



February 28, 2014

To Catholic Church Reform supporters:

Our New Name

Because our focus is to gather the voices of the faithful globally and we now have supporters from 65 countries, our Advisory Group has agreed to officially change our name to Catholic Church Reform Int'l. Our new URL is www.CatholicChurchReformIntl.org. Feel free to use either the new URL or the former one. They both lead to the same website.

A Gathering of the Faithful to be held in Rome

CCR Int'l has formally confirmed that we will hold a meeting in Rome October 2 and 3, two days prior to the start of the Extraordinary Synod called by Pope Francis. We are calling this event *Forum on the Family: Listening to the Faithful*. The intent is to gather there (1) to show our support for the Extraordinary Synod called by Pope Francis, (2) to offer assistance to the Synod of Bishops by providing them with our *sensus fidelium*, namely, a summary report from all of you who have joined in our regional gatherings worldwide, and (3) to interact with the Media to make our views known. More on this to follow.

Open Letter from Pope Francis

The following letter, sent 25 February 2014 from Pope Francis, should warm our hearts and reinforce our plans to focus our energy and our activities on the Extraordinary Synod next October. Let us strengthen our resolve to prepare for this event through our Regional Gatherings and ultimately our meeting in Rome. It seems apparent that Pope Francis truly wants to hear from those of us who face challenges living as families in the context of Church teachings. Let us pour out our hearts at these gatherings and be ready to offer our assistance to the Synod of Bishops by sharing our stories.

Dear families,

With this letter, I wish, as it were, to come into your homes to speak about an event which will take place at the Vatican this coming October. It is the Extraordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, which is being convened to discuss the theme of "pastoral challenges to the family in the context of evangelisation". Indeed, in our day the Church is called to proclaim the Gospel by confronting the new and urgent pastoral needs facing the family.

This important meeting will involve all the People of God - bishops, priests, consecrated

men and women, and lay faithful of the particular Churches of the entire world - all of whom are actively participating in preparations for the meeting through practical suggestions and the crucial support of prayer. Such support on your part, dear families, is especially significant and more necessary than ever. This Synodal Assembly is dedicated in a special way to you, to your vocation and mission in the Church and in society; to the challenges of marriage, of family life, of the education of children; and the role of the family in the life of the Church. I ask you, therefore, to pray intensely to the Holy Spirit, so that the Spirit may illumine the Synodal Fathers and guide them in their important task. As you know, this Extraordinary Synodal Assembly will be followed a year later by the Ordinary Assembly, which will also have the family as its theme. In that context, there will also be the World Meeting of Families due to take place in Philadelphia in September 2015. May we all, then, pray together so that through these events the Church will undertake a true journey of discernment and adopt the necessary pastoral means to help families face their present challenges with the light and strength that comes from the Gospel.....

Sign up now to attend a Regional Gathering

The regional gatherings will be set up worldwide both locally and online. Here you will have the opportunity to share your views and life experiences regarding marriage and family, cohabitation before marriage, divorce/remarriage and the Sacraments, birth control practice, same-sex relationships, the role/equality of women in the family and the church, the impact of the sex abuse scandal on families, acceptance of married priests in family life, and how families can better contribute their knowledge and experience to the decision making of the Church.

The unique aspect of our report is that we will not just be pointing out why many church teachings are ineffective and ignored by the faithful but will be offering the Bishops solutions to many of the issues related to living as Christian Families. How could the Church address these issues? If Jesus were here today, what would his message be to families?

Even more than the Vatican Survey, joining in these gatherings is your opportunity to share your experiences and make your voice heard. March is our planning month. We would like to know if you want to participate in these gatherings in your part of the world or to join with others online. **So that we can begin to organize these events, please go to the [top of our Homepage](#) and sign up now.**

Tell your Conference of Bishops to make the Vatican Survey public

[Episcopal Conference of Bishops - model letter](#)

Please join with us in contacting your conference of bishops in your country and your diocesan bishop to ask them, in a spirit of transparency and in keeping with Pope Francis' call for openness and dialogue between the bishops and the faithful, to publish the results of their survey sent out by the Vatican. Here is a model letter in English. Please translate into your native language and send a copy to CCR Int'l. As we receive copies of translations in different languages, we will post them for you.

Here is the [list of Conferences of Bishops](#) around the world. Simply click it on, click on the

flag of your country, and you will find the address. We need your help. This is a huge undertaking and we can only succeed if we all take part. This is truly an opportunity for us to speak with one voice from all over the world.

CCR Int'l Organized in Committees

In order to accomplish the massive goals CCR Int'l has set for this year, we are organizing ourselves into committees and we need your help:

Internal Communications

Media (draft and send out press releases)

Position Papers (write and/or find experts to write on the various subject matters)

Regional Gatherings (organize worldwide meetings and provide position papers for agenda topics)

Rome Logistics (plan the two day event, speakers, facility, lodging, media relations)

Report Tally (gather the reports from all the individual gatherings and summarize results)

Translations (need translators of position papers and media releases in all languages)

If you can offer your services to any of these committees, please [email us](#). If you are already with an organization, please consider becoming part of our regional gatherings by setting them up through your group. We will provide you with a format for holding the meetings and the agenda topics.

Press Releases

CCR Int'l has issued two press releases this month: the first questioning the appointments of so many clerics to the Pontifical Council for the Laity and the second praising the Vatican for considering appointing a married couple as head of this Council and upgrading it to the status of a Congregation. You may view both of these [here](#) and perhaps send the press release to your local media.

Announcing Events and Activities of other Reform Groups

If your group is holding an event, let us know in advance and we will post it in our newsletters and on our website.

Signing of our letters to Pope Francis

Even though our letters have been sent to the pope and his council, we welcome you to continue signing them. We assume that our website is being monitored by the Vatican and they will see the numbers growing. This is also your way of staying on our email list so we can continue to advise you of reform activities around the world.

<http://www.catholicchurchreform.com/letterNew3.html>.

Thank you for being a part of our reform movement. Now, more than ever, we need your help and participation in our next steps to bring about needed reform in our Church.

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