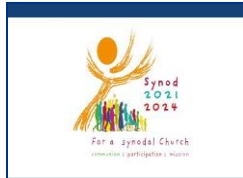


Fr. Martin's Reflection – October 8, 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I'm sure many of you have heard about the Synod that is taking place in Vatican City from October 4–29. Pope Francis has asked us to pray that the Holy Spirit will descend upon all gathered and that all the voices of God's children will be heard and listened to. You may choose a prayer of your own to pray or you may pray the one I have provided here:



Lord, help us to enlarge the space of the tent, so that those who are on the margins of our societies or on the margins of the Church may be listened to and valued. While we walk together, we want to join in prayer. There is no Synod without a true encounter with You! You, Lord, invite us to welcome in our hearts those left by the roadside to an inner conversion, to welcome those whom you have invited. May we leave no one behind on this synodal journey, may no one be excluded, but be part, brother, sister, friends. Amen

Celebrating Deacon Sunday October 7-8

The Diocese of Trenton joins with parishes throughout the country to celebrate the second annual “Deacon Sunday.” Let us give thanks to God for the blessings we have received by having Deacon Gary, Deacon Tom, and Deacon Larry ministering in our parish. I want to take this opportunity to thank them personally for all the help and support they have given to me and to Fr. Anson. And on behalf of all the parish, we thank you for your faith, ministry, and love for all God’s people. I quote Bishop O’Connell: “The Diocese of Trenton is richly blessed by the pastoral and ministerial service of its deacons. We are grateful to them and their families for all that they do. As Bishop, I extend my blessing to them as we celebrate “Deacon Sunday” this year!”

A Prayer for Deacons:

O Christ, you are the source of all ministries in the Church. In response to the needs of the People of God, through the laying on of hands and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, you have called forth and ordained deacons as servants for our Church. Continue to sustain those You have called to this ministry, so they remain ardent servants with gentle hearts, proclaiming the Gospel and serving at Your Holy table. Help them reflect the real and true presence of Christ, the Deacon, to the needy among us. We also give thanks for those who accompany these men in their journey of service – their wives and families, their parish communities, and all those who call them to respond in faith, hope, and love. Loving savior, continue to help Your Church affirm our deacons in their service. Together as one family of faith, may all that we say and do give honor and glory to You and draw others ever closer to Your Sacre Heart. Amen
(Prayer by Most Rev. Douglas Lucia, bishop of Syracuse, NY)

The Holy Land:

As many of you are aware, I am organizing a pilgrimage to the Holy Land beginning October 29. I know many of you wished you had the opportunity to go, but due to many differing reasons you are unable. Even though I know you are unable to attend I would like to take your intentions physically with me. At all the Masses celebrated in the Holy Land I will place your intentions on the Altar and offer them up to God, asking God to bless you and all your family, and for all whom you are praying. All you need to do is write out your intentions on a sheet of paper, place it in an envelope and write Holy Land on it. You can leave it at the Parish Office or bring it to Mass at either St. Mary or Holy Assumption and drop it in the collection basket. You can also mail it to me at the Parish Office by Friday, October 27.

May the God who truly loves us, bless us, and keep us forever close, and may we keep God forever close to us.

Fr. Martin