

origins

CNS documentary service

Homily Closing Extraordinary Synod of Bishops and the Beatification of Paul VI

Pope Francis

Beatifying Blessed Paul VI at the closing Mass of the Synod of Bishops on the family, Pope Francis praised the late pope as the “great helmsman” of the Second Vatican Council and founder of the synod as well as a “humble and prophetic witness of love for Christ and his church.” He spoke during a homily in St. Peter’s Square at a Mass for more than 30,000 people Oct. 19. “When

“God is not afraid of new things! That is why he is continually surprising us, opening our hearts and guiding us in unexpected ways.”

we look to this great pope, this courageous Christian, this tireless apostle, we cannot but say in the sight of God a word as simple as it is heartfelt and important: thanks,” the pope said. “Facing the advent of a secularized and hostile society, (Blessed Paul) could hold fast, with farsightedness and wisdom — and at times alone — to the helm of the bark of Peter,” Pope Francis said. He highlighted his predecessor’s work presiding over most of Vatican II and establishing the synod, quoting Blessed Paul’s statement that he intended the synod to survey the “signs of the times” in order to adapt to the “growing needs of our time and the changing conditions of society.” Pope Francis described the just-concluded Oct. 5-19 synod on the family as a “great experience,” whose members had “felt the power of the Holy Spirit.” He said the synod showed that “Christians look to the future, God’s future ... and respond courageously to whatever new challenges come our way.” The synod, dedicated to “pastoral challenges of the family,” touched on sensitive questions of sexual and medical ethics and how to reach out to people, including divorced and civilly remarried Catholics, cohabitating couples and those in same-sex unions. Pope Francis spoke in Italian; a Vatican translation of his homily follows, copyright © 2014 by Libreria Editrice Vaticana.

We have just heard one of the most famous phrases in the entire Gospel: “Render to

continued on page 362

contents

- 361 Homily Closing
Extraordinary Synod
of Bishops and the
Beatification of Paul VI
by Pope Francis
- 363 Message of the
Extraordinary Synod of
Bishops
by the Synod of Bishops
- 365 The Synod of Bishops, a
True Journey
by Pope Francis
- 367 The Relationship Between
Food and Peace
by Bishop Richard E. Pates
- 370 USCCB Comments on
Latest HHS Contraceptive
Mandate Proposal
*by Anthony R. Picarello
and Michael F. Moses*
- 376 Datebook
- 376 On File

October 30, 2014
Volume 44
Number 22

