



Catholic Church Reform Int'l.

A global network seeking renewal of the Church

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August 16, 2015

To Reform Organizations:

As the 2015 Synod draws near, we turn to you to ask your help in bringing personal stories to the Synod - an approach that we feel will make a far greater impact than all logical arguments and pleading our individual causes. Our objective is to unite our global voices into one very strong voice that will be heard by the Bishops who are resisting Francis's message for a Merciful Church. We have two means of accomplishing this.

First, we have our [Jubilee Year of Mercy paper](#), entitled *The People Speak*, which is a genuine reflection of the sense of the Faithful, at least those who have taken the time to participate in our regional gatherings around the world and in our surveys. We invite you to post this link

<http://www.catholicchurchreform.com/documents/Jubileepapersurveydatafinal.pdf>

on your website and to encourage your people to send it to anyone who might have an influence on the coming Synod. With your assistance in getting this to be read, we hope to persuade a majority of the bishops to understand how, all too often, church teachings and practices have negative impacts on the quality of family life for millions of people. Simply put, through the comments and personal stories, we are asking the Synod to replace strict man-made rules with what Pope Francis is seeking: a more compassionate, welcoming, and nurturing approach to ordinary church teachings.

In addition, we are inviting you to participate in our newly launched blog called *The People Speak Out*, where we invite you to share your own very personal stories of how Church teachings have shaped your life . . . for better or for worse. Why stories? Because stories, whether you like it or not, crawl inside you more than facts, figures, papal bulls, or dogmas. Stories are the way that Jesus touched (and changed) people. We believe that stories, even more than our summary report of people's views, will put truth in front of the bishops and challenge them to seek new ways to address the very real issues facing individuals and families today. Our blog issues include divorce/remarriage, role of women, LGBT, artificial contraception, co-habitation, primacy of conscience, priestly celibacy,

and lapsed Catholics. We ask you to invite your people to share a personal story on any of these issues. As an organization, we invite you to post either or both of these links on your website:

www.PopeFrancisCanYouHearUs.org



www.SynodBishopsCanYouHearUs.org



If you have difficulty with one or both of these links working, you may also use:

www.CatholicChurchReform.com/blog.

CCRI appreciates your continued support. While we affirm our Catholic identity, we also have an ecumenical perspective that accommodates those Catholics who do not fit into the current Vatican-approved definition of what that means. Therefore, whether your organization is made up of active Catholics, former Catholics, other Christian denominations, or not currently affiliated with any church, if your people care about the need for reforms in Roman Catholicism, we invite them join with us in making our voices heard in one very strong voice at the coming Synod.

You can find both [The People Speak](#) and [The People Speak Out](#) on our home page: www.CatholicChurchReformIntl.org. Some organizations, with unique cultural needs, may

prefer to write their own introduction and conclusion to *The People Speak*. You will find a clean version of our survey data report available on the CCRI homepage.

On Behalf of all of us at Catholic Church Reform International,

[Rene Reid](#), Director

