

CCRI 2016 Strategic Action Plan

Objective: to activate and strengthen the voices of the People of God for the purpose of reforming injustices and inequalities in Church teachings and practices that inhibit their relationship with God. This will require education of the people to transform their mindset to recognize their rightful place in the Church.

Goals:

1. In light of Pope Francis's focus on decentralization, foster grassroots initiated forums inviting bishops and pastors to meet with the People of God in dioceses throughout the world
2. Revive the concept of a National Pastoral Council wherein priests, deacons, religious and lay people would collaborate with the bishops in specified areas of decision making. (This would allow for cultural variances to emerge.)
3. Representation of elected laity in the institutions of the Catholic Church, at all levels;
4. Seek transparency and accountability at all levels in our Church
5. Offer our public support of Pope Francis in creating a just, inclusive, and compassionate Church
6. Facilitate understanding among lay people who, by virtue of their baptism, have the right and the duty to speak up for the good of our Church

Strategy

- 1) Support the development and implementation of building a team of representatives from many reform groups who would consider exploring collaborative actions.
- 2) In keeping with the spirit of Francis's Jubilee Year of Mercy and his desire to include the People of God in the decentralization process:
 - a. Identify, encourage, and support local meetings initiated by the people
 - b. Invite local meetings to share the results of their meetings
 - c. Collect results from local and regional meetings that we and other reform groups facilitate
 - d. Share this data with Pope Francis, his Council, Synod participants, and Bishops Conferences worldwide
 - e. Place on our CCRI website data collected from meetings, along with articles and statements presenting logical arguments for key reforms

Specific Approaches

1. Work through local reform groups to reach out to local parishes
2. Promote meetings and/or speakers in local parishes, with corresponding announcements in parish bulletins
3. Continue to promote our blog: www.PopeFrancisCanYouHearUs.org. encouraging people to share their personal experience as they live their lives in relation to Church teaching
4. Present letters and other documents to the Pope, his Council, Bishops Conferences, and Synod participants pointing out our main goal of a more participatory Church as well as specific reforms wanted. Such topics could include:
 - divorced/remarried welcomed to the Sacraments
 - the recognition of homosexuality
 - primacy of conscience, especially in relation to artificial contraception
 - more contemporary attitudes to the roles of women
 - pastoral support and the need for married clergy
 - honesty and integrity in dealing with sexual abuse
 - cultural issues unique to specific countries
 - institutional recognition of, and support for, grassroots dialogue about governance and policy issues
5. Write to Presidents/Leaders of Episcopal Conferences and Nuncios on particular issues where their actions could influence the Pope and his Council on issues of justice and inclusion highlighting the fact that the Church cannot teach what it does not practice.

6. Build a rapport with individual bishops who support reform and gain their consensus in support of our message.
7. Prepare Press releases to make our reform issues public. Develop relationships with significant journalists and seek their advice in order to gain their interest in promoting our media releases.
8. Write to the Synod in support of changing the “ordo synodi” so that synodality includes the grassroots.