



December 9, 2013

To Church Reform Groups:

You are receiving this newsletter if you are a church reform group who has supported one of the letters to Pope Francis.

Status of 2nd Letter to Pope Francis

The 2nd letter to Pope Francis and copies for his council of eight were sent out on November 23rd scheduled to arrive on Friday, November 25th. The packet for Pope Francis was hand-delivered to his Casa Santa Marta residence. If and when we receive confirmation that Pope Francis received the letter, we will let you know.

Strategy of the three letters to Pope Francis

Our first letter to the pope requested that our rights and responsibilities to speak out for the good of our Church be acknowledged. Our second letter requested that we enter into dialogue with the pope and that he encourage his bishops to also enter into dialogue with us. Our next letter, what will be our 3rd, is requesting inclusion in the Extraordinary Synod on Family Life scheduled to run for 2 weeks beginning October 5, 2014. The draft is now ready for you editorial suggestions. Please see this letter below.

Exploring the possibility of holding a lay Synod

We have begun communication with IMWAC, the International Movement We Are Church, exploring the possibility of holding a lay Synod in conjunction with them. The tentative plan is that this will be held in Rome for 2 or 3 days just prior to the start of the October 5th Episcopal Synod called by Pope Francis. Our intent in establishing our own Synod is fourfold: (1) We are taking a proactive step - as opposed to waiting for an invitation - acting as responsible Catholics concerned for the good of our Church as it affects our family lives and to invite the pope and members of the hierarchy to join us at our conference; (2) In the event that we are included in the Synod called by Pope Francis, by holding our own synod first, we will be prepared to truly represent lay Catholics who live as families in all its various forms; (3) If, sadly, we are excluded from the Vatican Synod, we will be prepared to have proposals to submit to the pope and his council for their consideration; (4) We will have the ample opportunity for interaction with the Media who will already be gathered in Rome. We invite representatives, particularly of the larger reform organizations, to join with us on the next teleconference call with IMWAC to continue these discussions. Please email us if you would be willing to participate: info@CatholicChurchReform.com.

3rd Letter to Pope Francis ready for editorial suggestions

To read the 3rd letter to Pope Francis, [click here](#). Those currently serving on the drafting committee went through many drafts to come up with this version being submitted.

Members of the committee are:

John Buggy, Australian Reforming Catholics

Brendan Butler, We are Church, Ireland

Mary Ellen Chown, Catholic Network for Women's Equality, Canada

Clyde Christofferson, attorney and reformer, U.S.

George Harris, member of We Are All Church South Africa

Janet Hauter, American Catholic Council, U.S.

Peter Johnstone, Catholics for Renewal, Australia

Raquel Mallavibarrena, Redes Cristianas and We Are Church, Spain

Rene Reid, Catholic Church Reform, U.S.

Nessan Vaughan, reformer, Ireland

Peter Wilkinson, Catholics for Renewal, Australia

We would appreciate your editorial suggestions by Friday, December 6. This letter will then be submitted to the general group of supporters with 2 more days for suggestions to be offered. All the suggestions will go back to the drafting committee and the final letter will be posted for signing by Tuesday, December 10th. We will have until late January to gather signatures. Given that this letter is the culmination of all of our correspondence and the one seeking the significant request of being include in the Extraordinary Synod on family life in 2014, we strongly encourage your support. It is crucial that Pope Francis and his council see us as speaking with one very strong voice in our request.

[Report on the Vatican Survey prepared by members of COR](#)