a table: 10 seats per table

Check enclosed for \$_____ (payable to St. Matthew's Cathedral)

Credit card: Visa MasterCard American Express Discover

Amount: \$_____

Name on card: _____

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiration date: _____ Security Code: _____

Signature: _____

To reserve your seats at the Gala, please complete this form and return it to the Rectory Office:

175th Anniversary Gala
Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle
1725 Rhode Island Avenue NW
Washington DC 20036

[You also may reserve seats online by clicking here \(https://membership.faithdirect.net/events/details/106\).](https://membership.faithdirect.net/events/details/106)

Please reply by October 13.

The Synod – What Is It?

In October, bishops, archbishops and cardinals from around the world will meet at the Vatican in an assembly the Church calls a '*synod*.' This gathering has been convened by the Pope Francis to discuss important issues affecting the family. This word '*synod*' is not something we Americans generally associate with meetings of this type to discuss important issues. So, it might be worth a few paragraphs of explanation.

In actuality, *synods* have been a part of Christian history since the time of Peter, James and the other apostles and are a focal point of church teaching and governance. The New Testament writings (Acts 15) describe the first major problem that arose in the early Church when Paul disagreed with the need for Gentiles to be circumcised prior to baptism. Paul and Barnabas traveled from Antioch to Jerusalem in 49AD to meet with Peter, James and other church leaders about this rule. One could describe this meeting as the first *synod* of the Church in which a matter of great importance would be discussed and resolved for the early Christian church.

Synod is the ancient Greek word for '*assembly*' that was used to describe a meeting of individuals having an authoritative purpose or outcome affecting a body of individuals. As Greek was the common language of the early Church, *synod* became the word used for early gatherings of Church leadership to discuss/resolve important matters. Another term that began to be used in the early church for such meetings was the word '*council*' from the Latin word meaning to summon or convoke. The words '*synod*' and '*council*' were used interchangeably to describe meetings of Church leaders until the Second Vatican Council redefined their usage.

In general terms, *synod* describes a meeting of a local, regional or national church or a special meeting of international bishops. In the Eastern Catholic and the Orthodox Churches as well as some other major Christian churches, *synod* is the primary term used to describe their ecclesial meetings.

In the 2000-year history of the Church, there have been numerous *synods* and *councils*. Some of the most famous are: the *Council of Nicea* (325AD) that gave us the Nicene Creed; the *Council of Trent* (1545-63) that reaffirmed scriptural authority and the seven sacraments, reformed the clergy and Mass; and, the *First Vatican Council* (1868-70AD) that was famous for its proclamation on papal infallibility. Closer to home, the first general meeting of the Catholic Church in America was the *Synod of Baltimore* (1791), convened by then Bishop John Carroll to establish some general guidelines governing church activities in the new United States of America.

The most recent use of the term '*council*' to describe a meeting of church leadership was the *Second Vatican Council* (1963-65), involving 2000 bishops and other ecclesial leaders. This *council* promulgated some 20 major documents covering a variety of subjects, such as: scripture, worship, church governance, religious liberty, relations with the world and with other religions, to mention a few. The language of the Vatican II decrees was uniquely pastoral in stark contrast to all previous *synods* and *councils* whose document language was doctrinal accompanied by the applicable "*anathema sit*" condemnation of any opposition.

In its important document on the nature of the Church (*Lumen Gentium* – Light to All Nations), Vatican II established foundational relationships and principles of governance for the Church, discussing synods, councils and other mechanisms for dealing with important issues confronting the Church at large. These are codified in the specific provisions of the Canon Law of the Church. But, like all such documents, the implementation of *Lumen Gentium* is conditioned by interpretation, experience, external demands and the wisdom of the Holy Spirit.

The Roman Catholic Church is still wrestling with the appropriate approaches to be used in today's global Church for convening Church leadership to deal with matters of local, regional, national and international concern.

While most Catholics know generally the role bishops have in the Church governance, most are unaware of the laity's role. *Lumen Gentium*, amplified by Canon Law, does give the laity particular responsibilities in church matters, one of which is formal participation in a *synod*, convened at the diocesan level by the local bishop.

Two years ago, our Archbishop, Cardinal Wuerl, convened such a *synod* to discern what major issues and activities should concern the Church of Washington. The *synod* body consisted of our bishops, priests, deacons **and lay people** from the archdiocese who discussed and recommended to the Cardinal major proposals to be adopted affecting the Church of Washington. In 2014, Cardinal Wuerl accepted and promulgated the recommendations of the *synod* for implementation by the archdiocese.

The October *synod* in Rome will obviously have farther reaching influence than a diocesan *synod*. Because of the subject matter, because of the unusual preparatory process and because of the early public commentary on the issues, this *synod* is receiving much more world-wide media and general public attention than previous *synod* meetings.

May the wisdom of the Holy Spirit be with them!

Deacon Bartholomew Merella

Ref. *Lumen Gentium* (Light to the Nations) – Vatican Council II Dogmatic Constitution
The Councils of the Church – N. Tanner
Introduction to Canon Law – J. Coriden

¿Qué es un Sínodo?

En octubre, los cardenales, obispos y arzobispos de alrededor del mundo se reunirán en el Vaticano en una asamblea que la Iglesia llama un ‘**sínodo**.’ Esta reunión ha sido convocada por el Papa Francisco para discutir asuntos importantes que afectan a la familia. Esta palabra ‘*sínodo*’ no es algo que nosotros americanos, generalmente asociamos con reuniones de este tipo para discutir asuntos importantes. Por lo tanto, vale la pena, el decir unos párrafos explicándolo.

En la actualidad, *sínodos* han sido parte de la historia cristiana desde los tiempos de Pedro, Santiago y los otros apóstoles y son un punto de foco de las enseñanzas y gobierno de la iglesia. Los escritos del Nuevo Testamento (Actos 15) describe el mayor problema que surgió en los primeros tiempos de la Iglesia cuando Pablo no estaba de acuerdo con la necesidad de los gentiles para ser circuncidados antes del bautismo. Pablo y Barnabás viajaron de Antioquia a Jerusalén en el año 49 después de Cristo, para encontrarse con Pedro, Santiago y otros líderes de la iglesia sobre estas reglas. Uno puede describir esta reunión como el primer *sínodo* de la Iglesia en la cual, materias de gran importancia se discutieron y resolvieron para los primeros cristianos de la iglesia.

Sínodo es la palabra antigua griega para ‘asamblea’ que se usaba para describir una reunión de individuos que tenían una autoritativa intención o resultado que afectaba al conjunto de individuos. Como el griego era la lengua común de los primeros tiempos de la Iglesia, *sínodo* llegó a ser la palabra usada para las reuniones de liderazgo en la iglesia para discutir/resolver asuntos importantes. Otro término que se llegó a usar en esos primeros tiempos de la iglesia para tales reuniones fue la palabra ‘**concilio**’ del latín que quería decir, llamar, convocar o citar. ‘*Sínodo*’ y ‘*concilio*’ fueron usados indistintamente para describir las reuniones de los líderes de la Iglesia hasta que el Segundo Concilio del Vaticano redefinió su uso.

En términos generales, el *sínodo* describe una reunión de una iglesia local, regional o nacional o una reunión internacional de obispos. En la Iglesia del Este Católica e Iglesias Ortodoxas, como también otras iglesias cristianas, el *sínodo* es el primer término usado para describir sus reuniones eclesiásticas.

En los 2000 años de historia de la Iglesia, ha habido numerosos *sínodos* y *concilios*. Algunos de los más famosos son: *El Concilio de Nicea* (325 después de Cristo) que nos dio el *Credo de Nicea*; *El Concilio de Trento* (1545-63) que reafirmó la autoridad bíblica y los siete sacramentos, reformó el clérigo y la misa; y, en *El Primer Concilio del Vaticano* (1868-70) que fue famoso por su proclamación en la infalibilidad del Papa. Cerca de aquí, la primera reunión de la Iglesia Católica en América fue *El Sínodo de Baltimore* (1791), convocado por el entonces Obispo John Carroll para establecer algunas guías generales para gobernar las actividades en los Estados Unidos de América.

El uso más reciente del término ‘*concilio*’ fue en el *Segundo Concilio del Vaticano* (1963-65), describiendo una reunión de líderes de la iglesia en el cual estaban envueltos 2000 obispos y otros líderes eclesiásticos. Este *concilio* promulgó 20 documentos que cubrieron una gran variedad de asuntos, como: sagrada escritura, culto, gobierno de la iglesia, libertad religiosa,

relaciones con el mundo y otras religiones, mencionando unas pocas. El lenguaje de los decretos del Vaticano II, fue excepcionalmente pastoral, en contraste a todos los anteriores *sínodos* y *concilios* cuyo lenguaje de los documentos fue doctrinal, acompañado de la aplicación “*anatema*” (abominación), condenación de cualquier oposición.

En la importancia de la naturaleza de este documento de la Iglesia (*Lumen Gentium* – Luz a Todas las Naciones), Vaticano II estableció relaciones y principios de gobierno para la Iglesia, discutiendo *sínodos*, *concilios* y otros mecanismos que tratan con importantes asuntos que afectan a la Iglesia en general. Estos están codificados en previsiones específicas en el Canon Canónico de la Iglesia. Pero, como en todos estos documentos, la implementación de *Lumen Gentium* es condicional para la interpretación, experiencia, demandas externas y la sabiduría del Espíritu Santo.

La Iglesia Católica Romana, está todavía luchando con la forma apropiada que se debe usar en la vida global de la Iglesia de hoy, para convocar en la Iglesia el liderazgo de cómo tratar con asuntos de materia local, regional, nacional e internacional preocupación.

Aunque muchos católicos saben generalmente cual es el papel que los obispos tienen en el gobierno de la Iglesia, algunos no saben cuál es el papel de los laicos. *Lumen Gentium*, amplificado por la Ley Canónica, da a los laicos responsabilidades en asuntos de la iglesia, uno de ellos es participación en un *sínodo*, convocados a nivel diocesano por el obispo local.

Hace dos años, nuestro Arzobispo, Cardenal Wuerl, convocó tal *sínodo* para discernir cuales son los asuntos y actividades de más importancia, que deben preocupar a la Iglesia de Washington. El conjunto del *sínodo*, consistió de nuestros obispos, sacerdotes, diáconos **y personas laicas** de la Arquidiócesis que discutieron y recomendaron al Cardenal varias proposiciones que se adoptasen en la Iglesia de Washington. En el 2014, el Cardenal Wuerl, aceptó y promulgó las recomendaciones del *sínodo* por implementación de la Arquidiócesis.

El *sínodo* de octubre en Roma, alcanzará obviamente, más influencia que un *sínodo* diocesano. Debido a la materia, debido al proceso de preparación no usual, y debido a los comentarios públicos en los asuntos, éste *sínodo* está recibiendo mucha más media en el mundo y más atención que las reuniones anteriores de *sínodos*.

¡Que la sabiduría del Espíritu Santo esté con ellos!

Diácono Bartolomé Merella

Ref. *Lumen Gentium* (Luz a Todas las Naciones) – Constitución Dogmática Vaticano II
Los Concilios de la Iglesia – N. Tanner
Introducción a la Ley Canónica – J. Coriden