

In this episode, CFN Editor-in-Chief Brian McCall and Managing Editor Matt Gaspers discuss the following news items:

- **Give Alms, Especially During Lent, But Not to CRS**

- Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is the charitable arm of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).
- Every year during Lent, CRS conducts their “Rice Bowl” fundraiser as a means of collecting alms for the poor — one of the three preeminent good works to which the faithful are called to devote themselves, especially during Lent (the others being prayer and fasting).
- The Lepanto Institute, led by [Michael Hichborn](#) (founder and president), recently concluded a year-long investigation into CRS and has begun to release thoroughly documented evidence of CRS actively promoting the use of condoms, other forms of contraception, and even abortion (see [here](#) and [here](#)).
- CRS has responded by [promising to investigate](#) the allegations.

- **A Synod on “Synodality”?**

- Roughly five months after the disastrous [Amazon Synod](#) (Oct. 6-27, 2019), the Vatican [announced](#) the theme for the next Synod of Bishops (scheduled for Oct. 2022) on March 7: “For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission”.
- “Synodality” has become the hallmark of the Francis pontificate — the means by which he advances the [radical agenda](#) for which he was elected, with the help of the [St. Gallen Mafia](#).
- Pope Francis has [asserted](#) on more than one occasion that synodality “is what the Lord expects of the Church in the third millennium” (see [here](#) for a similar statement). For this reason (i.e., the will of Francis), no doubt, the International Theological Commission (ITC) spent a few years studying the history/theology of “synodality”, eventually publishing a text in March 2018 called, “[Synodality in the Life and Mission of the Church](#)”.
- Tellingly, when Cardinal Michael Czerny, S.J. (one of two special secretaries for the Amazon Synod) was asked to explain “synodality” last October, he [answered](#): “I think that the dynamic of the Synod is such that everyone had a sense of what it [synodality] meant because we were doing it. Whether everyone could explain it in words, I’m not so sure, but I’m not sure that that mattered.”

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