

LAUNCH OUT LETTERS (LOL)

Newsletter and Journal of Te Hao Nui– Launch Out Formation Programme
Archdiocese of Wellington, Aotearoa New Zealand

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Welcome to the May issue of LOL.

For this month we have Bernadette Patelesio leading the reflection for the 7th Sunday of Easter on the Ascension of Jesus. She reflected on the prayer and the praying of Jesus before he began his passion and death. It was a prayer to the Father within a conversation among friends. It was a farewell, a preaching, and a blessing. In that prayer Jesus summed up His mission and the mission of those who are to follow Him.

For this year, our candidates will be sharing their reflections about the pastoral projects they have run in their parishes. They will give a glimpse to the kind of working Te Hao Nui is doing in parishes, which is part of their pastoral formation. Margaret Bearsley kicks off with sharing her experience in reinvigorating the OCIA/RCIA programme for the Holy Trinity Parish. Her work is a fruit of discernment, collaboration with the parish priest and parish leadership team and engagement with the community. I have also included a profile of our Candidates. In the succeeding issues they will be sharing their insights about their pastoral work in their parishes.

Bridget Taumoepeau shares a succinct and insightful evolution of the synod in the Church. Synod as an idea apparently began in the early churches, soon after the resurrection. The idea continues to grow amidst opposition from a church which has grown heavy and clerical as an institution. The idea persisted leading up to Vatican II and gained vitality under Francis when the word ‘synod’ took on a revolutionary energy. The past years of organising the synod were intense and exhausting, but we shouldn’t forget that this was a long journey, and a long haul to go. I like her invitation for us to have a step back and ‘absorb the process as it unfolds.’

The prayer and praying of Jesus in the gospel of John was a prelude to his resurrection and ascension. As Bernadette in her reflection pointed out, Jesus’ message was for the apostles and for the rest of us. Jesus must have known the big work that awaits those who follow him. Margaret’s work in OCIA/RCIA is a fruition of Jesus’ prayer— *‘you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.’* The synod is a broader manifestation of the fulfilment of Jesus’ prayer— *‘The glory that you have given me, I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one.’*

In John’s gospel, Jesus faced his death with the vision of a growing community of believers, which is now the Church as we now know it. It is amazing to realise that we are the fulfilment of Jesus’ prayers for his apostles. Our work in parishes, the synod, our personal faith journeys, glow with the mark of that fateful prayer. As we enter autumn, the season of letting go, let it be a time to step back and take in the journey as it unfolds.

Maya Bernardo, Launch Out Formator and Manager



When he had finished eating, he said to Simon, “Launch out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch”.

Luke 5: 4

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Visit the Te Hao Nui-Launch Out webpage: [https://](https://www.wn.catholic.org.nz/about/church-mission/launch-out-formation-programme/)

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Jesus Prays for His disciples

7th Sunday of Easter (John 17:11b-19)

By Bernadette Patelesio
Launch Out Candidate



<https://columbans.ie/the-upper-room-a-holy-week-and-easter-reflection/>

This Sunday's Gospel reading is for the Seventh Sunday of Easter. It is also the Feast of the Ascension and World Communications Day. Likewise, on this Sunday we also begin a week of prayer for Christian Unity.

As we reflect on the Gospel, we pray that as Christians we are united in our belief that we are more than what this world offers; that we may embrace true Christian Unity, rejecting the worldly trappings of materialism and power, and that together we may find a new peace.

The setting is in the Upper Room. Jesus has already washed the disciples' feet and has been speaking to them about the betrayals of Judas and Peter. It is the night

before the crucifixion, and though the disciples do not know it, this prayer forms part of Jesus' final speech with the disciples before his death.

He has promised that their sorrow will turn to joy, and that while he will be leaving them, the Spirit will remain. Jesus prayer for his disciples is a prayer for those present in the room with him, but also for all believers to come.

Jesus begins the prayer, asking God to keep the disciples "in your name, that you have given me". He has already kept the disciples protected thus far, stating that not one was lost. Now Jesus asks for this to continue so that "they may be one, just as we are one". A prayer for oneness with God.

Then he says to God, "I am coming to you, so that they may share my joy completely". Jesus returning to the Father brings a joyful conclusion to the earthly part of Jesus' ministry. But Jesus also wants us to share in this with him – completely.

Jesus asks that his disciples are consecrated or made holy, in the truth which is God's Word. He says he will consecrate himself for his disciples. He is speaking about his death and resurrection, offered for humanity.

In this reading, God the Son is asking God the Father that his disciples may share these things with him. There is a certain reciprocity and unity in this prayer between Jesus, God and all believers. In the preceding part of Jesus's speeches, he has asked God that the Holy Spirit will remain, that his teachings will be remembered. The presence of the Holy Spirit is tangible in this prayer, as the love that flows between Father and Son, and we are invited into this space.

Jesus tells us that while we are in the world, we do not belong to the world any more than he does. Through this prayer, his followers are called to something much greater than what the world has to offer.

It is an appropriate reading for Ascension Sunday. Jesus is preparing his disciples for his death, but what he is asking God for in prayer here, will remain true when he leaves them a second time on his Ascension into Heaven.

References: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RUFh_wOsauk
<https://catholic-resources.org/John/Outline-John17.html>



<https://moscowanglican.org/st-andrews-banners/the-ascension-of-jesus>

2024 Te Hao Nui– Launch Out Candidates



From the left: **Rutger Keijser**, Maya Bernardo, **Telesia Alaimoana**, **Jude McKee**, Archbishop Paul Martin, **Margaret Bearsley**, **Vicky Raw**, **Bernadette Patelesio** and **Jerry Sparks**. Not in photo: Bonita Tasele.
This picture was taken during the Pastoral Presentations last 25 November.

Telesia Alaimoana – Telesia joined Launch Out in 2015 and has recently completed her formation. She was born in Samoa, a mother of two, and married to Simati. Telesia is a qualified Social Worker who currently works as a Facilitator Support of the District Health Board and has extensive experience in the health and disability sector. She is passionate about engaging with the Samoan community and finding ways to enrich their contribution to the Church. Telesia has finished a New Zealand Diploma in Christian Studies- Christian Leadership strand from Te Kupenga Catholic Theological College and has started Bachelor in Divinity studies. Telesia is currently active with Our Lady of Hope parish in Tawa and Titahi Bay. Telesia has just completed her formation.

Jerry Sparks – Jerry is currently on leave. Jerry is a born and bred Wellingtonian and lives in the eastern suburbs with his wife Eleanor and their two young daughters, Margaret and Elizabeth. Jerry is a Communications and Finance Administrator at the New Zealand Catholic Education Office (NZCEO) and enjoys working to support our Catholic School network. Jerry has completed the New Zealand Certificate in Christian Ministry at Te Kupenga Catholic Theological College and is currently working on his New Zealand Diploma in Christian Ministry– Christian Leadership Strand. Jerry is especially interested in supporting the faith formation of young people and welcoming adults who are seeking to learn about or return to the Catholic faith. Jerry is an active member of Holy Trinity Parish in Miramar.

Margaret Bearsley-Margaret joined Launch Out in 2019. She is originally from Waikato and now lives in Wellington. Margaret studied theology through Holy Cross College in Mosgiel in the late 1980s. After two years working at the National Centre for Religious Studies in Auckland, she returned to Hamilton to study law at Waikato Law School. When her husband died in 2011 after a long illness, she began to consider how she could again become active in parish life, initially beginning with involvement in St Vinnies. Her intentions in becoming a member of the Holy Trinity Parish Pastoral Council in 2019 were to help the amalgamated parish flourish as a united Catholic community and support parishioners' spiritual growth and missionary outreach. Undertaking the Launch Out programme provides many opportunities for her to discern her calling to support parish life and growth.

Bernadette Patelesio– Bernadette joined Launch Out in 2019. Bernadette has been living Wainuiomata for the past 25years. Bernadette and her husband Peter have five children and 7 grandchildren. She has recently begun working as a piano teacher and has spent the last 15 years working in health and social services. She is now working part-time to focus on her Launch Out journey and being home for her elderly mother who lives independently on the same property. She is an active parishioner at St Patrick's, which is part of Wairua Tapu Parish.

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Rutger Keijser – Rutger recently joined Launch Out this year. Rutger was born and raised in the Netherlands. He moved with his wife Landa to New Zealand in January 2007. Rutger works for Transpower, NZ’s national grid owner and operator, and is responsible for risk management, assurance and emergency management. Raised in a protestant family, Rutger over the years developed a love for the Benedictine and Celtic forms of Christianity, and recently converted to the Catholic Church as a part of his journey to further evolve his spiritual and pastoral life. Rutger is an active member of Saint Mary of the Angels’ parish. Rutger feels called to further integrate his work life and his spiritual life, by making faith a bigger part of his life. Depending on where the Holy Spirit guides him, this could take several forms, such as supporting the sick and elderly as a chaplain or working to prepare parishes for the more frequent and severe effects of climate-induced and other disasters.

Bonita Tasele– Bonita joined in 2022 was born and raised in Samoa in the village of Leauva’a. She is a mother of six adult children and a teenager. And a grandmother to 8 mokopuna. She migrated to New Zealand in 1988. She has completed her double degree at the University of Victoria with a double specialisation in BA in teaching and Samoan Studies. She finished her teaching Diploma at Teachers College, Karori, Wellington. She has also finished a Diploma in Religious Studies and Catechetical Studies from Wellington Catholic Education Centre (now Te Kupenga). She currently teaches Religious Studies and Samoan Studies at Bishop Viard College in Porirua. She is also an active parishioner of the Holy Family Parish in Porirua. She proudly shares that her inspiration to share her faith through teaching young people and serving the Church comes from her father.

Vicky Raw– Victoria joined Launch Out in 2019. She is by nationality a Piwi – half a Pom and half a Kiwi –but she also has Portuguese heritage. Born in central London, she moved to Edinburgh to undertake her undergraduate studies in agriculture. Part of her studies took her to Angers, in the wine-growing region of the Loire Valley, France, where she developed her personal and professional interest in the wine industry and in particular in viticulture. Eventually, her work path led her to the Marlborough region where she has been based in Blenheim since 2000. During this time, the call to service both at the parish and local community levels has helped her to deepen her faith and put down roots in the Top of the South. Vicky rejoined Launch Out in 2000 as she firmly believes that we are all called to partake in active ministry in the church and where better to develop this than doing Launch Out. Undertaking the various study modules and attending prayer days and retreats have helped her to develop new areas of spirituality and theological, scriptural and liturgical understandings. Journeying along this exciting path with the other Launch Out candidates is a privilege.



BIRTHDAYS

MAY

- 5 + Paul Martin, sm
- 5 + Cardinal John Dew
- 12 Mary Jackson Kay, rc
- 27 Mary Ann Greaney



Pastoral Project Experience

Revitalising the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults in my Parish

Margaret Bearsley
Launch Out Candidate
Holy Trinity Parish



Photograph by Nguyen Kham

I have come to realise that we are born with a certain potential to be ... something. It's there in the motivations and imaginations that permeate the peripheries of our conscious and unconscious thoughts. Apparently, Mozart 'heard', in his mind's 'ear', or perhaps in his mind's 'heart', entire new symphonies, and then wrote them down at speed, capturing in pen and ink the music in his mind. I'm picking that some similar psychic alchemy occurs for poets, novelists, artists, and choreographers.

This realisation developed very gradually for me. It finally dawned on me as an explanation for why I found it impossible to write a novel, when I tried to, a couple of decades ago. Try as might, I couldn't get out a first page of the novel; not even a first paragraph. I knew what the subject of the novel was, and its storyline, but it had no life in my imagination.

If I recall correctly, the thing that brought me to this understanding of the motivation/imagination/revelation of our, or rather, my, potential to be ... something, was my Spiritual Director asking me what I desire. Our dialogue went something like this: SD, 'What do you desire?'. Me, 'Ummmm, hmmm, to know, love, and serve God and to be happy with Him forever in Heaven?' SD, 'Not sufficient. Too intellectualised. What about in your daily life?' Me, 'OK, well, I don't know. I'll have to think about it.'

I've thought about it. A lot. And amongst the many thoughts I trialled in my head was the one in my first paragraph above. And then I realised there were two areas of my motivations and imaginations, conscious and unconscious thoughts, that I 'see' in my mind's eye, in my mind's heart.

Stitch-craft is one. It's my physical, creative outlet. When I am buying fabric, yarn, beads, buttons, etc., their look and feel 'tell' me what they want to be made into, which utterly delights me!

The other is the Word of God—revealed in Scripture and theological (and poetic, etc) writings, and in hymnic music especially by my current favourite, John Michael Talbot. The haunting beauty and challenge and terror and ecstasy of the Word. The Word that is Life.

When I pray with the Psalms and readings from the Hebrew and Christian Testaments, and when I read theology and listen to sacred music, ideas, verses, phrases, leap up and wallop me, or become so etched into my unconscious mind, that I can wake up in the night with a verse, phrase, idea, present in the forefront of my consciousness. Bliss.

So, I'm thinking now that that's what I desire. Creativity. To make something beautiful (or useful, like work clothes or leisure clothes). And, to share with others the Word of God that speaks to me of Life.

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Consequently, in many respects, my Launch Out Pastoral Project for 2021 was a dream come true. From the time of doing my theology degree in the late 1980s, even before then, perhaps kindled by doing Walk By Faith in the early 80s, I have been drawn to the idea of walking with adults who are seeking the faith and the life of the Church. That may have been the unconscious aspect of my desire manifesting itself, long before I could put a name to it.

Getting into the mechanics of rolling out the project, the idea first arose from another idea. That other idea originally sprung out of a discussion in a Parish Pastoral Council meeting (I was, at the time, a member of our PPC): to survey the various groups active in the Parish and to ask if there was anything the PPC could do to help them in their ministry.

One of the two people leading OCIA in the Parish responded to the survey and identified that he and his co-leader were both elderly (early 80s and late 70s, respectively), and with just two of them, it was a worry as to how much longer they could take responsibility for the OCIA continuing in the Parish.

So, like a marriage made in Heaven, I took on as my 2021 Launch Out Pastoral Project 'To revitalise the OCIA in my Parish'.

We are fortunate in Holy Trinity Parish that our Parish Priest is both strongly supportive of the OCIA and also very keen on collaborative ministry. My first step was to meet with the two OCIA leaders and Fr Bill, and together to plan out the steps for bringing people into the team-to-be. We sat around my kitchen table one evening, armed with our collective knowledge of the OCIA process.

We naturally decided to include a series of announcements in the Parish Bulletin, pinpointing a date for interested people to meet with us, as one avenue for garnering interest. But we knew we couldn't rely on the Bulletin alone. So, we agreed that I would speak at all Masses in the lead-up to the meeting date.

I put together a short PowerPoint presentation to accompany my Mass spiels, which the little team gave feedback on, and helped me to sharpen up. I decided to use three quotes in my Mass spiels, two from the General Introduction section of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (the Rite book still uses the old RCIA name), and one from the NZCBC on the OCIA.

I find that if I use, in presentations, words and phrases that have spoken deeply to my heart, it gives me the joy of sharing my heart's desire. I think this joy helps to animate my presentation, and I hope it speaks to my 'audience'.

The three quotes are:

- *[The OCIA] needs to be given priority in the Parish ... because the preparation for baptism and Christian instruction are ... of vital concern to ... the Church, which passes on and nourishes the faith received from the Apostles¹.*
- *The people of God, as represented by the local Church (in our case, Holy Trinity Parish) should understand and show their concern that the initiation of adults is the responsibility of all the baptised, and therefore they must be fully prepared for this apostolic vocation to help those who are searching for Christ. Indeed, all the followers of Christ have the obligation of spreading the faith according to their abilities².*
- *Welcoming new members is one of the most wonderful experiences in the life of the Church. It brings new life and vigour not only to the newly baptised but to the whole Church community³.*



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Baptism of Christ by David Zalenka, 2005

As a result of our notices and spiels, we got three new people into the team, one who was happy to do hospitality for the Enquiry evenings (which were held in a Parish meeting room), one who wanted to be a Catechist, especially to the Samoan community (as she was Samoan), and one who was willing to share her professional skills in communications. Plus, there was me to act as co-ordinator, the two original team members, and Fr Bill.

Across 2021 and 2022, we experienced the same struggles and frustrations as everyone with meetings having to be cancelled or postponed at the last minute due to Covid restrictions. Sadly, our prospective new Catechist died during one of the Covid lockdowns. We shoulder-tapped another wonderful Parishioner, to bolster our Catechist numbers.

Each year, since commencing in 2021, I have used the third of the three quotes above as the centrepiece of Mass spiels to advertise up-coming Enquiry evenings. I ask the parishioners to think about anyone in their lives who might be seeking Christ and who might be interested in coming to the Enquiry evenings to see whether the Catholic faith might be for them.

For the time being, we use my home for the post-Enquiry catechesis sessions, for several reasons. Once the Enquirers signal that they want to continue on with OCIA, meeting in a home is more convivial than in a draughty and dark parish meeting room, and the parish meeting rooms have neither internet connection nor video equipment.

We use the Sycamore RCIA video series for most of our Catechesis sessions. They are superb and have three discussion-breaks in each session, whereupon we OCIA team-members share our faith and insights with the Catechumens / Candidates. And from time-to-time magic happens! The fire is lit by someone's comment or turn of phrase—fire that might catch any one of us there. The Holy Spirit seems to be equally generous in the outpouring of the fire of faith to we who act in the role of Catechist as to the Catechumens / Candidates.

The revitalised OCIA has been running in our Parish since 2021. The Parish appears to have developed a sense of ownership of it. People sometimes come up to me after Mass and ask whether we have any Enquirers this year, or whether any of the Enquirers have continued on with the programme. So far, we have had one or two adults each year going through to reception into the Church community.

Fr Bill gives prominence to the OCIA through notifying meeting dates in the Bulletin and mentioning in his homilies where we are up to in the Rites and asking the congregants to pray for the Candidates / Catechumens.

I think God is enjoying making beautiful things in Holy Trinity parish—things that correspond to the music and art in the Holy Spirit's mind's eye.

Ah, my desires are met abundantly in my Project!

¹ *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*, General Introduction, paragraph 7.

² *Idem*, Introduction, paragraph 9.

³ National Policy Document for the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (2017).

ONLINE RESOURCES

- **Food for Faith** <https://foodforfaith.org.nz/>
- **Jubilee 2025–Pilgrims of Hope** The bishops have created a special online page of resources for parishes, schools and individuals to use as we walk together towards Jubilee 2025–Pilgrims of Hope. It's an informative, indexed webpage with background information, links to online resources, and links to other websites, giving lots of information about Jubilee 2025 <https://www.catholic.org.nz/about-us/jubilee-year-2025>
- **Declaration Dignitas Infinita, on Human Dignity.** This document recently released by the Vatican addresses such issues as poverty, war, the travail of migrants, human trafficking, sexual abuse, violence against women, abortion, surrogacy, euthanasia/assisted suicide, the marginalising of people with disabilities, gender theory, sex change and digital violence <https://www.catholic.org.nz/.../Dignitas-Infinita-Inglese...>
- **“Ordination”** by John Dick. A timely reflection. Recommended for reading by Bridget Taumoepeau circulated by the [Australian Catholic Coalition for Church Reform](#).



UPDATES



20 April Prayer Day with Regina Daly, pbvm and Carmel Cole, rndm

It was a special day with Regina Daly pbvm and Carmel Cole rndm at the Home of Compassion. Regina and Carmel led us in a ecology –autumn inspired reflection. We began with our childhood images of nature—farm, rurus, fog, wind, bush adventures and vineyards; and our ancestors or the people whose shoulder we stand on. We moved on to examining our present lives using the lens of autumn and



reflected on the aspects of our lives we are called to let go. We had a bit of fun during lunch. Catching up with each other is always the cherry on the cake. It was a good time to come together. We wish Bonita and Telesia were with us.



When he had finished saying he said to Simon: "Launch out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." Luke 5: 4

Te Hao Nui-Launch Out



Our Lady of Hope
Te Hao Nui-Launch Out

You Are invited To

Thanksgiving Mass

TELESIA ALAIMOANA

11 May 2024
at 10 am, Saturday

St. Pope Pius X Church, Titahi Bay
Our Lady of Hope Parish

Telesia’s Graduation

Calling Launch Out Graduates, Candidates, Pastoral Mentors and Spiritual Directors (past and present), please join us in celebrating Telesia’s thanksgiving Mass for completing her formation in Launch Out. Archbishop Paul Martin, sm, will preside over the celebration. Refreshments to follow. Ample parking available.

The Fruits of Synodality

By Bridget Taumoepeau
Pastoral Mentor



This Easter season, with all the readings from The Acts of the Apostles describing the early church, is an inspiration to consider the relevance of the synodal way. When we think of some of the decisions that the apostles had to make, such as deciding about whether Christian converts must first be circumcised, (recalling the Jewish roots of Christianity), it reminds us that there have always been issues to discern. I imagine the question of circumcision was very serious and we know that it led to a meeting in Jerusalem that could be considered the first council or synod of the Church. (Acts 15:1-31.) In that passage we hear of their concern not to place too heavy a burden on believers – again reminiscent of the synod call to be welcoming of all, not emphasising impediments or obstacles for people of faith.

Since then, if we follow the history of the church, particularly the great Ecumenical Councils, we see the development of theological principles; decisions about priesthood; the

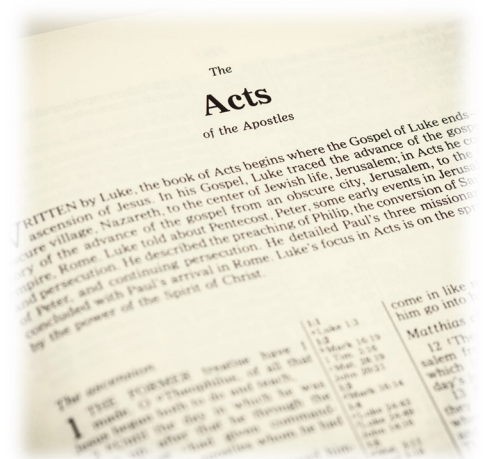
structure of the Church; issues of justice etc. We also see that the thinking of the Church on issues such as slavery; punishment; religious orders etc has developed and changed. After all we would not now expect someone to be tortured on a rack; nor a religious order to take on slaves; although there are still some harsh attitudes within the church.

What we may also have noticed over the centuries is the change in the way decisions are made. The early church seems to have been more egalitarian. People were appointed or chosen to address the problems they were facing, or to be sent on various missions, but as time went on a hierarchical, very structured organisation developed. We all know of the struggles that the founders of religious orders had to get their communities accepted. That might apply especially to women foundresses, who often had to contend with obstruction from their bishops or from Rome. Suzanne Aubert had to wait in Rome for over 4 years to have the Pope grant the 'Decree of Praise' for the Daughters of Our Lady of Compassion. And who can forget that Mary McKillop, now a saint, was excommunicated after coming into conflict with her bishop over various issues, including the uncovering of clergy child abuse.

The Second Vatican Council was an important turning point, with its emphasis on the Church in the Modern World and the importance of all the baptised – the People of God. There is a clear connection between VCII and the instigation of the Synod on Synodality.

Recently there seems to have been change in the way the Synodal process is being considered. For some time now we have worked hard to be involved and to involve others in conversation and discernment, hoping that they will see the importance of everyone being involved in the way the Church evolves and adapts to each era. Some of us have even described 'synodal fatigue', as the time wore on and we may have wondered what the outcomes would be.

Maybe this change is due to the Easter season, or the fact that many distinguished people are writing or speaking of their experience at the Synod. There is a feeling of hope, even joy, at the development of relationships between people who have not previously met together – bishops; religious; lay and especially women – all having an equal voice in the discussions.



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Cardinal McElroy of San Diego recently gave a talk where he described the ‘architecture’ of the Synod – journeying together; authentic listening; a Church rooted in Word and Sacrament; outward looking; a humble and honest Church; a Church that is welcoming and embracing; the importance of participation of all; as we are all co-responsible due to our baptism. None of these factors will be a surprise, but the task now is to incorporate them into the everyday life of the Church. Cardinal McElroy particularly highlighted the importance of changes in formation; inclusiveness; accompaniment and young people as areas that must be addressed, in order to bring about permanent change.

Timothy Radcliffe OP, who was chosen by Pope Francis to lead the meditations at the pre-Synod retreat, has published his talks, both for the retreat and during the synod. He draws greatly on scripture, including the conversation on the way to Emmaus, as well as also mentioning the Council of Jerusalem. His talks are filled with wisdom and hope.

The fruits of the synodal journey, that we are beginning to recognise, have been the recognition of the importance of listening and an increased understanding of discernment, as well as the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives and decisions. A few years ago, Fr Brian Cummings (RIP) ran a film series on discernment. One of the most interesting issues for me was the idea of group discernment. This was demonstrated by the movie ‘Of Gods and Men,’ which tells the story of the Trappist monks of Tibherine in Algeria, who had to decide whether or not they would remain at their monastery, as terrorists threatened them in the civil war. The movie explores the way they listened to each other and how their decisions changed over time. Ultimately, they decided to stay and tragically, as a result, were later martyred.

A more recent example would be the way the religious sisters in America met and discerned their reaction to the fact that they were under investigation by Rome. Their measured response to what was a very unjust process, eventually led to Pope Francis cancelling any further investigation and cordially meeting with their leaders in Rome. Since the instigation of the Synodal way in the last few years, several leaders of religious orders have commented that their Rule and structures are based on group discernment. Timothy Radcliffe has, as an appendix in his book, a chapter entitled ‘Accountability and Co-responsibility in the Government of the Church – The Example of the Dominicans.’ So, this is not a new idea or process. Rather it may be a treasure that we had lost along the way.

So let us stand back a little – absorb the process as it unfolds; give thanks for the perseverance of Pope Francis in his leadership of this Synod; rejoice in the changes that are emerging; take our share of co-responsibility; consider how we can contribute to the themes already identified (formation, inclusiveness, accompaniment and youth) and look forward to the continuing fruits of the Synod, which are for all of us- Todos, todos, todos. (*Pope Francis World Youth Day, August 2023*).

