

Catholics for Renewal - News Update



The Synod on the Family - What Next?

Newsletter No.11
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Editorial Extracts:

October's Synod on the Family in Rome has been seen by many as of little consequence. There is however another view, that the Synod has marked a new direction in the Church and that it has given Pope Francis confidence in asserting the lessons of Vatican II and the need for bishops to be more inclusive of the laity, to listen to the people of God, and to respect the faithful's sense of the faith, the *sensus fidelium*, as stressed by Vatican II – see David Timbs' discussion of the Synod linked here: [A Maelstrom of Discernment](#).....In Australia, we are being reminded by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse that the Church has a long way to go in addressing its failuresThe Royal Commission is doing the Church an invaluable service by exposing grave dysfunctions in the governance of the institutional Church.....As David Timbs concludes, Francis is probably doing the laity an enormous service by coaxing and cajoling the bishops to move forward. He is leading the hierarchy into unfamiliar territory where they are being coaxed to grow up, to think independently and to lead prophetically with confidence and courage. He is also providing the Laity with the authority, validation and language to insist that their bishops listen to them, genuinely dialogue with them and collaborate in the common work of renewal and reform of the Church.....

.....*Read Full Editorial* [HERE](#)

The Jesus Movement Part VIII - Towards Nicaea.

David Timbs, December 2015

(Final in the series of papers on 'Church
Mutation')

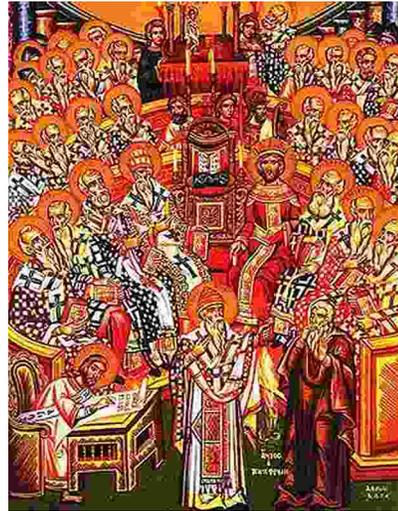
Read full paper [HERE](#)

ABSTRACT:

During over two hundred and fifty years leading up to the end of the third century CE, Christianity had largely migrated from rural Palestine and had taken root in the great cosmopolitan centres of the Empire where it had grown and flourish. The Jesus Movement had successfully adjusted to its new existence and had become an honest and respected citizen in the social and economic world of its host culture. Christians had become so successful that they had become essential in the effective functioning of almost all areas of Roman society. They not only benefited from the Pax Romana, they were instrumental in validating, promoting and guaranteeing its continuation.

When Constantine became the sole Emperor he enacted the Edict of Milan in 213 CE which not only put a stop to the State persecution of Christians but actually offered the Jesus Movement protected status. It was in the interests of Constantine and his Empire that unity within Christianity was an absolute necessity for guaranteeing stability and cohesion within the Empire. A major factor in guaranteeing this was the resolution to the issues of Christology (theology of Christ) which threatened the existence of the Christian Movement.

One of the greatest challenges in the history of the Church was to arrive at a theological point of convergence where finite language, imagination and analogy were brought together in order to define and profess the mysteries of the Trinity and the subsistence of the Eternal Word in the humanity of Jesus Christ.....*Read the full paper [HERE](#)*



Πιστε ομεν (We believe)



Maelstrom, Max Qin

A Maelstrom of Discernment

(Archbishop Mark Coleridge on the Family Synod)

David Timbs - *Full paper* [HERE](#)

EXTRACT:

“There is a maelstrom, there's no doubt. And everyone's feeling it. But

that may well be what happens when you get into the very turbulent, and in the end uncontrollable, process of discernment. Once you're into that maelstrom of discernment you really have to make an act of faith that there is something greater than Solomon.”- Mark Coleridge, Archbishop of Brisbane. (1)

++Coleridge was evidently referring to the dynamics at work among the bishops during the October 2015 Synod in Rome. While the gathering may well have generated a maelstrom of discernment, it was largely about themselves and had very little to do with deep reflection on the Catholic family's vocation and mission in the Church and the modern world.

Another couple of synonyms which provide added colour are 'accompaniment' and 'walking.' Pope Francis, according to Archbishop Blase Cupich of Chicago, 'taught us (the bishops?) all how to walk together,' According to Coleridge and Cupich, the bishops were on the learning curve of their lives as they revelled in the peak experiences of talking and walking together. This was largely due to the genius of Pope Francis who actually called upon the bishops to think and act like adults. Apparently it was a new experience for many. Cupich was not being frivolous in reference to learning how to walk. He went on to note with evident gratitude the important psychological and spiritual development the bishops experienced at the Synod: *Full paper* [HERE](#)

News and Opinion Pieces

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

Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, 4 December
Cardinal says Communion reform would be 'fundamental' break
Inquiry: Church identified 'time bomb of paedophile priests'
NCR Editorial: US church leadership is in transition
Royal Commission hearings, Melbourne – Day 6, 1 December 2015
Archbishop: Church buried complaints to protect its reputation
Pope's Press Conference on Flight from Bangui to Rome (Unofficial Transcript)
Former Brisbane Anglican diocese GM told victim of abuse to keep complaint to himself
Catholic church failed to act on paedophile priests, says Melbourne archbishop
Inquiry told Archbishop failed to act over 'lunatic' priest
Major changes loom for Curia when Francis returns
Inquiry: Cardinal Pell arranged retirement pay for paedophile priest
Cardinal Pell calls Catholic Church's handling of child sex abuse complaints 'shameful'
Pope names Vatican official head of U.S. Anglican ordinariate
Cardinal Pell, his lawyers and the Royal Commission
Theology in a synodal Church
US cardinal endorses Catholic climate petition as signatures eclipse 600,000
Pope's Florence address to the Italian Bishops Conference.
Tony Flannery and the Eleven on Women's ministry in the Church

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