

Newsletter October 30, 2013

To all supporters of church reform -

Note: for non-English-speaking supporters, to read this newsletter, go to www.CatholicChurchReform.com, click on "Translate this Website" on the top left, then click on the Newsletter tab.

Nota: para los partidarios que no hablan Inglés, para leer este boletín, vaya a www.CatholicChurchReform.com, haga clic en "Traducir esta página Web" en la parte superior izquierda, a continuación, haga clic en la ficha Newsletter.

Moving Forward with our Next Letter to Pope Francis

Per the advisory committee of our coalition, we are proceeding forward with our next letter to Pope Francis. Were we heard on our first letter? Father Lombardi, the Jesuit Vatican spokesman, reported that a frequently discussed topic at the October meeting was "concern for the role of the laity in the Church and the world." Based on this together with the announcement of the Synod being called next October to discuss families, we believe our letter to the pope has already helped trigger the pope's actions.

Below you will find the draft for this letter. Several organizations have made some editorial suggestions. The action step now is to offer your suggestions, if you have any, or to offer an opinion about those areas that have diverse viewpoints. Since this letter is much shorter and simpler than our first, it doesn't seem a great deal of time is needed for editing. After your suggestions are sent in, the draft will go back to the drafting committee to accept or reject any suggestions. Then the letter will be posted on our website for signing on or soon after November 1st. The signing period will be about 3 and a half weeks.

Individuals will be able to sign the letter online after suggestions have come in. Those of you representing a group can email your approval of the letter to info@CatholicChurchReform.com. To have your group as a signer on the letter, please submit your approval after the actual letter is posed and before November 26th.

Timeline

October 28: letter goes to organizational reps with 2 days to correct or accept as a draft.

October 30: letter goes to individual supporters with 1 day to correct or accept as a draft.

October 31: back to our committee to accept or not accept suggestions for change.

November 1 or soon after: letter posted on the website for signing.

November 26: end of signing period.

November 28-29: letter arrives to the pope and council

December 3: meeting begins with pope and council

Please let me know if you can work with this timetable:

Draft Letter to Pope Francis for his December meeting:

Draft Letter to Pope Francis for his December meeting with his council

Submitted for IMWAC's editorial suggestions and/or approval. The final letter for signing will be available Nov. 1.

Dear Pope Francis:

We speak as the People of God. You continue to inspire us with great hope and we especially welcome your commitment to *"the wisdom of discernment"* in addressing future directions for the Church.

Our earlier letter to you (20 September 2013, enclosed) brought together the grave concerns that emerged from our discernments as members of the universal People of God. We trust that you have had the opportunity to reflect on the contents of our letter. [Two opinions on this last sentence: (1) delete it because it seems condescending; or (2) strengthen it: "As we have not had a response thus far we trust that you have received and had the opportunity to reflect on the contents of our letter."] It is our desire to join with you in developing and implementing a new model of Church, in line with the spirit of the Second Vatican Council, a spirit of shared responsibility among all of the People of God.

We see within the Church strong movements among the baptized who are committed to modeling themselves on the teachings and example of Jesus. By so doing, we help build Christ's Church with full accountability, transparency, and inclusiveness - as an example to the world.

We agree with you that our Bishops *"must be able to support the movements of God among their people."* Many of us, however, have had difficulty in engaging with our bishops, due to clericalism and their defensiveness about the shameful protection of criminal abusers of children. [Two opinions: (1) delete this because the conclusion of the sentence seems inflammatory; or (2) propose some concrete change here, e.g., ask for an explicit instruction to bishops to form pastoral councils as channels of honest, two-way communication among laity, priests, and bishop, with elected members, open agendas, and open meetings.]

We have only the good of our Church at heart as it fulfills Christ's mission, and we act from the conviction that we, by virtue of our baptism, have a duty in conscience and canon law to express our concerns. It is our belief that the People of God, Christ's Church in dialogue with one another, will accomplish what you have said are the changes the Church needs: *spreading the good news of the kingdom, one of justice and love, and healing every kind of wound.*

We assure you of our strong support as you discern the way ahead. We look forward to your response and to further dialogue.

Yours in Christ

A worldwide coalition of Catholics,
[list of signers and organizations attached]

CC: to the Council of Cardinals