

Church Reform

Comments and Questions

Being catholic at this time is a struggle.

What is church? The issue of sexual abuse offers a defining moment and great opportunity where we can explore this topic.

Matter needed to be dealt with through law and not church.

Growth: from these storms there will be growth for the church.

Recognise that the institutional church is human and therefore flawed.

Recognise that each individual constitutes the church - when harm is done to one it affects all.

Recognise that this is opportunity for far reaching reform and structural change, encompassing a stronger voice and much greater involvement for laity in community.

Sharing of power and recognition that parish community is church.

Many parishioners no longer will be silent and many are seeking structural change in the church.

We see the problem as an abuse of power from the Roman Curia down. The solution is pressure from the laity up to address this problem with truth and justice.

Recognise that we are all church (not just religious and priests).

Less nuns; 99 sheep are gone!

Ordinary people in the church have no structural means of sharing ideas and forming consensus. What we think and feel has real value and standing in the church.

This is a time of liberation as was the counter-reformation in the 16th Century.

In what ways have we been complicit in the sexual abuse problem? Laity needs to take some of that power.

Our church needs uplifting.

Where to From Here: Emerging Needs and Suggestions

Need for laity to be heard and supported.

Because there are many questions around this issue of sexual abuse serious study needs to be undertaken to get to its cause.

Need for listening processes, such as the one we've just experienced, on every level of church, including parish and school.

Need for structural change that encompasses a stronger voice, and greater involvement for the laity in the community. Sharing of power and information. Basis of Hope - in years to come look what grew out of it.

Need to recognise that the community/parish is the church.

Need for stronger contribution from lay people in church decision making.

Church needs to regain credibility, to change, to have a female voice, maintain focus on victims, be open and transparent, more dialogue with priests, more collaboration in decision making.

Change structures - multiplicity of voices from 'bottom' to 'top'.

Look to the signs of the times and make the church more relevant so that it will be here for generations to come.

No more cover-ups.

Honesty and cessation of secrecy.

Do not cover up mistakes.

We must dispose of the culture of secrecy.

Need for bishops to recognise the problem and to listen and act in response to what is being said.

We need an open independent enquiry for a credible future church.

The hierarchy needs to be totally honest and focus on the wellbeing of people and not the church institution.

The hierarchy needs to support priests and community as well.

Find out what is missing in formation of priests; address that need in so many dioceses.

Recognise opportunity for reform. Women to be ordained as priests. Priests to be allowed to marry.

Reform is needed: creative and constructive response by institutional church.

Incidents to be acknowledged and acted upon - not hidden.

Need to start at the top - an overthrow of the Vatican!