

September 30, 2023



Center for Spiritual Development

Daily Reflections

Image by Christine Sponchia

RIGHT AROUND THE NEXT CORNER

By Julie Mussché

"The earth is too small a star and we too brief a visitor upon it for anything to matter more than the struggle for peace."

COLMAN MCCARTHY

Reflection

Can you believe that tomorrow is October 1? Wow, the year has just whizzed by. I love this month; it just seems to sparkle and shine with light, color and shadow. There are many other reasons, at least for me, why October stands out as special.

My aunt and uncle pray the rosary every day, something that has stayed with me for a lifetime. My go-to prayer during stressful times is the rosary. It is an inroad to the life of Jesus and Mary and, if savored, very reflective. October is the month of the Holy Rosary with October 7 being the Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary. In several weeks, God willing, I will visit the Shrine of the Holy Rosary in Fatima. The rosary is often prayer for world peace and to diminish

the influence of evil in the world. I must imagine there are a whole lot of people praying the rosary in our current time.

October is special for so many reasons. It includes the feast days of many popular saints: St. Therese of Lisieux, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Teresa of Avila, and Pope John XXIII. A special note: October 15 is the Sisters of St. Joseph Founders Day, hearkening back to their very beginnings in 1650. Of course, throughout the world and traditions, there are many festivals celebrated during October which feature the abundance of the harvest, or the beginning of spring contingent on the hemisphere. And, let's not forget all of the children who are looking forward to Halloween -- pumpkins have already mysteriously appeared in my neighborhood.

There's something else going on, making this October particularly singular. Today people are gathered all over the world and from all faith traditions to pray in anticipation of the *XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, for a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission*, which will convene at the Vatican October 4-29. (For more information about the Synod, go to <https://press.vatican.va>) An invitation: please join us in prayer 10:30-11:30 a.m. PDT. The prayer today is for the Synod.



Around the next corner (Pineville, MO)
Photo by Julie Musch é

For Pondering

- What is your favorite month and how does the Spirit move through it?

For Prayer

A Prayer for the Synod

*Listening God
bless the faithful gathering in Synod.
With grateful hearts
may we join them in Spirit,
eager for ever Deeper Communion,
Broader Mission, and Fuller Participation.
Inspire all with Your wisdom that was
revealed in Listening Sessions.
Mold us into Your welcoming Church,
ready to engage these challenging times.
Let Your Spirit of Openness,
Harmony and Synodality
rule their hearts, shaping each encounter,
and guiding every deliberation.
We pray in all Your Holy Names. Amen.*

PRAYER CARD, SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH SYNOD TEAM

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