



Mantador: Plate \$41
Envelopes: \$2310
Grain Check: 2190.44
Pledge Payment: \$105
Brunch: \$165

Mooreton: Plate \$88
Children \$37
Envelopes \$8525.16

SYNOD REFLECTION. Last week the Pope made headlines when he addressed a meeting of theologians who advise the Vatican. They belong to the International Theological Commission, which has included women since 2004. Only 5 of the 30-plus theologians present were women.

“The Church is woman,” Francis said, “and if we cannot understand what a woman is, we’ll never understand the Church. One of the great sins we have witnessed is ‘masculinizing’ the Church. This is the job I ask of you, please: Demasculinize the Church.”

The month before, the Synod that met in Rome came up with a final, synthesis document, stressing how “urgent” it was for women to be included in decision-making processes and “assume roles of responsibility in pastoral care and ministry.” It called for women to be judges in all canonical processes and for further reflection on the female diaconate.

This particular Synod of Bishops—previously an all-male body—included women as full, voting members. It is unclear if this arrangement will continue. It was reported that one prelate stormed out of the room saying, “This is not a synod of bishops!” Many bishops applauded the mixed company. Others think bishops need to have their own assemblies in addition to assemblies that include lay people. Regardless, the same women who participated in this meeting will again be full, voting members at the final October 2024 Synod assembly.



In the past, Pope Francis has talked about how the Church has two faces, the Petrine (Peter) and the Marian (Mary). “The ministerial dimension is that of the Petrine Church.... But there is another principle that is still more important, about which we do not speak, that is the Marian principle, which is the principle of femininity in the Church, where the Church sees a mirror of herself because she is a woman and a spouse. The Church is more than a ministry. It is the whole people of God. The Church is woman. The Church is a spouse.”

Besides these 2 dimensions, there’s a third, he says, “the administrative way.... And, in this aspect, I believe we have to give more space to women. Here in the Vatican, the places where we’ve appointed women are functioning better.”

The above call to theologians to “demasculinize” the Church, characterizing the “masculinization of the Church” as a sin, received major push back from people who think the Church is already struggling to connect with men.

The path forward? The synod is calling for the role of women in the Church to receive further reflection and concrete changes, while continuing to offer models of positive masculinity.

There’s plenty to keep us on our knees. We are not just observers. One wonders if these efforts, clearly near the top of the agenda in the reforms that are underway, will find a voice and a home in the Diocese of Fargo as we prepare for our Synod in April. Stay tuned.

ADVENT PRAYER PARTNERS

REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR THE ONE WHOSE NAME YOU DREW.

YOUTH GROUP FUND RAISING. Our young people will be selling seafood products after Masses on occasion. Off the Hook, run by Deep Blue Seafood is a North Dakota based fresh & frozen seafood distributor. See their great story at dbseafood.com. We keep 25% of all sales.



Please pick up the ministry schedule at the back of the church. Thnx.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- DEC 13, RCIA, 7:15PM, MOORETON.
- DEC 10, ST ANTHONY LIVER/ONION DINNER W/ BEEF ROAST
- CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM, DEC 17, MOORETON
- 4TH SUN OF ADVENT, DEC 23, 2 SAT EVENING MASSES:
 - ST A 5:00 PM; SS PP 7:00 PM
 - [NO SUN MORNING MASSES]
- CHRISTMAS EVE: ST A 4:30PM ; SS PP 7:00PM
- CHRISTMAS DAY: ST A 10:30 AM

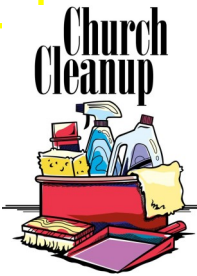


CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS IN HONOR/MEMORY OF SOMEONE CAN BE SENT TO THE ALTAR SOCIETY @ SSPP, OR @ ST A TO THE PARISH.



Keeping God’s House Beautiful, December

- Sts PP: *Kari Foertsch, Patty Lingen, Trudi Glynn
- St A: *Jen Kjar, Renata Fobb, Jane Althoff, Doris Palmer, Cindie Althoff, Jennifer Kjar



THIS WEEK’S CELEBRATIONS:

Richard Spellerberg, Joe Storbakken, Shirley Breuer, Kathy @ Mauch, Kassie Pauly, Ryley Flaa, Robert Foertsch, Madison Klosterman, Kathleen Mauch

Adam & Jennifer Mauch

