

Buzz Report

— OFFICE OF SPIRITUALITY AND FORMATION FOR MINISTRY —

OCTOBER 2019



Image credit to www.freelancer.com/jm

FROM THE DESK OF SR. KATHY....

Dear Friends:

It appears fall has arrived in South Carolina, at least in the Lowcountry; and, much is happening around our wonderful diocese to give thanks and praise to God. Normally, I would take time in this introductory letter to highlight what the Buzz talks about this month. Rather, this month, I would like to highlight something very special being offered throughout the Diocese through my office and our diocesan team.

About six months ago, the Bishop asked me to read a book published by RENEW International entitled *Healing the Church A Pastoral Approach to the Sexual Abuse Crisis*. I read the book and thought it was done superbly, and I recommended to the Bishop that we further explore bringing this pastoral approach to our diocese. As a novice, I remember RENEW being in many of our Pittsburgh parishes helping the faithful to understand and integrate the teachings of Vatican Council II, specifically *Gaudium et Spes* (the Pastoral Constitution of the Church in the Modern World, and *Lumen Gentium*, The Dogmatic Constitution of the Church in the Modern World. For over 40 years and having been established by two priests in the diocese of Newark, NJ, RENEW has received profound respect for its national and international work.

In the Buzz Report, you will notice a schedule for our priests and lay leaders to attend information sessions next month, November, 2019. We will be in five of seven deaneries informing parishes of the program and signing parishes up. I am really hopeful that many of our parishes will take advantage of this opportunity for healing and reconciliation among our parishioners.

And, of course, in the Buzz Report this month we address the Synod on the Amazon in Rome and the canonization of the great Cardinal John Newman, founder of the Oratory in England. I pray you have a grace-filled month.

Peace and all good,

Sister Kathy Adamski, OSF

Associate Director, Office of Spirituality and Formation for Ministry



AMAZON SYNOD

This month's Synod of Bishops (a Synod is a meeting of bishops of a church province or the whole world, to discuss doctrinal and pastoral needs of the church, CCC) on the Amazon is an "urgent" gathering, not of scientists and politicians, but for the church, whose main focus in discussions is evangelization, Pope Francis said in a new interview. However, the importance of the Amazon region's biodiversity and current threats it faces also will be addressed because "together with the oceans, (the Amazon) contributes decisively to the survival of the planet. Much of the oxygen we breathe comes from there. That's why deforestation means killing humanity," he said.

In a question regarding ecological concerns and what stands in the way of safeguarding the Amazon, the pope said, "The threat to the lives of the people and the land derives from the economic and political interests of society's dominant sectors." When asked what policymakers should do, the pope said they should rid themselves of all complicit and corrupt practices. "They must take concrete responsibility, for example on the issue of open-cast mines, which are poisoning water and causing so many diseases. Then there is the issue of fertilizers," he added.

When asked what he feared most concerning the planet, he said, "The disappearance of biodiversity, new deadly diseases" and the kind of loss and "devastation of nature that can lead to the death of humanity." He praised the increased awareness and movements among young people, such as Greta Thunberg, the Swedish teenager whose #FridaysForFuture campaign asks students to hold a strike to demand swift action on climate change. Pope Francis met the 16-year-old environmental activist at a weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square in April.

The pope said the big and small things people can do each day "does have an impact" because change relies on real, concrete action. Also, people engaging in more environmentally responsible behavior "creates and spreads the culture of not polluting creation."

<https://www.chicagocatholic.com/vatican/-/article/2019/08/20/pope-explains-aim-of-amazon-synod-warns-against-nationalism>



His face painted red with urucum, a man participates in a march by indigenous people through the streets of Atalaia do Norte in Brazil's Amazon region on March 27, 2019. Pope Francis has called a synod of bishops that will look at issues facing the Pan-Amazon region Oct. 6-27 in Rome. (CNS photo/Paul Jeffrey)

CARDINAL JOHN HENRY NEWMAN CANNONIZED

This month, I was asked to do a staff retreat for St. Philip Neri Catholic Church and was so happy to share in the joy of our Oratorian brothers, as they celebrate the canonization of the British saint Cardinal John Henry Newman on October 13, 2019. After his conversion from the Anglican Church, Newman became a scholar, and founder of the Oratory of St. **Philip Neri** in England.

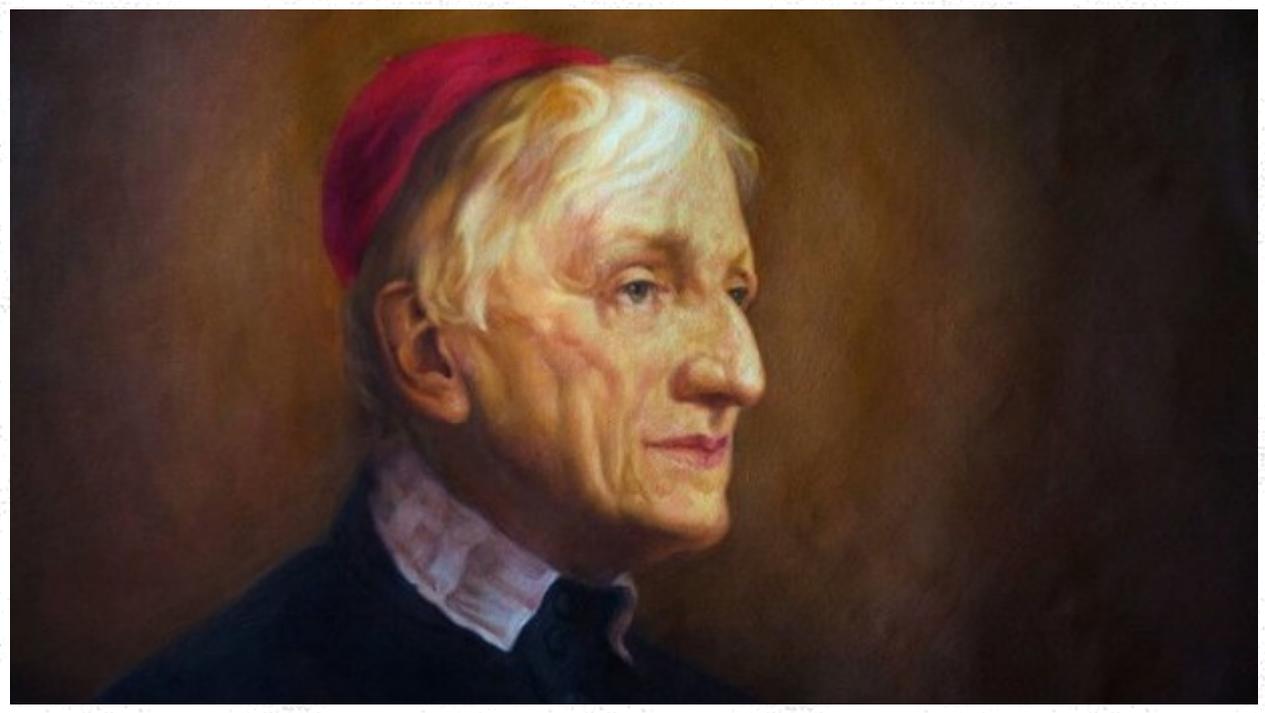
The first miracle attributed to Cardinal Newman came when a deacon was cured of a disease. His second involved a pregnant woman in Chicago who presented serious bleeding during her pregnancy and prayed to God for healing through Newman's intercession. The bleeding stopped and her child was born normally.

I was first introduced to him in graduate theology school, when I took the course, *Essay on the Development of Christian Dogma*...it was a most enlightening and challenging course. I do remember that Newman used the Scriptures and the witness of the earliest Christians, to stress that the Catholic Faith is the organic and logical development of early Christianity.

One example is the doctrine of papal supremacy. Many non-Catholics take issue with this teaching. Newman taught the promise and prophecy of Christ our Lord to St. Peter (St. Matthew 16:18), and recounts how the early Christians already speak in the highest terms of the bishop of Rome, considered to be St. Peter's principal successor, and of the Roman church: St. Irenaeus[180 AD] speaks of Rome as "the greatest Church, the most ancient, the most conspicuous, and founded and established by Peter and Paul," appeals to its tradition, not in contrast indeed, but in preference to that of other Churches, and declares that "to this Church, every Church, that is, the faithful from every side must resort" or "must agree with it." St. Cyprian speaks of Rome as "the See of Peter and the principal Church, whence the unity of

the priesthood took its rise, whose faith has been commended by the Apostles, to whom faithlessness can have no access”

[\[chapter 4\]](#)



<https://www.lumenchristi.org/event/2019/10/john-henry-newmans-path-to-sainthood-ian-ker-kenneth-woodward>

NATIONAL NEWS

RESPECT LIFE MONTH

Each October the Church in the United States celebrates Respect Life Month, and the first Sunday of October is observed as Respect Life Sunday. As Catholics, we are called to cherish, defend, and protect those who are most vulnerable, from the beginning of life to its end, and at every point in between. During the month of October, the Church asks us to reflect more deeply on the dignity of every human life. Let's remember the dignity of life, though, each and every day as we minister, pray with our families and speak on behalf of the least among us.

In these six sessions, participants will address facing the truth, healing our wounds, rebuilding our church, why do I remain Catholic, we believe and a way forward. Each session includes prayer, reflection, a survivor's story, group sharing and action steps forward. Each parish will have a core team and a group of facilitators trained by RENEW professionals. The program has begun in several dioceses in the United States and has had superb reviews.

The schedule for all information sessions is as follows:

Monday, Nov. 18, 2019

2-4 pm (English); 7-9 pm (English/Spanish)
St Mary's, Greenville

Tuesday, Nov. 19, 2019

2-4 pm (English); 7-9 pm (English/Spanish)
Our Lady of the Hills, Columbia

Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2019

2-4 pm (English); 7-9 pm (English/Spanish)
St. James, Conway

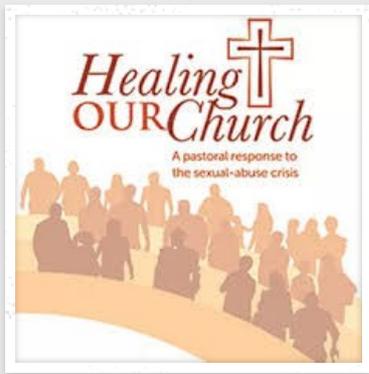
Thursday, Nov. 21, 2019

2-4 pm (English); 7-9 pm (English/Spanish)
Pastoral Center, Charleston

Friday, Nov. 22, 2019

2-4 pm (English); 7-9 pm (English/Spanish)
St. Gregory the Great, Bluffton

At the above times, pastors are asked to sign their parishes up for the training in the five training deaneries in the state. These dates will be posted in the December Buzz News, Caritas and other media formats.



FACTOID

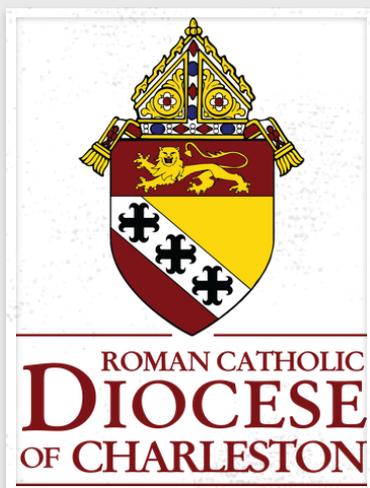
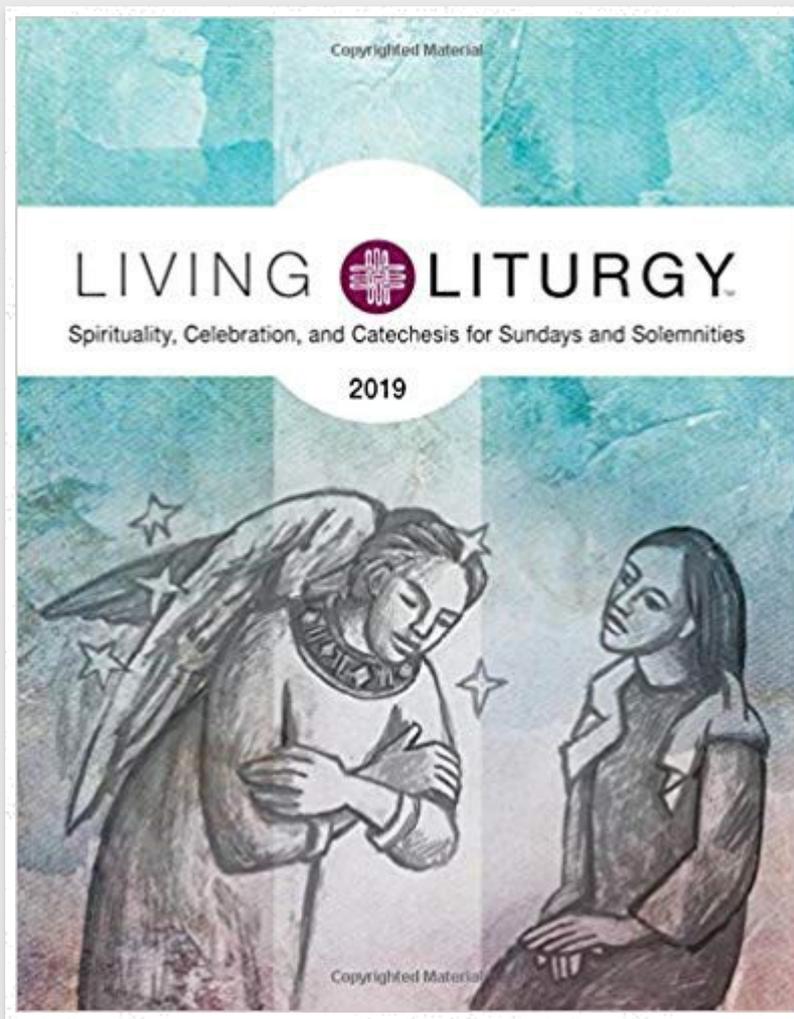
Much to my 50% Polish heritage surprise, Brazil has more Catholics than Italy, France, and Poland combined.



Photo credit pandotrips.com

BOOK OF THE MONTH

Especially for parish ministers: *Living Liturgy Spirituality, Celebration, and Catechesis for Sundays and Solemnities Year A (2020)* by Liturgical Press.



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