

# On Line and On Point

**MARY MOTHER OF JESUS INCLUSIVE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY**  
[marymotherofjesus.org](http://marymotherofjesus.org)



**REGARDING A SYNOD**—An international task of holding a “listening” synod in every diocese of the world is supposedly taking place as we speak. These “local” gatherings were called by Pope Francis to provide a popular response regarding the future of the church and forwarded to the coming Synod of Bishops. As he stated, “If done prayerfully openly and with widespread involvement, the process could help build ‘a synodal church, an open square where all can feel at home and participate.’ A church that listens to the Holy Spirit and one another.” He went on to say, “May this synod be a true season of the Spirit. We need the Spirit, the ever new breath of God, who sets us free from every form of self-absorption, revives what is moribund [at the point of death], loosens shackles and spreads joy. The Holy Spirit guides us where God wants us to be, not to where our own ideas and personal tastes would lead us.”

As much as the Holy Spirit does not want us directed by our own ideas and personal tastes, this call to synodal gatherings is not happening as planned. Sr. Christine Schenk, in a recent column published by National Catholic Reporter, was hard pressed to find any reference of such events taking place through a review of a considerable number of U.S. diocesan publications and/or announcements. Not that this should be

surprising what with today’s division of bishops and peoples. However, for those who have taken the call seriously, they are hard at work. *[How about us?]*

Christina Inogés-Sanz, a theologian from Spain is quoted as saying, “All those to whom we did not know how to [hear], who left without us even missing them; they also are invited to make their voices heard, to send us their reflections, their concerns and their pain.” *[Could she be talking about us?]* She went on to ask in prayer that God would “teach us to be better Christians. Teach us to recover the essence of Christian community, which is communion, not exclusion.” *[Well, that’s our mission!]*

One of the quotes used by Pope Francis was of the late Dominican theologian, Father Yves Congar, who said, “There is no need to create another church, but to create a different church.” —*some of the material used above came from several articles published in NCR.*

[Moved by these insights into the future and strengthened/guided by our own visions as a community, what can we offer to this “listening” of the people to bring about this different church?] *NOTE: A listing of the questions submitted by the Vatican for answering can be found on page 3., of OLOP.]*

**OFFERINGS**—If you have made a recent donation to our community, we thank you for your generosity. We are most grateful for your demonstrated care and concern. Please remember to make your regular donations to MMOJ by sending your check to MMOJ % St. Andrew UCC, 6908 Beneva Road, Sarasota. FL 34238.

**Remember:** MMOJ continues to donate 5% of all received offerings each month to Outreach, which will continue to focus on real issues of food and hunger in our surrounding communities.

**OUTREACH**—The current recipient of our offered financial support continues to be All Faiths Food Bank of Sarasota [AFFB] in its task of providing

## Mary Mother of Jesus Inclusive Catholic Community Mission Statement

We are a Christ-centered community of equals, consisting of women and men, ordained and non-ordained, empowered by the Spirit whose mission is to worship, to serve, to promote compassion, justice and care for creation. Come join us.

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food for hungry and needy children. According to the latest estimates, as many as 13 million children in the United States live in "food insecure" homes. That phrase may sound mild, but it means that those households don't have enough food for every family member to lead a healthy life. The number of children living with hunger had fallen steadily over the past decade, but the coronavirus pandemic dealt a terrible blow to our progress as a nation - one that No Kid Hungry and other organizations will work to reverse during the long recovery ahead.

### MOVIE CORNER

We recently had the good fortune to find another fascinating true story called **The Man Who Knew Infinity** starring Dev Patel and Jeremy Irons. The movie tells the story of an incredible genius mathematician from a poor caste in India and his mentor, Professor G. H. Hardy. The story also touches on the renowned philosopher Bertram Russel, who was jailed for his pacifism during World War I. The film is currently available to rent on Amazon Prime video. Keep sending your comments, criticisms, suggestions, to ponce.beth@gmail.com —*Beth Ponce*

### 101 Ways to Foster Nonviolence in your life —

21. Spend time in prayer or quiet reflection.
22. Refuse to have enemies.
23. Consider war tax resistance.
24. Speak for the voiceless.
25. Turn off the television.
26. Seek to understand.
27. Create something beautiful.
28. Write letters to the editor about important issues.
29. Share.
30. Resist materialism. —*to be continued*

### A NEW DAYS LYRIC by Amanda Gorman

May this be the day  
We come together.  
Mourning, we come to mend, Withered, we come to weather,  
Torn, we come to tend,  
Battered, we come to better. Tethered by this year of yearning,  
We are learning  
That though we weren't ready for this, We have been readied by it.  
We steadily vow that no matter  
How we are weighed down,  
We must always pave a way forward.  
This hope is our door, our portal.  
Even if we never get back to normal, Someday we can venture beyond it,

To leave the known and take the first steps. So let us not return to what was normal, But reach toward what is next.

What was cursed, we will cure.

What was plagued, we will prove pure.

Where we tend to argue, we will try to agree,  
Those fortunes we forswore, now the future we foresee,  
Where we weren't aware, we're now awake;

Those moments we missed

Are now these moments we make,

The moments we meet,

And our hearts, once all together beaten,

Now all together beat.

Come, look up with kindness yet,

For even solace can be sourced from sorrow. We remember, not just for the sake of yesterday, But to take on tomorrow.

We heed this old spirit,

In a new day's lyric,

In our hearts, we hear it:

For auld lang syne, my dear, For auld lang syne.

Be bold, sang Time this year, Be bold, sang Time,  
For when you honor yesterday, Tomorrow ye will find.

Know what we've fought

Need not be forgot nor for none.

It defines us, binds us as one, Come over, join this day just begun. For wherever we come together, We will forever overcome.

*[submitted to us by Dorothy Sadowski in CLE]*



### BORROWING Richard Rohr's PRAYER FOR OUR COMMUNITY

—*God of all creation, lover of life and of everything, please help us to love in our very small way what You love infinitely and everywhere. We*

*thank You that we can offer just this one prayer and that will be more than enough, because in reality every thing and every one is connected, and nothing stands alone. To pray for one part is really to pray for the whole, and we do. Help us each day to stand for love, for healing, for the good, for the diverse unity of the Body of Christ and all creation, because we know this is what you desire: as Jesus prayed, that all may be one. We offer our prayer together with all the holy names of God, we offer our prayer together with Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

**QUOTE**—"Another world is not only possible, she is on her way. Maybe many of us won't be here to greet her, but on a quiet day, if I listen very carefully, I can hear her breathing."—*Arundhati Roy*

**STAFF**—*Russ Banner, editor; Joan Pesce, Lee Breyer, Anna Davis, text review; Beth Ponce and Dotty Shugrue, features*

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**THE SYNOD'S FOUNDATIONAL QUESTION**

A Synodal Church, in announcing the Gospel, "journeys together." How is this "journeying together" happening today in the Church?

How is the Holy Spirit inviting you to "journey together" with the Church?

Where do you hear the voice of the Holy Spirit calling you closer to the Church?

**THE SYNOD'S FIVE CORE QUESTIONS**

**1. LISTENING**

How is God speaking to you through the voices that are in your life?

How is God speaking to you through voices we sometimes ignore, including those on the peripheries?

What space is there in your life to listen to the voices on the peripheries of the Church, especially cultural groups, women, the disabled, those who experience poverty, marginalization, or social exclusion?

**2. SPEAKING OUT**

What enables or hinders you from speaking up courageously, candidly, and responsibly in the Church and society?

What space is there in our parishes for the voice of people, including active and inactive members of our faith?

**3. SHARING RESPONSIBILITY FOR OUR COMMON MISSION AND SHARING AUTHORITY AND PARTICIPATION**

How are you able to participate in the mission of the Church to proclaim the Gospel?

What hinders you from being active in your parish?

How is authority or governance exercised in your local parish and in the Church?

**4. DISCERNING AND DECIDING**

How does your parish use the methods of listening and speaking (consultation) to make decisions?

How does your parish promote participation in decision-making within the hierarchical structures of the Church?

Does the decision-making methods of your parish help you to listen to all members of the community, including those who are on the peripheries of parish life?

**5. CELEBRATION**

How do prayer and liturgical celebrations, especially Sunday Mass, inspire and guide you?

How does your prayer life and celebration of the Mass inspire and inform your personal decisions and decisions?

How does the parish invite all Catholics, including cultural communities, youth, families and persons with disabilities and their families, into the active life of the parish, especially Sunday Mass?

**"Every day nonviolence invites us to move . . .**

**From mechanistic to organic  
From dualistic to holistic  
From event to process  
From react to reframe  
From extremes to complexity  
From fragmented to integrated  
From unhealthy to sustainable  
From violence to wholeness."  
—*Pace e Bene***