



Catholic Church Reform Int'l.

A global network seeking renewal of the Church

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October 17, 2015

Update on the Synod:



Synod Fathers experience chaos and confusion

The Bishops find themselves in a state of turmoil, differing widely on their views on the role and mission of the family. NCR editorial board says to the Synod Fathers: You should relish

the uncertainty and [Welcome to real family life!](#) From our perspective, this is the Holy Spirit fully active. Francis has encouraged us to go out and make noise, make a mess. All this confusion is just what is needed.

Support and prayers for Progressive Bishops

Let us stand with the bishops who have the courage to boldly address the Synod demonstrating their compassion for the struggle of families in today's world.

Chicago's newly appointed [Bishop Cupich, speaking out on behalf of remarried Catholics and the gay community saying that a person's conscience is inviolable](#)

[Cardinal Marx openly promotes communion for the divorced and remarried.](#) He says the Eucharist is "not a prize for the perfect" but nourishment for those who are struggling and seek healing.

[Australian Archbishop Mark Coleridge says Synod must change Church's language and actions.](#)

[Amidst all of this, Pope Francis calls for a Church that reciprocally listens, & learns from one another, and shares a common mission.](#)

[Short of a miracle on the part of Francis,](#)

[Fr. Tom Reese says the Synod was doomed to fail before it began.](#)

Given all of this, what can you do while the Synod is in session? Let's do our part.

1. It is not too late to [Sign this petition](#) joining with other international reform organizations who have sent an [Appeal](#) outlining the fundamental problems experienced by Catholic families throughout the world:

- The social and economic problems of the family should be widely discussed by the Synod, particularly those affecting the most vulnerable, children and women.
- Regarding the divorced and remarried and their admission to the Eucharist, the practice of the early Church should be adopted, as it is done in the Orthodox Church.

- Concerning the Motu Proprio (Apostolic letter) of Pope Francis on the canonical process of nullity of marriage we agree with and welcome the simplification of the procedure, but question the concept of annulment as such.
- Homosexual individuals and same-sex couples should be considered as full members of the Church with every right and every duty.
- '*Humanae Vitae*' has not been accepted by the majority of the People of God; couples following their conscience must be respected.
- The Synod should send a clear and public message of repentance to the survivors of clerical sex abuse and their families.
- However much we hope for solutions to these many problems from the presently constituted Synod, we assert that a major flaw of the synod is its clericalized nature and especially the non-representation of the many Catholic family forms we experience in our contemporary world.

If you wish to sign as an organization, [send us an email](#).

2. Join Archbishop Durocher and urge the Synod to consider a greater role for women in the Church. [Sign petition now](#).

3. We invite you to participate in our blog called *The People Speak Out*, which will continue through the Jubilee Year and be delivered to Pope Francis and the Bishops. Here you have the opportunity to share your own very personal story of how the Church teachings being discussed at the Synod have shaped your life . . . for better or for worse.

Our blog issues include a variety of topics. If you are divorced and remarried, do you feel cut off from the Sacraments? If you are gay or lesbian, do you feel disenfranchised by the Church? If you are a woman, how have you been treated? Has the Church's teaching restricting artificial contraception had an impact on your life and marriage? If you are living with someone outside of marriage, do you feel welcomed to the Sacraments? If you were a priest and left because you fell in love, how has the obligation for celibacy impacted your life? If you left the Church, share the circumstance that led to your leaving and what, if anything, would it take to bring you back? We ask you to share your very personal story on any of these issues.

Click on the link below now. Pope Francis wants to hear your story and, more importantly, to have the Bishops hear them.

www.SynodBishopsCanYouHearUs.org



For the diehard Synod follower, [click here](#) to find additional articles on the Synod on our website. We look forward to the interchange of the bishops as the second week opens. [A glitch is being repaired and should be up and available again shortly.]

On Behalf of all of us at Catholic Church Reform International,
[Rene Reid](#), Director

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