



March 31, 2014

To all committed to the Renewal of the Catholic Church -

Exciting Times!

These are exciting times in the world of Church Reform. We are about to enter an historic moment on many levels with the potential of having grassroots Catholics speak to the Vatican with the hope of actually being heard. If ever there was a time since Vatican II for you to feel encouraged that reform is coming, it is now! If ever there was a chance to have your voice heard all the way to the Vatican, it is now! If ever you thought of becoming directly involved in bringing about the renewal of our Church, it is now!

Our Focus for 2014

Here at Catholic Church Reform Int'l, our focus for this year is to gain authentic representation of 21st century families at the October 2014 Extraordinary Synod. To this end, we are launching Regional Gatherings inviting everyone from all over the world to come together either locally or online to share their personal experiences regarding the challenges of living a Christian family life in the context of Church teachings. Why is CCR Int'l putting forth so much effort to do this? We feel the Vatican Survey was a good start but fell short of truly gathering the wisdom of the faithful who have so much to share by virtue of their personal life experiences. Pope Francis has made it known that he is open to receiving the discernment of the faithful. Since bishops do not live in families, they must rely on learning about the challenges faced by families from the families themselves in order to communicate the message of Jesus in a way that is relevant, meaningful, and understood by today's families.

This is our moment - an historic moment in the life of our Church - to express our views and offer genuine solutions to the Synod of Bishops for transforming our Church from a dogmatic "Thou shalt not" Church into one that demonstrates an understanding of the struggles families face today, thereby being able to offer compassionate, loving guidance to the faithful.

Need your help to organize Regional Gatherings

If you're thinking: "To organize such a gathering is so much trouble. How can I as just one person do this?" We at CCR Int'l are here to help you in countless ways. Our Advisors and Committee members are in process of creating:

1. **Position Papers:** These can serve as the agenda topics for all the Regional Gatherings being held locally or online. These will make it possible for us to have a

common basis and have productive meetings throughout the world - the People of God all addressing the issues that really matter to families and that the Extraordinary Synod on the Family in Rome needs to address this October.

2. **Regional Gatherings:** A template will be provided to make it easy for you to organize a meeting either locally or online. All you need to do is invite people to join with you. You will be given guidelines for the opening prayer, how to present the topic(s), how to open up dialogue among the attendees, and how to gather solutions to be shared with the Synod.
3. **Report your conclusions:** At the end of the gathering, the organizer will be invited to complete an online form telling us what happened at your meeting, the issues and challenges that were discussed, and the conclusions you reached about how the church needs to be addressing these issues in a manner more akin to how Jesus himself would speak to us.
4. **Rome Event:** All of this will culminate with our *Forum on the Family* to be held just prior to the start of the Extraordinary Synod. We will be there to support Pope Francis in his decision to call this Synod on the Family and to offer to the Synod our summary report of all the meetings that were held around the world. This will ensure that every voice of every participant will be heard and will be hand-delivered to the Synod making the experiences of the faithful fully known to these bishops.

Book your Hotel Reservations now

Consider joining us in Rome! The first step in getting ready for Rome is to make your hotel reservations. You will want to do this now before rooms are taken. We have discovered that accommodations in Rome for this October are filling up fast! Even if you are only thinking about joining us for *our Forum on the Family in Rome this October 2 and 3*, we strongly encourage you to [make your hotel reservations now](#). Most hotels allow a cancellation up to 48 hours before check in.

How to get involved

Sign up to help organize or participate in a gathering. Whether you are already part of an organization or an individual wanting your voice to be heard, [sign up now](#). As the gatherings are scheduled, we will notify you of every meeting and location. This is not a time to sit back and wait and hope. This is a time for taking action. Pope Francis has said he wants to hear from us. Let us join our voices so that they will be heard loud and clear and cannot not be ignored ... all the way to the Vatican!

To learn more about our activities for this year, please visit [our newly reconstructed website](#):

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