

# Deum convertat oculos - The Gaze of God

**“You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments.” Matthew 22: 37-40**

The Synod of Bishops meeting in the Vatican released their Midterm Report, on what they will be dialoguing about over the next year and to give a glimpse of what we can expect in official Church documents to come. Many people are afraid of Synod as stated in their report, many are hurt by what appears to be “radical” change. But still so many more are weeping tears of joy, that the Church is listening to the Holy Spirit, guiding the Church to realize more fully what Church Doctrine states and what Jesus’ teachings of love, mercy and unity are all about.

**“Still the earth is bruised and broken by the ones who still want more. Come and wake us from our sleeping, so our hearts cannot ignore all your people lost and broken, all your children at our door.”**

**Marty Haugen God of Day and God of Darkness**

**“This is about letting it be known that the Gospel of the family is a joy that fills the hearts and lives, because in Christ we are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness, and loneliness.” Synod Report**

Church Doctrine is inexpressibly beautiful in its very essence. Jesus set forth a Church created in love, mercy and hope that is led by the Holy Spirit. Church Doctrine cannot be changed, but since the time of Jesus many rules and barriers have been formed. Many of these rules and traditions were formed to help the faithful to lead a life more in tune with Christ, but over time many have lost their meaning, or have ceased to be useful. This is why the Holy Spirit guides us in every age, to meet each age with renewed and refreshed strength in the Gospel message. This is how the Gospel remains ever new and ever relatable.

**“Whenever we make the effort to return to the source and to recover the original freshness of the Gospel, new avenues arise, new paths of creativity open up, with different forms of expression, more eloquent signs and words with new meaning for today’s world. Every form of authentic evangelization is always “new”.” Pope Francis *Evangelii Gaudium* 11**

Judge by the fruits of the Synod’s message. Does it fall in line with Jesus’ teachings of love and mercy for all, especially those who are far away from God? Do we seek to condemn people or love them? The answers are not always easy to grasp, but they are never hard to find, simply look into your heart and ask: “What would Jesus Do!” How can the Church reflect the Gaze of God?

*Jesus,  
teach my heart the ways of Your love.  
Enlighten my darkened mind to Your merciful truth.  
Speak words of compassion into my soul.  
May I never judge another child of God.  
May I always love with question.  
May I ever seek the fullness of Your grace,  
in the gifts You gave to me, to be shared with all,  
to bring light to Your Gospel.  
May each and every day, be lived for the glory of  
Your kingdom.*

*Amen*