

## Fr. Simon Sez

By the time you receive this bulletin, I should be returning from Washington, D.C. with our diocese March for Life pilgrimage. We leave D.C. Saturday evening and return to Sioux Falls Sunday evening. I plan on staying overnight to run errands and attend appointments. I will probably return Monday evening.

Pope Francis started a two-year process in the universal Church he calls Synod on Synodality. Synods are a process going back to New Testament times for representative bishops and other leaders in local Churches to consult together to discern a common path forward. It's a for way to provide input to the Church universal. For our part, our diocese has developed a survey to gain input on how to implement Bishop DeGrood's vision for our diocese *Lifelong Catholic Missionary Discipleship Through God's Love*. Bishop DeGrood encourages our participation by going online to complete the survey that will be available online February 1 - 28, 2022. Go to [sfatholic.org/synod](https://sfatholic.org/synod) to download the survey. I will also have it available in our church gathering spaces.

I added my sister Lynette Singleton's name to our Prayers of the Faithful since her husband and I admitted her into Avera Oahe Manor in Gettysburg room 16 on January 13, 2022 and started hospice care. She was diagnosed in May 2015 with Anaplastic oligodendroglioma, IDH mutant and 1p/19q-codeleted. It is a rare malignant glioblastoma brain cancer that is Grade 3. She was first diagnosed with having a Grade 4 cancer with the prognosis being a few months to live.

Lynette is the daughter of Steve Jr. and Alice Simon from Hoven with four older brothers. (She says her name is "And Lynette," because the names of the five children are Craig, Gerard, Steve, Fr. Brian, and Lynette.) She is married to John Singleton from Ft. Pierre and has one nineteen-year-old son Alex. She was the Branch Manager of AAA Travel Agency in Pierre, SD.

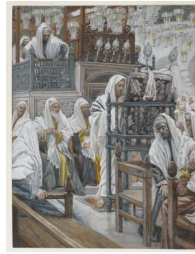
Her prognosis now is indefinite. (That is my word choice.) The oncologist said there is no way of knowing her prognosis. Hospice care can be for a long time or this could get worse fast if her cancer becomes Grade 4. There is no hope for her health getting better other than a miracle! Please pray for her.



I hope Lynette can be with us for quite some time without significant pain for God to bless us with her presence. Those who know her, know what I mean. *St. Peregrine the Cancer Saint, Pray for us!*

For more information on her, to read my journals, and to provide support, go to <https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/lynette-singleton>.

## New Day Dawns: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Third Sunday of Ordinary Time



Nehemiah 8:2–6, 10; Psalms 19:8–10, 15  
1 Corinthians 12:12–30  
Luke 1:1–4, 4:14–21

The meaning of today's liturgy is subtle and many-layered.

We need background to understand what's happening in today's First Reading.

Babylon having been defeated, King Cyrus of Persia decreed that the exiled Jews could return home to Jerusalem. They rebuilt their ruined temple (see Ezra 6:15–17) and under Nehemiah finished rebuilding the city walls (see Nehemiah 6:15).

The stage was set for the renewal of the covenant and the re-establishment of the Law of Moses as the people's rule of life. That's what's going on in today's First Reading, as Ezra reads and interprets (see Nehemiah 8:8) the Law and the people respond with a great "Amen!"

Israel, as we sing in today's Psalm, is rededicating itself to God and His Law. The scene seems like the Isaiah prophecy that Jesus reads from in today's Gospel.

Read all of Isaiah 61. The "glad tidings" Isaiah brings include these promises: the liberation of prisoners (61:1); the rebuilding of Jerusalem, or Zion (61:3–4; see also Isaiah 60:10); the restoration of Israel as a kingdom of priests (61:6; Exodus 19:6); and the forging of an everlasting covenant (61:8; Isaiah 55:3). It sounds a lot like the First Reading.

Jesus, in turn, declares that Isaiah's prophecy is fulfilled in Him. The Gospel scene, too, recalls the First Reading. Like Ezra, Jesus stands before the people, is handed a scroll, unrolls it, then reads and interprets it (compare Luke 4:16–17, 21 and Nehemiah 8:2–6, 8–10).

We witness in today's Liturgy the creation of a new people of God. Ezra started reading at dawn of the first day of the Jewish new year (see Leviticus 23:24). Jesus also proclaims a "sabbath," a great year of Jubilee, a deliverance from slavery to sin, a release from the debts we owe to God (see Leviticus 25:10).

The people greeted Ezra "as one man." And, as today's Epistle teaches, in the Spirit the new people of God—the Church—is made "one body" with Him.