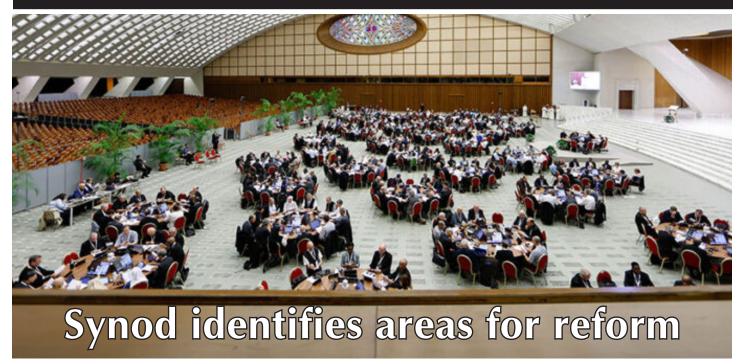
St. mbrose Parish

NOVEMBER 5, 2023 BEEHIVE



After four weeks, an assembly of the world's bishops has come to an end in the Vatican. In a final paper the direction of reform of the Catholic Church is becoming clear, but so are its limits. Pope Francis said he saw a sign of new beginnings in the four-week-long debate. At the end of the synod, he had words of admonition: "This is the church we are called to 'dream': a Church that is the servant of all, servant of the least of our brothers and sisters," he said in his homily in St. Peter's Basilica. "A Church," Francis continued, "that never demands an attestation of 'good behavior,' but welcomes, serves and loves, forgives; a church with open doors that is a haven of mercy."

With his wishes at the conclusion of the first part of the Synod of Bishops, a periodic assembly of the world's bishops to issues vital to the Roman Catholic Church, Pope Francis brought the deliberations of the 350 delegates in line with his approach since taking office in March 2013 — namely, to bring the Church closer to the people again. The final report of the four-week assembly makes one thing clear: in the coming year, this approach is to become more concrete.

This latest assembly in the Vatican is only the first stage of a much larger process. In October 2024, the second part of the assembly will take place in the Vatican which may see a formal agreement on concrete steps for change. What these steps will look like ultimately depends on the Pope. But one thing is clear: never in the history of the Synods of Bish-

ops in the Vatican have there been such lively and controversial debates. That is because, for the first time ever, lay people without ecclesiastical ordination, women and men, were allowed to participate and vote. Although the bishops made up the largest part of the assembly. But now one in seven of those entitled to vote is female.

The 40-page final report is a summary of the deliberations and looks toward the future. One focus is the current image of the Church, as being embodied primarily by ordained men, priests and bishops. "Clericalism, machismo and the abuse of power continue to shape the face of the Church and harm the community." This single sentence in the document sums up the image of the Catholic Church. The report discusses the role of lay people, and women especially. It urges more commitment to people on the margins of society, the poor and the migrants, and also addresses the major issue of sexual abuse within the Catholic Church.

The report was formally voted on during the plenary of the World Synod and it was approved by 336 and rejected by 10 members of the assembly. The largest number of "no" votes came to the passages that deal with the issue of women and their exclusion from Church office and responsibility.

US Jesuit James Martin, probably the world's most prominent advocate for a more open approach by the Catholic Church to non-heterosexual lifestyles, said he was "disappointed but not surprised" that the final text of this synod

Synod Reforms

Continued from page 1

did not mention the issue of LGBT+ Catholics.

Pope Francis wants a more open Church. He shaped this world synod, where he has described himself as one of many listeners.

While several participants mainly from Germany or Europe hope that the men's Church will also open up to women in questions of ecclesiastical office, the Pope is pursuing other agendas. In a new book with his interviews published this year, Francis reaffirms Church teaching that women cannot become priests and remains reserved on whether they should be admitted to the ordained ministry of the diaconate.

The Catholic Church in Germany has been criticized by the Vatican and conservative circles worldwide for its dialogue in a "Synodal Path" from 2019 to 2023, which began in light of the scandal involving thousands of sex crimes committed by clerics. After the four-week-long discussions in the Vatican, the feeling prevails that the Church in all countries should reflect in a similar way.

"The Catholic Church has understood worldwide that it will not get anywhere with this insistence on this very firm episcopal authority, but that this is part of the problem and not part of the solution," said Catholic theologian Thomas Söding, vice president of the Central Committee of German Catholics. He attended the synod as an expert, urging not to lose the momentum of the debate.

The chairman of the German Bishops' Conference, Bishop Georg Bätzing, expressed disappointment with the outcome: "It was not yet courageous, this synod." he wrote.

Are more courageous steps ahead? The Synod of Bishops will continue in October 2024. Then, at the latest, decisions will have to be made.

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Join in the Michigan March for Life on November 8, 2023, beginning at 11:00 am with a Rally at the Capitol, followed by a March for Life at noon.

The Michigan March for Life is an excellent opportunity for advocates for life of all ages and political persuasions from across the state to join with one voice on behalf of the defenseless! A strong showing of support on the first anniversary of the devastating passage of pro-abortion Proposal 3 sends a powerful message to our elected officials, the citizens of our state, and the nation at large. Join us and a number of special speakers as we peacefully advocate for the protection of all human life from conception to natural death.

Speakers include Genecia Davis as keynote for the event who will share her personal story of abortion and her subsequent path to peace.

Additionally Barbara Listing, President of Right to Life of Michigan, will share remarks on prolife victories in the state and the path ahead. For information on the march and additional speakers, visit MI.MarchForLife.org



Your help is needed for families affected by violence in the Holy Land! Since the early morning of October 7, hostilities in the Holy Land have continued. Thousands have been killed and even more are wounded. An estimated 1 million people are displaced. There is great risk of additional suffering in the Holy Land.

Pope Francis has called on people worldwide to "pray that there be peace in Israel *and* Palestine."

Catholic Relief Services and Caritas partners on the ground need immediate support to meet urgent humanitarian needs as the situation intensifies. Careful to adapt as the context changes, we are assisting people who are especially vulnerable, prioritizing first aid and care, bedding, winter supplies and cash vouchers.

With your gift, families affected by violence in Gaza and wherever needed in the Holy Land will receive assistance. Your prayers and support will make so much difference. Please give a vital gift today through Catholic Relief Services.

To make a donation please visit CRS.org or by calling 1-877-435-7277.

All Chings Considered

Our annual Halloween Road Rally traces its origins back to the early days of my pastorate here. A few parishes on the West side of town were doing rallies and I thought that the idea would transplant well here. It was something that would bring people together that didn't depend on a building. Back then, everything we did socially as a parish took place in the church building proper. The Rally got us out into the neighborhood.

I've lost track of which of our Rallies was the largest. I went through a box of materials from the 1990s which show almost 30 cars competing on a couple of given years. The Rally remained strong right up until the pandemic knocked it out of commission. It timidly returned in 2022 and this year came back full strength with the organization of **Lindsay** and **Paul Decker**.

You could sense some of that old camaraderie stoking up as ten teams ran the course. They drew from across generations as well as from inside and outside our parishioner base.

The winning team of "Butter-flies" were newcomers composed of **Tessa Ernst** and friends. To them, the honor of preparing next year's Rally now passes. Judging by the facile way these young ladies flew through the course, I'm confident that the game is in good hands – ready to pass on the tradition to a new crowd.

Further sign of renewed interest in group events comes from our second place team of "Mini Disney Characters" which was composed of some of the youngest participants we've ever had in the Rally, this time from the Jensen and Van Marcke families. This team finished in a respectable second place.

Add to these top teams some veteran Rally runners and you have a

nice harbinger for other post-pandemic events. Perhaps the symbol of the butterfly emerging from its cocoon is an apt sign of growth to come.

XXX

Saintly Pumpkins is another perennial event that has become associated with St. Ambrose Parish life. Like the parish itself – it's slightly off-beat and it always comes through.

Outfitting pumpkins to look like saints was an idea that harkens back to the Religious Education Program of the Fritzi Bohlmann and Bernadette Gutowski days when we put a lot of creative effort to bring families into weekend worship. Back then, we did a lot of "children's liturgies" which were built around homilies that depended on kids' participation. Some worked, some didn't. (One memorable flop was the homily where I got the Parish Council President to engage in a pogo-stick competition against a 6th grader.) But collectively these efforts imprinted on an old parish a fresh, family-friendly character.

The pandemic took its toll on our Religious Education program and weekend Mass attendance. Now, pro-

gramming any children's participation at a weekend Mass is a hit-and-miss effort. The fact that the celebrant is a senior citizen bears witness to the demographic shift of this community.

In this "joyful missionary disciple era" there are a lot of innovative parish ideas and programs that are cranked out by minds much big-

ger and brighter than I. Some will bear fruit. But I am convinced that a few of those old ideas, which were effective back then, have the ability to invigorate Ambrose again.

If you missed last weekend's 11:15 Pumpkin Mass, spend some time examining the "fruits" of our kids' labors in the pictures on page seven of today's bulletin. A note of thanks to **Clem Chargot** who grew and gifted the pumpkins for us.

HHH

I have come to see that another key to successful parish life is that we shouldn't engage too much in introspection which can stifle mission. While it's important for a congregation to engage in self preservation, a congregation that does that too much is in danger of becoming irrelevant to those looking at it from the outside. Pope Francis said "The Church is not a museum.... I prefer a Church which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a Church which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security."

This time of year, we are being asked to hit the streets and address the basics of our Christian life – feeding, sheltering, clothing, and consoling those "least of my brothers and sisters."

We're in the middle of our St. Vincent dePaul food drive for Thanks-

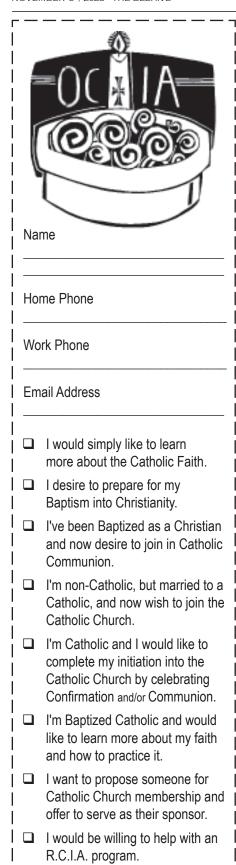
giving. It is a masterpiece of efficient planning, done by our SVdP who has crafted a shopping list and provided a box for you to fill. Full boxes translate into ful1 stomachs. If vou haven't already done so, pick up a box this week.

Next, get ready for our Neighbor-to-Neighbor holiday program

which customizes the needs of a family with a family with the ability to provide.

And then we move into our Christmas Pregnancy Aid program.





☐ I have other needs, requests, and

questions. Please contact me.

Return this to the Parish Rectory or place it in the

Collection basket.

The Buzz

November is a month of remembrance, change and hope. As I'm writing this, lots of our neighborhood trees have changed color, but not all; many leaves have fallen, but many like some of mine hang on till the new year. My hope for a last spell, or even gasp, of warm weather is wavering toward a chillier reality. But that's only temporary. For the deeper hope, based on more than seven decades of personal experience (as well as the collective studied wisdom of science), is that spring will return with renewed warmth and life.

So, in the midst of all kinds of change, let's be a people and a parish united in warm faith and love. Spring will come again, but just like the trees, hope can lead to changes that grow into a life bigger and stronger than ever.

222

Speaking of change . . . I hope you remembered to change your alarm clock back last night to take full advantage of the return to Standard Time this morning with an extra hour of sleep. This first-Sunday-of-November when our clocks "fall" back an hour has been around for a few years now. But some older electronic equipment (e.g. my computer at home and the timer on our church bells) thought this was still supposed to happen last Sunday. Last week I had to reset the bells' clock an hour ahead, and today, an hour back. Then next spring it's worse because the changes are several weeks apart. All this keeps my graduate school education about time and the Parousia very humble and down to earth.

If you are reading this on Saturday, November 4, it is the annual feastday of Pope St. John Paul's baptismal patron saint . . . and mine as well: St. Charles Borromeo. And in this small world, St. Charles in the 1500s was the archbishop of the diocese (Milan) that was first really put on the map in the 300s by none other than St. Ambrose. So, how about sometime this week (and I'm not above begging) would you be kind enough to keep me in your prayer along with your intentions for our Parish. In that prayer time remember Charles, Ambrose and Karol Wojtyła . . . and include an intention for our current pope. He needs it; I need it; we all need it! Thanks ahead of time. Amen.

777

By the way, St. Charles is the patron of catechists and catechumens. As for the catechumenate – this year's OCIA (RCIA) is shaping up in its now usually unpredictable way. Several people are already on board with unique stories and scheduling requirements. November is a good time to rethink the essentials and change the process to match the circumstances. So it's most definitely still the right time and definitely open to you or someone you know interested in exploring the Catholic Faith and community. Call me anytime at 313-332-5631 for more info. No cost; no obligation.

This Saturday, Nov. 11th, is the feastday of one of our parish patron saints: St. Martin of Tours. It is also Veterans Day. (I think the legal holiday is observed on Friday.) Originally called Armistice Day, it marked the end of World War I – 105 years ago. Today, with wars raging in far-eastern Europe and the Middle East – which could easily spread much wider – let's pray to our patron, a soldier-turned-man-of-faith-and-peace, and ask for his intercession with God to prevent another worldwide catastrophe. May Martin's conversion to faith and generous peacemaking inspire our world today to do the same. And let the song remind us: "Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with *(fill in the blank)*."



The Capuchin Soup Kitchen traces its origins back to 1929. We provide hundreds of meals and even more take home pantry staples for hungry guests every day. We give away over 1700 clothing and/or household items to families in need each day. We offer showers and a change of clothing to many others. We provide art therapy and tutoring for children and teens in a safe environment that encourages creativity. We offer Substance Use Disorder treatment services and operate an urban farm. We provide training in baking techniques and life skills to formerly incarcerated men.

Your support helps a hungry child, a working mother, a struggling elderly person to be cared for another day. Thank you.

Your solidarity is vital for those who struggle to meet basic needs. Please join us for the 51st Annual SOCK (Support Our Capuchin Kitchen) Dinner presented by Carhartt on November 10, 2023 at Huntington Place in downtown Detroit.

There are many ways to get involved, even if you are unable to attend in person. Consider supporting by:

- Purchasing individual or group tickets.
- Purchasing raffle tickets for an opportunity to win a \$5,000 cash prize.
- Sponsoring a friar or a Young Catholic Professional to attend SOCK.
- Bid on any of the silent or live auction items.
- Make a tax-deductible donation to the Capuchin Soup Kitchen

No matter how you back the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, know that your support is appreciated and is making life better for people struggling at the margins.

For more information on the Capuchin Soup Kitchen or to purchase tickets for the this years SOCK fundraiser please visit cskdetroit.org/

(Almost) Saintly Pumpkins Donations

K & Grade 1 – Blessed Solanus Casey - \$78.00 Grade 2 - Servant of God Antonio Cuipa - \$15.00 Grade 3 – Blessed Blandina Segale - \$10.00 Grade 4 – Blessed Fr. Michael McGivney - \$27.00 Grade 5 – Servant of God Leonard LaRue - \$11.00 Grade 6 - Servant of God Ida Peterfy - \$27.00 Grade 7 - Blessed Augustus Tolton - \$107.00

Grade 8 - Blessed Carlo Acutis - \$71.00

Grade 9 - Blessed Maria Velotti - \$15.00

Box Scores

Number of Families	800
Returns to date	164
Average Gift in '23	\$579
AoD Quota in '23	\$97,755
Property/Liability Insurance .	\$57,600
Adjusted parish target	\$155,355
Received as of 10/25/23	\$94,947

- Our CSA goal is higher this year by \$4,086, but it will be as challenging to meet as it was in 2022.
- The insurance premium listed roughly \$1,107 a week - is the cost of our property and liability coverage for the
- · Once we meet the AoD quota, anything given to the CSA comes directly back to our parish without the usual 7% deduction.
- Scan this QR Code with your smart phone camera to make your dona-



The Beehive

is the parish weekly bulletin of the St. Ambrose Catholic Community Detroit/Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan

Priest in Solidum: Rev. Timothy R. Pelc Pastoral Minister: Charles Dropiewski Religious Education: Kelly Anne Woolums Minister of Music: Office Manager: Peggy O'Connor Secretary: Mary Urbanski

Sacramental Celebrations

Masses: On the Lord's Day -Saturday Vigil - 4:00 p.m. Sunday - 8:30 & 11:15 a.m.

Baptism: Arrangements for both adults and infants to be made by contacting the rectory. Penance: As announced and by appointment. Marriage: Couples should contact the rectory office a minimum of six months in advance of the proposed date to make arrangements.

Funeral: Normally celebrated within one week after the deceased's passing.

Directory

Parish Office: 15020 Hampton Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan 48230 Tel: (313) 822-2814 Fax: (313) 822-9838 Email address: stambrose@comcast.net Religious Education: (313) 332-5633 Pastoral Ministry: (313) 332-5631 Ark Scheduling: (313) 822-2814 Parish Website: stambrosechurch.net

Liturgy Schedule

Monday, November 6

Weekday 31st week in Ordinary Time

Tuesday, November 7

Weekday 31st week in Ordinary Time 8:30 a.m. – Mass – Robert Rambush

Wednesday, November 8

Weekday 31st week in Ordinary Time

Thursday, November 9

The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica 7:00 p.m. – Mass – Fr. John O'Neil

Friday, November 10

St, Leo X, pope & doctor

12:00 p.m. – Mass – Gladys Bouchard

Saturday, November 11

St. Martin of Tours, bishop

1:30 p.m. – Wedding – Grace Burke & Derrick Kalocy

4:00 p.m. – Mass – For All People

Sunday, November 12

Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time 8:30 – Mass – For All People 11:15 – Mass – For All People



Scriptures for the 31st week in Ordinary Time

November 6

Rom 11: 29-36 Ps 69: 30-31, 33-34, 36 Lk 14: 12-14

November 7

Rom 12: 5-16b Ps 131: 2cde, 2-3 Lk 14: 15-24

November 8

Rom 13: 8-10 Ps 112: 1b-2, 4-5, 9 Lk 14: 25-33

November 9

Ez 47: 1-2, 8-9, 12 Ps 46: 2-3, 5-6, 8-9 1 Cor 3: 9c-11, 16-17 Jn 2: 13-22

November 10

Rom 15: 14-21 Ps 98: 1-4 Lk 16: 1-8

November 11

Rom 16: 3-9, 16, 22-27 Ps 145: 2-5, 10-11 Lk 16: 9-15

November 12

Wis 5: 12-16 Ps 63: 2-8 1 Thes 4: 13-18 or 4: 13-14 Mt 25: 1-13

31 st Sunday in Ordinary 7ime November 4th & 5th

Reference # in our Breaking Bread Hymnal or on your iphone using the QR code.

Entrance: Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service #629

Psalm 90: In Every Age #472

Preparatory: The Servant Song #391 Communion: The Road of Mercy #635 Recessional: Thanks Be to God #612



To participate electronically, go to: **facebook.com/stambroseparish** or better yet, to You Tube at **www.youtube.com/channel/UCbymBGIQxUF6UqPct5xFg**

Your Envelope Speaks ... the Inside Story



Our Sick

Please pray for those who are seriously ill or who are hospitalized: Pat Blake, Donald Miriani, Bonnie McKenna, Matthew Elias, Mary Martin, Emilie Kasper, Anna Noto Billings, Eileen O'Brien, Liz Linne, Donna Barnes, Charmaine Kaptur, Frank Gregory, Alex Billiu, Jackie Walkowski, Maria Simcina, Sharif Hannan, Shirley Whelan, Ricardo Hernandez Montoya, Albina Checki, Judy Sivanov, Matthew Brown, Lily Faith, Patty Freund, Janis Ramsey, Colette Gilewicz, Al LaHood, Valerie Hudson, Jeanene Maples, Angela Hansen, John Freund, Kevin O'Connor, and those suffering and hospitalized worldwide with Covid.

Are You Confirmed?

There are three sacraments of Initiation – Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist. Ideally they are celebrated together, but historically and accidentally they often are separated. As a result, it can happen that a practicing Catholic misses receiving the Confirmation Sacrament.

The Code of Canon Law for the Catholic Church summarizes why you should be Confirmed: "The sacrament of Confirmation strengthens the baptized and obliges them more firmly to be witnesses of Christ by word and deed and to spread and defend the faith. It imprints a character, enriches by the gift of the Holy Spirit the baptized continuing on the path of Christian initiation, and binds them more perfectly to the Church"

The Sacrament of Confirmation for adults who have missed it, for whatever reason, will be celebrated at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral on the Solemnity of Christ the King, November 26th, at 11:00 a.m.

Un-confirmed adults can participate in our parish celebration of Confirmation at Easter. However, when this is not possible, they are invited to participate in the Archdiocesan Confirmation ceremony. It is the responsibility of the parish to prepare these adults catechetically and make arrangements for the celebration of the Sacrament, so contact us now if you are a Catholic in need of this important Sacrament.







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