

# Catholics for Renewal - News Update

## The Synod on the Family - What's really happening?

Newsletter No.10 2015, Oct 17

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### Editorial Extract

(updated Friday 16/10/2015)

The Synod on the Family has completed two of its three weeks. The final week will be critical, but already there are some positive signs of the Spirit at work. Will the College of Bishops recognise its isolation from the people of God and the need to ensure that the Church's teachings and governance are properly informed by the *sensus fidelium*, the faithful's sense of the faith, as taught by Vatican II? Such recognition is implicit in the pastoral approach sought by Pope Francis. As late as Friday, the full synod was hearing many 3-minute contributions on such controversial issues as cohabitation, the possibility of communion for the divorced and remarried, and the Church's approach to homosexuality.

*-read the full Editorial [HERE](#)*

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## The Jesus Movement Part VII - the third century.

David Timbs, October 2015

(continuing series of papers on [Church Mutation](#))

*"We appeared only yesterday, but now we fill your cities, your homes, your squares, your municipalities, the councils, the tribunes, the decuries (senatorial electorates), the palace, the Senate, and the Forum. We have left you nothing*

*but your temples. Should we secede from you, you would be terrified by your own loneliness."* - Tertullian (160-220 CE), Apology 37.

In this article some of the key elements in the history of the Jesus Movement in the third century will be examined. They include the success of its early mission to the Gentiles, its infiltration of the Greco-Roman host culture; its largely unobtrusive inculturation and gradual consolidation as an increasingly respected member of society as its collective wealth and influence grew to such an extent that the Jesus Movement was in a position to provide spiritual and social outreach to people regardless of race, social position or gender. A number of other elements specific to the history of Christianity in the third century will be covered briefly, notably the effects of Roman persecution on the Jesus Movement and the development of its internal community life and worship.

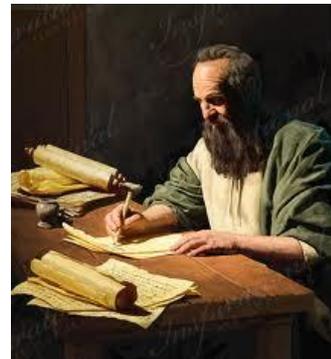
*-read the paper [HERE](#)*

## From Plato To The Periphery

Extract from David Timbs, *OMG, Journal of Religion & Culture*

"Christ came to introduce a break with logic that made all other seem as child's play..." – **Robert Frost**

Paul's Letters and Luke's Acts of the Apostles, document the dramatic and critical encounter between the Gospel from the East and the western Hellenistic mind. Paul's conversation with the Athenian Academy was polite, proper and initially engaging at least at an abstract level but ultimately he was unsuccessful in his attempt to insinuate his message into the minds of the philosophers of the Areopagos. His mission was far more successful among Jewish communities and those curious, devout Gentiles known as the 'God-fearers.' These were strongly attracted to Judaism and its teachings but for their own reasons chose not to convert. This essay attempts to flesh out some key aspects Paul's evangelical approaches to the Academy and to the Synagogue. Furthermore, some ideas will be explored which relate to the pastoral outreach that Catholic communities and individuals are attempting in order to engage and dialogue with the modern day equivalents of the sceptical Academicians and the noncommittal 'God-fearers.' ***Read the full essay [here](#)***



## News and Opinion Pieces

The following Catholics For Renewal website News & Opinion items may be read [HERE](#)

The Francis enigma continues

Vatican Publishes Second Batch of Reports on Synod's Discussion from 13 Groups

Christianity is dying out? Don't count on it.

Fr Brian Lucas appointed Director of Catholic Mission

Australian archbishop: Synod should propose 'less negative' reading of reality

Synod small groups suggest much work remains in finding consensus

Synod reports again express differences among bishops, cardinal denies stalemate

Francis publicly apologizes for unspecified "scandals" caused by church recently

Australian archbishop: Synod must change church's language, actions

A Landmark Decision against the Church in Colombia

Uncertainty over cardinals' letter of concern about Synod

Doctrinal Changes: As the synod convenes, wisdom from Karl Rahner

Kenya's cardinal determined to be in the thick of the synod action

Highlights from Synod Working Group Reports: UPDATED

German archbishop: Church's stance on divorce makes people 'doubt God'

Francis defends bishop accused of concealing sex abuse

Pope warns bishops over 'Synod-rigging' conspiracy theories

Archbishop: Synod vote now would go against Communion 65/35

Slow and steady wins the family synod on sexuality issues

Where the boys are

Philly's Chaput: Bishops sorting out into lobbying groups at synod

The Francis strategy for change; a synod process loosed; stunning proposal for women

Archbishop: Synod should reflect on allowing female deacons



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