SANCTITY CELEBRATED. Pope Francis, with Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI in attendance, leads the canonization Mass for St. John Paul II and John XXIII on April 27 at St. Peter’s Square. Dignitaries, heads of state and royalty from Europe and across the world attended the event. Franco Origlio/Gianluigi Xenos.

SYNDIC STIRRINGS. Above left, bishops and cardinals attend the first sessions of the Extraordinary Synod of Bishops on the Family at the Vatican on Oct. 6. From the run-up to the two-week session and for weeks afterward, there were fireworks, as the ancillary issues of Consecration for divorced-and-reformed Catholics and special status for same-sex-attracted Catholics detracted from the synod’s aim of how to restore the family unit.

CONCLUSION. Mother Agnes Mary Donovan, head of the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious, discusses the final report on the Vatican’s apostolic visitation of women religious in the United States on Dec. 16. To her right is Sister Sharon Halverson, president of the Leadership Council of Women Religious. The Vatican’s long-awaited report thanked the sisters for their efforts but questioned whether they had fulfilled the criteria for how they were to serve the poor with zeal.

DEVOTED SERVANTS. Pope Francis greets Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI as he arrives at St. Peter’s Basilica during a celebration for grandparents and the elderly on Sept. 28. Pope Francis celebrated Mass following a special encounter with elderly persons. In his homily, the Holy Father said, “The elderly are key to the health of free society.” Franco Origlio/Gianluigi Xenos.

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NEW ‘BLESSED’. A tapestry depicting Blessed Paul VI is unveiled on the balcony of St. Peter’s Basilica during Mass for the beatification of Paul VI, which came at the closing of the Extraordinary Synod of Bishops on the Family. Franco Origlio/Gianluigi Xenos.

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FINANCIAL REFORM. French financier Jean-Baptiste de Franssu became the new president of the Institute for Religious Works, or Vatican Bank, in July. Board members include Clemens Boersig from Germany, American Mary Ann Glendon and Briton Michael Freeden. AP photo/Keystone, Martial Trezzini.

HOPFUL DEVELOPMENT. Maria Collins and Vatican spokesman Federico Lombardi leave at the end of a press conference at the Vatican in May. Members of Pope Francis’ newly created sexual abuse advisory board say they will develop specific protocols to hold bishops and other Church authorities accountable in cases of suspected abuse or protect children from pedophilic priests. The eight-member committee met for the first time in May at the Pope’s residence to discuss the scope of their work and future members; the committee was complete as of Dec. 27. Collins, a committeemember and survivor of sexual abuse, said she came away from the inaugural meeting of the commission “hopeful.” franco Origlio/Gianluigi Xenos.

SYNDIC STIRRINGS. Above left, bishops and cardinals attend the first sessions of the Extraordinary Synod of Bishops on the Family at the Vatican on Oct. 6. From the run-up to the two-week session and for weeks afterward, there were fireworks, as the ancillary issues of Consecration for divorced-and-reformed Catholics and special status for same-sex-attracted Catholics detracted from the synod’s aim of how to restore the family unit. Franco Origlio/Gianluigi Xenos.

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