



Catholic Church Reform Int'l.

A global network seeking renewal of the Church

January 23, 2014

To all striving for the renewal of our Church -

We are now beginning a new and most exciting year for all who care about the reform of our Church. With this Pope, we know that something is going to be transformed in spite of the massive opposition he faces. As our Jesuit consultor from India has reminded us: "Alone, the Pope cannot change the world. A Pope for the people needs a people for the Pope." Rendering our support of Pope Francis and his general direction to create a more compassionate church is one of many of our objectives for 2015. Please see the following three items and, if you stand with Pope Francis, we invite you to sign all three letters.

Open Letter to Pope Francis re the unworkable Vatican Questionnaire

As a worldwide network, our greatest concern is the [Lineamenta Questionnaire](#) released by the Vatican Secretariat in early December. Pope Francis directed the Synod Fathers "to find concrete solutions to so many difficulties and innumerable challenges that families must confront." (Pope Francis, *Concluding Discourse*, 18 October 2014). But once one begins to read the 46 questions (actually 94) that all require essay-type responses, it becomes evident that the questionnaire is unworkable. We at CCRI feel this questionnaire is doomed to fail. In fact, we believe it was designed to fail. We have also been monitoring diocesan websites around the world and we are hard pressed to find many bishops using the Vatican Questionnaire. It is so overwhelming and complex that it would appear even most bishops realize its uselessness and find themselves stymied how to go about gathering the reflections of their people. Consequently, we have written an [Open Letter to Pope Francis](#) and invite you now to join us in signing it.

Widen the Representation of Families at the 2015 Synod

CCRI has joined with the Catholic Organizations for Renewal (COR), a U.S. group, in signing a petition asking for broader representation of families at the 2015 Family

Synod. These organizations want to see families in all their diversities invited to the Synod and are sending in names of individuals whom they recommend. If you, too, want to see the Synod widen the circle of families at this Synod, we invite you to [sign the petition](#) now. For those outside the U.S., you may also want to send in suggestions of people you want to have as family representatives in this important meeting.

Stop the Attacks on our Pope

Pope Francis has been under a great deal of criticism from conservative Catholic groups. CCRI has joined with a cross-section of supporters of Pope Francis in Italy to ask these groups to Stop the Attacks on our Pope. You may read the English translation of this petition on our website and, if you support our Pope, we invite you to [sign the petition](#) now.

Our Strategy: to Create an Alternative Living Poll

Our primary focus is to achieve influence in the 2015 Synod. Given our research, the *Lineamenta* questionnaire is not being promoted and, even it were, it is too complex for most people to respond. Alternatively, we have a committee working to create a user-friendly and down-to-earth questionnaire. It will be an invitation to all - those who are still practicing Catholics and those who've left - to share with the Synod their lived experience of marriage and family in the light of their understanding of the Gospel: "How have they benefitted from the teachings of the Church, or how has it caused difficulties or harm?" Participants will be invited to write a living testimony to their understandings, experience, and hopes. They will be asked for suggestions for change. "If you were once a participatory practicing Catholic but have left the Church, what caused you to leave, what would bring you back?" As soon as we have this completed, we will notify you.

We Need your Help

We mentioned that we have been monitoring diocesan websites to see which bishops have released either the *Lineamenta* questionnaire or one of their own making. We have done some preliminary random checking in Australia, New Zealand, the UK, Ireland, and India. To add credibility to our research, we would now like to check many more dioceses throughout the world to find out what, if anything, bishops are doing to gather the reflections of their people. But we are a small group, and need your HELP. Would you be able to assist us with 30-60 minutes of your time? To assist you in this task, we have prepared a 10-point [Diocesan Survey Check Sheet](#). Please use it and when you have

completed it, email it back to info@CatholicChurchReform.com. If, after completing the check of your own diocese, you would be willing to check on more (perhaps all the dioceses in your state), please email 'Peter Wilkinson' <pjw52@bigpond.com> and he will assist in this effort.

CCRI Rejected as an Exhibitor at the World Meeting of Families

CCRI applied to be an exhibitor at the [World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia](#). Finally, after several checks and nearly 3 months of waiting, we called again to check on our status and we were told "No Thank You." As supporters of Pope Francis and his call for a more compassionate approach to the pastoral care of families, we were not welcomed. Somewhat taken aback, we asked if there was an appeal process, anyone we could talk to about the matter. We were told she had to go and were hung up on. To our knowledge, no reform group nor any organization generally supporting the direction of Pope Francis has been accepted as an exhibitor. (If anyone has been accepted, please let us know.) We are writing to our U.S. Nuncio, Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò about the matter. As you know, Pope Francis has agreed to make an appearance at this event. Apparently, Archbishop Charles Caput is keeping a tight lid on this meeting, allowing only speakers and exhibitors who are in support of keeping the Church exactly the way it is. We are outraged both for our pope and for all groups who have spent years striving for the reform of our Church. If you share our concern, we hope you will take some action. We welcome your proposals.

Outreach Team being Organized

With so much riding on reform this year, we invite more organized groups to join with us - particularly in those countries where we lack significant representation - Japan, China, Central and South America, more European countries, and all part of Africa. If you can help us reach out to other groups working for the reform of our Church, contact our committee chair, 'Bill Faulkner' <whfaulkner@hotmail.com>.

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