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Conclusion of the 16th General Assembly of the Synod on Synodality

A missionary Church who walks with the Lord

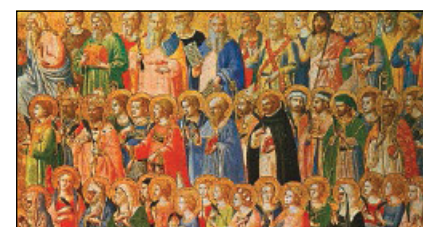
Marking the conclusion of the 16th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod, Pope Francis presided over Holy Mass on Sunday, 27 October, in Saint Peter's Basilica. He gave thanks to the Lord for the "journey we have made together" in the Synod on Synodality that began three years ago with local, regional and continental meetings. The Holy Father encouraged the faithful to be like Bartimaeus and "entrust our blindness to the Lord" in order to be "a missionary Church that walks with her Lord". Indeed, he added, we "do not need a sedentary and defeatist Church, but a Church that hears the cry of the world and gets its hands dirty in serving".

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POPE VISITS CEMETERY

The Holy Father will begin the month of November with special prayers and Masses for All Saints' and All Souls' Days. On the Solemnity of All Saints on 1 November, he will lead the *Angelus* prayer, and for All Souls' Day, Pope Francis will hold Mass in commemoration of all the faithful departed.



THIS WEEK

General Audience

May Confirmation not be the final sacrament

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Interview with Cardinal-elect Koovakad

My faith as a 'family treasure'

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Sisters Project

Bearing the torch of hope

SR JOSEPH ON PAGE 11

Gospel Reflection

Please won't you be my neighbor?

KRASKA ON PAGE 12

Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors presents Annual Report

A 'rigorous' response to the scourge of abuse

The Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors has released its first annual report compiled by a dedicated study group that conducted extensive research across five continents. In addition to identifying progress



in best practices as well as steps to be taken, the report calls for increased transparency in data collection, and highlights imbalances in local Churches regarding the availability of reporting structures and support services for victims. The Commission's first-ever Annual Report on Church Policies and Procedures for Safeguarding, covering the 2023 calendar year, was presented on Tuesday, 29 October. Commission President Cardinal Seán Patrick O'Malley, OFM Cap., Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, jurist, in charge of the Annual Report, Commission Secretary Bishop Luis Manuel Alí Herrera, Commission Assistant Secretary Dr Teresa Morris Kettelkamp and abuse survivor,

Juan Carlos Cruz were speakers at the presentation.

In an interview with Vatican Media, the President of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors highlighted the Church's concern with pairing justice with healing, as well as the need to educate people on "how common these crimes are in our world".

Abuse survivor Juan Carlos Cruz said, "we can't move on if people are left behind", adding that everyone should speak out and help survivors – believe them, accompany them, make reparation – to ensure that "the scourge of abuse will never happen again".

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