FOCUS E-News: August 12 - 25, 2018 Edition

Join Catholics in 8 cities this weekend! Gather to demand accountability from prelates who covered up clergy sex abuse!

Saturday, August 25
Boston, MA -- 4:00pm ET at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross

Sunday, August 26
Chicago, IL — 1:30p @ Holy Name Cathedral
Naperville, IL — 5p @ St. Margaret Mary
Philadelphia, PA — 11:30a @ Sister Cities Park
South Bend, IN — 1p @ The Grotto, Notre Dame
St. Louis, MO — 3p @ Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis
Twin Cities, MN — 1p @ Cathedral of St. Paul
Washington, DC -- 10:30 amET at the Cathedral of St. Matthew

Other ways to take action! Read and sign!

- For They Preach, But They Do Not Practice": An Appeal to U.S. Bishops and Pastors
- Statement of Catholic Theologians, Educators, Parishioners, and lay leaders on clergy sexual abuse in the United States

The Future Church
How Young Catholics are Transforming the Faith

Thursday
Sept 20, 2018

Join Keynote speaker Kaya Oakes and a panel of young Catholics as we explore how young Catholics are changing the Church.

Our 2018 Trivison Award recipient is
Sr. Norma Pimentel. Pope Francis personally honored Sr. Norma for her service and dedication to immigrant families. FutureChurch honored her leadership by including her in the Women Witnesses of Mercy project that celebrates Catholic Women leaders who are changing the world. Sr. Norma will join us livestream.

The first Christine Schenk Young Catholic Leadership Award will be given to Shannen Dee Williams. Shannen is recognized for her ground-breaking work in unearthing and telling the stories of African American Women Religious and for her leadership in promoting racial justice within religious communities and the larger church.

SPECIAL TELECONFERENCE!
THE FALL OF CARDINAL MCCARRICK: A RUBICON MOMENT
September 5, 2018 8pm ET

Distinguished Professor of Catholic Thought at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Connecticut, Dr. Higgins will discuss Cardinal McCarrick’s resignation and argue that it is a

URGENT ACTION!
URGE U.S. BISHOPS TO REFORM SEMINARY PROGRAMS!

In the wake of the Pennsylvania Grand Jury report, we know that a seminary system that engenders a culture of clericalism often leads to a culture of abuse.

A few months ago the Association of U.S. Catholic Priests (AUSCP) sent a letter to Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.S.S.R. and the USCCB asking...
dramatic fall from grace with much importance.

According to Dr. Higgins, this is a Rubicon moment and the key questions that need to be addressed, and never substantively are addressed, must now finally be answered. Join us for this inspiring conversation by a highly respected expert in the Catholic Church!

SIGN UP FOR TELECONFERENCE

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Church is in good hands.

Does that sound like heresy?

Read what associate director Russ Petrus has to say below.

Then you will know what I know when I hear young, committed Catholics speaking their mind and sharing their vision for the Church.

And with Julian of Norwich, I say, "All shall be well."

Deborah Rose-Milavec
Executive Director

FROM THE ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

I came out to my parents in 2001 when I was a freshman in college. At that point in my very young life, it was the hardest thing I had ever done. Don’t get me wrong -- my parents were great and the group hug between the three of us afterwards is a memory that I will cherish forever. My dad, knowing how important my faith was to me, asked me if I had talked to a priest. I told him that I hadn’t, but that I would. The Holy Spirit took over from there.

DOWNLOAD RESOURCE
Today, however, I have to say that coming out as Catholic is at least as hard. And a question I’m often asked is how I can continue being Catholic as a gay, legally married 36-year-old. Like many, my answer to that question is a complicated and ever-evolving one (certainly too long to get into here). And I must admit that the latest revelations of sex abuse and coverup in the Church make the answer increasingly difficult to come by.

But the answer would surely be incomplete if it didn’t include the many gay priests that I’ve met along my Catholic journey who have been friends, mentors, confessors, sources of wisdom and inspiration, and vehicles of God’s grace. The priest the Holy Spirit led me to talk to after I came out happened to be gay. The priest that my husband and I both turn to when life demands deep discernment is gay. The only time I ever felt that the Sacrament of Reconciliation was a grace-filled experience for me was with a gay priest. When I was fired from a parish position for being gay, gay priests were there for me. The list goes on. (I shouldn’t have to say this – but to be clear, not a single one of these priests ever crossed a boundary with me.)

And so, at a deeply personal level, I find it disgusting, horrific, and absolutely sinful that some priests and bishops in our Church would take advantage of this moment for their own hurtful and hateful purposes and try to turn the pain and suffering of victims as well as the outrage of Catholics against the LGBTQ community generally and against gay priests specifically.

At an intellectual level, their attempt to scapegoat gay priests would be laughable nonsense if it weren’t yet another disgraceful and dangerous instance of bishops abdicating their responsibility to serve the Church, resisting necessary reform, and denying their own corporate role in the abuse and coverups.

In his letter to the Diocese of Madison, WI, Bishop Robert Morlino writes, “The deeper crisis that must be addressed is the license for sin to have a home in individuals at every level of the Church.” He goes on to specify what is really on his mind, “to be clear, in the specific situations at hand, we are talking about deviant sexual – almost exclusively homosexual – acts by clerics” and later adds, “It is time to admit that there is a homosexual subculture within the hierarchy of the Catholic Church that is wreaking great devastation.” At best, this statement reveals an immoral ignorance of the research that the US Bishops themselves commissioned in 2011. That study concluded that gay priests were no more likely their straight counterparts to commit abuse and that historically higher access to young men – not sexual orientation – accounts for the disproportionately high number of male victims. These findings are consistent with other similar studies. The research is clear: rape, molestation, and sexual assault are acts of violence and abuses of power – not expressions of sexuality.

Archbishop Samuel Aquila of Denver who had previously tweeted...
out an article with the headline “Active Homosexuality in the Priesthood Helped Cause this Crisis” approvingly retweeted Morlino’s statement, writing “Thank you to my brother bishop, #BishopMorlino for his letter of truth! @CHMadison.”

Aquila’s own letter reveals an astounding ignorance (and perhaps fear) of human sexuality – even for a cleric. For Aquila, non-procreative sex acts between consenting adults is the real problem. “When one separates the procreative aspect from sex, one can justify just about any sexual act,” he ridiculously claims. I’ll say it again: rape, molestation, and sexual assault are acts of violence and abuses of power – not expressions of sexuality. Aquila continues, “The sexual revolution occurring in our culture, which essentially says, ‘Anything goes if adults consent to it,’ is not the way of God and only leads to where we are today.” I simply cannot comprehend the sort of mental gymnastics it takes to draw a straight line from consenting adults engaging in sex to someone abusing their power to perpetrate and act of violence against a non-consenting child or adult.

To Bishop Morlino’s credit, he asked for the laity’s help, writing, “I ask all the faithful of the diocese to assist in keeping us accountable to civil authorities, the faithful in the pews, and to God Almighty, not only to protect children and the youth from sexual predators in the Church, but our seminarians, university students, and all the faithful as well.” Let’s take Bishop Morlino at his word and hold these bishops accountable:

1. Direct them to their own study which contradicts their assumptions, prejudices, and conclusions
2. Tell them that the Church is a better and holier place because of many gay priests
3. Tell them that rooting out clericalism – not scapegoating of LGBTQ Catholics – is the way forward.

Their contact information can be found on their statements.

In closing I’d like to say that for today I’m still a Catholic because of the gay priests – and countless supportive lay Catholics both gay and straight – who have shown me what it means to live and love like Christ in ways that Bishops Morlino and Aquila could never even begin to understand. And for today, that will have to be enough.

Russ Petrus
Associate Director

T A K E  T H E  F U T U R E C H U R C H  S U R V E Y

FutureChurch issues press statement in aftermath of clergy sex abuse coverup scandal
FutureChurch released the following press statement in light of the Pennsylvania Grand Jury report.

**Faithful Catholics Engender Significant #MeToo, #CatholicToo Moment with Decades Long Work to Dismantle Clericalism and Hold Those in Authority Accountable for Clergy Sex Abuse**

The resignation of the powerful prelate Cardinal Theodore McCarrick and the release of the 1300 page Pennsylvania grand jury report are further proof that the elite authority structure in the Catholic Church is bankrupt. Moreover, they are also evidence that decades of work to reform the institutional Church are having an effect today and that such reforms are a pathway forward to justice as Catholics seek to meet this crisis head on.

“This is a #MeToo -- #CatholicToo -- moment of clarity,” said Deborah Rose-Milavec, executive director of FutureChurch. “Authorities in the Church who once thought their hold on power was unassailable are now facing justice because of the determination and courage of so many Catholics.”

FutureChurch is cautiously encouraged by the U.S. Bishops’ call for a full investigation by the Vatican into what they have called a “moral catastrophe” and calls on bishops to go further by offering civil authorities all they need to investigate and prosecute criminal behavior. Catholic officials must also end their practices of shaming victims, hiding evidence of criminal behavior, fighting changes in the statute of limitations for victims, and keeping reports like the Pennsylvania grand jury report from being released.

Still, deeper reforms of Church governance and structure are needed. “The call for oversight of these investigations by lay people is critical,” said Russ Petrus, associate director of FutureChurch. “But beyond abuse investigations, we need lay people -- and especially women -- in places of authority locally, regionally, and in Rome to hold clerics accountable in every aspect of Church life.”

“For over 28 years, FutureChurch activists have been committed to dismantling the structural patriarchy and clericalism that has excluded married men from the priesthood, barred women from ordained ministry and governance, closed parishes, and created an elite culture of privilege that has produced far too many predator priests and bishops,” said Jocelyn Collen, chair of the FutureChurch Board of Trustees. “We have educated and advocated for the kind of reforms that were first envisioned at the Second Vatican Council and, today, in the face of these latest revelations, we have no doubt about the significance and effectiveness of our collective work to transform the institution for the work of the Gospel.”

FutureChurch offers resources to help keep the pressure for change.
2. Join the #CatholicToo movement and share your story of being silenced, sidelined, or abused in the Catholic Church. (www.CatholicToo.org)
3. Join FutureChurch for our next teleconference with Distinguished Professor Michael Higgins on September 5, 2018 as he talks about the fall of Cardinal McCarrick and this Rubicon moment that will lead to change (http://bit.ly/FCTeleconference_Higgins)
4. Join others in your parish or community in an important effort to “Listen to Women” and to let priests and bishops know about the true and unfiltered experience of being a woman in the Catholic Church.” (www.ListeningToWomen.org)

“FutureChurch honors all those whose tenacity has helped pivot the Church toward much needed reform and whose efforts are being seen today in these painful but powerful events, said Rose-Milavec. “Thank God for the commitment of our Catholic sisters and brothers, lay and ordained, who have doggedly refused to let the promise of the Gospel erode in the face of darkness and corruption.” Read more

Mary Hunt gets at the root of the foundational problem in the Catholic Church

Mary Hunt argues that the problem [of clericalism] is deeper, indeed foundational, rooted in the very bifurcation of clergy and laity that grounds the Roman Catholic institution.

This clergy/lay, top-down structure conditions relationships and functions in the church. The Catechism of the Catholic Church says ordination "confers an indelible spiritual character" on a priest that "cannot be repeated or conferred temporarily" and "mark[s] him permanently" (1583). A priest is seen as ontologically different from a layperson. His place in the hierarchical structure reflects this difference. His roles as a sacramental presider and as a decision-maker are contingent on it.

Moreover, in dioceses and orders, the institution that pays, feeds and eventually buries him is built to maintain its own well-being as well as his; he is expected to exhibit similar loyalty to the institution.
No wonder bishops and superiors have reassigned, covered up and otherwise protected clerical criminals. Read more

Why I'm not leaving the Catholic Church

John Gehring confesses if there ever was a
time for a demoralized Catholic to pack it up, head to the nearest Episcopal church and declare himself a refugee from religious malpractice, the most recent round of clergy sexual abuse scandals would seem ample justification.

As the Pennsylvania grand jury report discloses in painful detail, the institutional evil and brazen culture of cover-up that allows predators to abuse with impunity befoils the air like a mobster's cigar. The Mafioso analogy might seem overwrought, but omertà — the Mob's code of silence about criminal activity — feels like an apt description in this case. The Pennsylvania grand jury, after consultation with the FBI, described the way church officials acted as "a playbook" for concealing the truth. \[Read more\]

**Women in India angry with Pope Francis' call for fasting**

Pope Francis' call for fasting and prayer to atone for the sexual misdeeds of clergy has evoked angry responses from leading Catholic women in India who are demanding action to stem such crimes.

The Aug. 20 papal letter asked for forgiveness for clerical abuse a week after a U.S. court investigation reported that over 300 "predator priests" in the state of Pennsylvania had abused more than 1,000 children over several decades.

Pope Francis stated that fasting could drive a desire for justice through a commitment to truth and charity."Making the laity fast and pray is not the solution," female theologian Kochurani Abraham told ucanews.com. \[Read more\]

**Ex-priest tells story of McCarrick open advances**

NCR's Peter Feuerherd reports that ex-priest Ed Bognacki knew Theodore McCarrick and said his advances were an open secret.

The topic on New York's public radio that morning was the sex abuse crisis in the Catholic church, in particular the resignation of accused Cardinal Theodore McCarrick. The program featured Heidi Schlumpf, national correspondent for NCR.

McCarrick's proclivities were an open secret in church circles, Ed from Freehold said.
Ed told the radio audience about the regular invitations Archdiocese of Newark seminarians received to visit McCarrick at his Jersey Shore beach house. The then-archbishop would invite seminarians over for the weekend, with the proviso that there would always be a need for an extra bed, which would be shared by McCarrick with a favored seminarian.

"It was common knowledge," he said, adding, "It is not a surprise to me. I am surprised that some of the cardinals have said they are surprised by this."

He told of being invited, via a phone call from the then-archbishop's priest secretary, and begging off, claiming weekend duties at a hospital chaplaincy program. That was a lie, he said, created to avoid a compromising situation. Read more

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**LCWR condemns clergy sex abuse coverup; calls for systemic change**

The recent news detailing the extensive and sometimes brutal sexual abuse committed by Catholic priests in the United States has left us at the Leadership Conference of Women Religious sickened and ashamed of the church we love, trusted, and have committed our lives to serve. We weep and grieve with all who over the decades have been victimized by sexual predators within the faith community and feel their pain as our own. We recognize that the damage done to many is irreparable.

Sexual abuse is a horrific crime, and the horror is so much worse when committed by persons in whom society has placed its trust and confidence. Equally difficult to comprehend is the culture within the church hierarchy that tolerated the abuse, left children and vulnerable adults subject to further abuse, and created practices that covered up the crimes and protected the abusers. Read more
Marie Collins says Francis is all talk and no action

In an NCR interview with Joshua McElwee on Aug. 21, the former member of Francis' papal commission on clergy sexual abuse said that while she believes the pontiff has good intentions in fighting abuse she is looking for actions to back up those intentions.

In this letter, the pope is talking about looking for means to hold not only the perpetrators accountable but those who cover-up for them or protect them. He's looking for means to hold them accountable. Well, what bothers me is that the commission gave him the means — the accountability tribunal — and he approved it, three years ago. Why is there still this searching for some way of holding leaders accountable when he already has that on his desk?

Read more

Voices of Faith: No Patience Left

As the clergy sex abuse coverup continues to unfold, Voices of Faith urges the laity to take action.

Our patience has run out. For years, our voices and the voices of many other faithful Catholics have been silenced with requests for patience and arguments about the difficulty of reforming such a large institution. We know that the task is enormous but we will not allow the lives of any more children to be destroyed, to see more women and men alienated to the point of leaving the Church, or to experience more of our precious faith being distorted.

Lay people whose faith, courage and determination have been instrumental in uncovering the sexual abuse and cover up must also be instrumental in the renewal of our Church.

Read more

Theologians, Priests rebuke Bishop Morlino

John Dearie reports that Bishop Morlino blames the clergy sex abuse scandal on a "homosexual subculture" among priests.

But he is in the minority.

"It's not really a surprise, and I think it's a disgusting attempt to reinforce the institutional church's handwashing of the sex abuse of children and cover up that went on for so many years," said Marianne Duddy-Burke, executive director of Dignity USA.

Todd Salzman, a theologian at Creighton University said focusing on the sexual orientation of abusive priests misses the issue, which largely has to do with clericalism "that has promoted the structural sin of the abuse of power" that led to both the sexual abuse of minors and the cover-up by bishops.

Read more
Virginia Saldhana of Mumbai challenges Pope Francis and argues that many pious platitudes have already been expressed toward survivors of abuse, but it has not brought about any change in their reality because many abusers continue to be clerics. Sadly, the pope’s letter does not say anything concrete about actions to make bishops accountable. We have heard of commitments to put policies in place, but to date nothing seems to have worked.

The culture that has created the opportunity for priests to become abusers has never been concretely addressed. It took civil authorities, first in Australia and now in Pennsylvania in the United States, to unearth these horrific crimes that have been kept carefully concealed by the church.

Rita Ferrone: Beyond the Hunt

Ferrone argues that investigations of those responsible for the coverup on predator priests are going to fail. According to Ferrone, the scope of such investigations are sometimes described in narrow terms, focusing solely on how McCarrick got promoted. In other instances, a broader inquiry is envisioned, including a probe into why his successors in Metuchen and Newark kept payouts to adult survivors of McCarrick’s abuse a secret. But in every case the demand is to identify the people who failed to stop him. The expected result is a return to a state of justice, once these individuals are named and censured (though who would censure them and in what way is unclear). Permit me to observe that these responses are typical of American confidence in legal and penal solutions to injustice.

Paul Moses on the Coverup

For some twenty-five years, American Catholics have been hearing from confident church leaders that they were addressing the evil of clergy sexual abuse. So it’s no surprise that Francis, who likewise made such promises in the past, is being greeted with skepticism.

After the Boston Globe’s reporting in 2002 showed news organizations around the country how to uncover the story in their own cities, the bishops responded to the scandal like corporate executives who were trying to save their jobs. They cracked down with their 2002 Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People and norms for dealing with “priests or deacons” who sexually abuse minors, but spared themselves from scrutiny. This was very much deliberate, as Catholic News Agency noted in a recent news analysis.
They are also likely to fail. Read more

We need Vatican III

Terry Laidler believes the current crisis calls for thinking big.

He argues that Francis is a brave man: he rides into a microcosm of the crisis that confronts world Catholicism, the deauthorization and decline of his Church in the wake of these revelations of widespread abuse and systemic cover-ups by those charged with the protection and nurturance of the faith it claims as its core.

Is there anything he can say or do while there to address the scale and depth of the problem? I think so: he should announce the convocation of Vatican Council III. Read more

Vatican sends in Neocatechumenal Seminary in Japan

Tokyo Archbishop Tarcisius Isao Kikuchi admitted to some confusion after being informed that a new Catholic seminary in the Neocatechumenal Way for Asia will be established in the Japanese capital.

He issued a statement on Aug. 15 saying he was not aware exactly where the seminary would be located or when it will become operational. "I am very confused by the decision of the congregation," the statement read.

Read more

Pope appoints number 3 at Secretariat of State

Pope Francis has named a Venezuelan veteran from the diplomatic corps to be the third-ranking official in the Vatican Secretariat of State.

Pope Francis on Aug. 15 appointed current nuncio to Mozambique Archbishop Edgar Peña Parra as the Substitute for General Affairs of the Secretariat of State.

Archbishop Peña Parra takes over on Oct. 15 from Cardinal Angelo Becciu, who held the role since 2011, according to Vatican News.

Read more

Vatican won't
Fr. Bryan Massingale takes on critics of retreat

New Ways Ministry and retreat leader Fr. Bryan Massingale are being criticized by ultra conservative Catholics for an upcoming retreat for gay priests, brothers, and deacons.

According to Massingale, the core issue is that it is a retreat for gay This is the core issue. If this was a retreat for "senior" priests, "young" brothers, "retired" deacons or "alcoholic" priests, there would be no concern or consternation. The word "gay," with the fears and prejudices it conjures in the minds of some, is what makes this gathering of God's servants problematic. Read more

La Croix International reports that The Vatican has decided not to rule on a dispute among German bishops over whether non-Catholic spouses in mixed marriages can receive the Eucharist in some circumstances.

Instead, Archbishop Luis Ladaria, head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, told the bishops Pope Francis would like them to work "in a spirit of ecclesial communion" and find a solution that is "as unanimous as possible."

Read more

More coverage and response to clergy sex abuse cover up

French priest launches petition;wants accused Cardinal to resign

The Diocese of Pittsburgh in Turmoil

US Not Alone in Grappling with Clergy Sex Abuse and Coverup

Victims Call for Federal investigation of Clergy Sex Abuse

Anne Barrett Doyle doesn't want cardinal resignations but transparency

Irish born prelate says cover up of predator clergy overshadows World Meeting of Families

Advocates for women priests say full inclusion of all who are called would deter misuse of authority and create greater accountability in the institution

WMF: Progressives fault Pope on a number of issues

Crux reports that some leading members of the LGBT

WMF: Frank DeBernardo reports from The World Meeting of Families

Greetings from Ireland and the

WMF: James Martin speaks for LGBT inclusion despite protests from conservative Catholics

"I know so many LGBT people...who feel excluded. Anything we can do to reach out to people and to include them is valuable."
crowd appear ready to join conservative critics, seeing this pope as not going far enough.

Jamie Manson, a columnist and editor for the National Catholic Reporter who herself is part of the LGBT community, said that rather than being encouraged, she is disappointed by Francis and his 2016 post-synodal apostolic exhortation Amoris Laetitia, which she argued marginalizes gay and transgender people. Read more

WMF: What Pope Francis Should Say

James Carroll argues that criticisms of clericalism as a power structure that sets the priesthood apart from and above the people whom priests serve have been a staple of Francis’s exhortations. The “spirit of clericalism,” he said in 2016, is “a

Two new investigations launched in the U.S.

The Tablet reports that two new additional states in the US are to launch investigations into clergy sex abuse.

The Attorney Generals of Illinois and Missouri have announced they are to look into the issue in Chicago, St Louis

WMF: The Bishop of Portsmouth’s call for an extraordinary synod to address the scandal is receiving support

Sarah MacDonald and Ruth Gledhill report that Pope Francis arrives in Ireland this morning for two-day visit to the World Meeting of Families that is taking place in the shadow of the...
very ugly thing.” In his letter on Monday, he added that clericalism “helps to perpetuate many of the evils that we are condemning today. To say ‘no’ to abuse is to say an emphatic ‘no’ to all sorts of clericalism.” Yet, even now, Francis has shown no sign of actually moving against that culture.

Pope Francis is hemmed in by tradition and by blinders bracketing his own vision.

But this Pope’s record points to a capacity for new beginning, even now. Francis could still firmly and clearly indicate that the Church stands at the threshold of a new way of understanding the questions that underlie its broken authority. He could find a way of heralding an open Church future, in which true female equality, lay power, sexual maturity, real accountability of Church leaders, and a restored availability of sacraments to all Catholics can be realized. But what can he actually do? Read more

and other dioceses in the wake of the Grand Jury report from Pennsylvania that found 300 priests had abused at least 1000 children over seven decades.

Josh Hawley, Attorney General of Missouri, told reporters in a conference call: "Today, I have received a letter from the archbishop confirming that he and the archdiocese will open to my office their files and will allow us to conduct a thorough, impartial review of potential clergy abuse in the Archdiocese of St. Louis. Read more

scandal of clerical sex abuse.

Martin Bashir, the BBC’s religious affairs editor, said on the BBC's Today programme on Radio 4 the church had "radically altered" since Pope John Paul II visited the country nearly four decades ago. Mass attendance was down to 40 per cent and the visit is being overshadowed by the sex abuse of children by clergy.

Meanwhile, four high profile safeguarding experts connected with the Vatican’s Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors backed the Bishop of Portsmouth’s call for an Extraordinary Synod in response to the clerical sex abuse crisis in the Church.

Professor Gabriel Dy-Liacco, a psychotherapist, who is a current member of the PCPM, described the proposal an “an excellent” idea. Read more
FutureChurch celebrates Catholics who are working for a just Vatican II church highlighting the work of Catholics whose everyday efforts are creating remarkably positive changes in the Church.

This week we share a letter from a Catholic in California who responded to Michael Sean Winters recent column "Critics Wield Grand Jury Report to Advance Anti-gay, Anti-Francis Agenda". The letter draws attention to what the writer believes is the dismantling of social justice programming in the diocese, and anti-immigrant activities of the archbishop.

Dear Mr. Winters,

You quote comments from Meet the Press by Hugh Hewitt about trusting Archbishop Charles Chaput and Archbishop Jose Gomez.

From active ministry experience in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, the public persona and actual reality of Archbishop Gomez's leadership are two distinctively different realities. He talks about supporting immigrants, but affirms radio program hosts with anti-immigrant, anti-Muslim sentiments. When concerns were raised about Archdiocesan support for radio programming affirming these sentiments, we were told the Archdiocese has no control over programming content. Yet research shows Archbishop Gomez secured the placement of a priest holding extreme anti-Muslim sentiments on Immaculate Heart Radio, now Relevant Radio where Archbishop Gomez is on the Board of Directors and ecclesial advisory board. I have sent letters to USCCB, American Church leadership and Vatican representatives on these two topics.

In addition, we see Archbishop Gomez's close alliance with Tim Busch and the Napa Institute defining the agenda of the Church in Los Angeles, ideologically where Archbishop Gomez serves on Napa's Advisory Board and monetarily as Mr Bush served on the Catholic Community Foundation board in LA (controlling over $200 million for the Archbishop's priorities) with Archbishop Gomez when it transitioned to a non-profit. Alliances with labor have been severed, the Labor Day Mass eliminated, the Care for Creation ministry stifled, the Justice and Peace Commission "concluded" last fall with an email to Commission members.

When he came to LA, Archbishop Gomez said he
would not repeat his actions from San Antonio and disband Justice and Peace. But with systematic precision, he merged the respect life office with the justice and peace office, wrote a pastoral letter to morph long standing Archdiocesan synod initiatives that included a justice and peace component, into his "five priorities."

The Office of Life, Justice and Peace basically came to address "life" narrowly --as the unborn and euthanasia -- and attempts to incorporate other issues were basically dismissed and open dialogue eliminated.

They dismissed a long term justice and peace associate, saying they only had funding for a new life associate, but soon added additional staff to affirm the "life" agenda. People working to ban the death penalty in California met strong resistance to their ministry and once were told if you recruit people to work on that issue it will only take people away from focusing on addressing the need to stop abortion. The zeal for "religious liberty" includes

a) Prioritizing conservative non-profits to articulate ministry, even including funding for them in the upcoming capital campaign.
b) Ostracizing LCWR women religious while only affirming the habited and veiled.
c) Reinforcing clericalism to further oppress the voice and gifts of women by promoting male altar servers and limiting opportunities for women to serve as pastoral associates.

Your article today about the archbishop's positive portrayal in national media again highlighted the stark divergence between Archbishop Gomez's public persona on the national stage and the reality of his leadership.

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Donate $125 or more and receive a copy of Kaya Oakes book, The Nones Are Alright: A New Generation of Believers, Seekers, and Those in Between

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Exciting events from our friends!

**New Ways Ministry Retreat**

New Language for Old Truths

November 9 - 11, 2018

A retreat for LGBT Catholics, families, pastoral
Educate and Advocate for Change!

**FutureChurch offers the following programs for you to explore. Educate and advocate for change!**

- Catholic Too
- Catholic Women Preach - videos and podcasts
- Catholic Women Deacons
- Celebrating Women Witnesses
- Deacon Chat
- Emerging Models of Parish and Community Life
- Feminism and Faith in Union
- Future of Priestly Ministry
- Listening to Women
- Mary of Magdala - Celebrations, Education, Advocacy
- Reclaim Magdalene
- Rediscovering Mary of Nazareth
- Reforming Seminary Formation Programs
- Save Our Parish Community
- Urging Bishops to Open Dialogue on Married Priests
- Women in Church Leadership
- Women in the Early Church
- Women and the Word
- Women Witnesses of Mercy

along with

- Educational events such as our Fall Event with Kaya Oakes
- Pilgrimages to Rome and Greece
- Teleconferences
- Educational Podcasts
- Christine Schenk Book Study Series on Crispina and Her Sisters

National and International collaborative work

- Catholic Organizations for Renewal
- International Catholic Reform Network
- Voices of Faith

In the near future, we are nourishing new connections with younger
Catholics and developing new methods of outreach including podcasts; finalizing our resources on complementarity; developing new presentations on parish closures and its impact on communities; developing a new series on women witnesses of justice that will feature Sr. Louise Akers and other modern day women, and a new series of podcasts; developing a full set of resources on all aspects of emerging models of parish life, and more!

Thank you for all your do to help shape the future of the Church we love!

Take the FutureChurch survey.

New! LISTENING TO WOMEN
Join the Conversation!

Today, women in the Church are looking for opportunities to express the fullness of God’s presence in them as human beings created in the image and likeness of God. Through Listening to Women, we a) create safe spaces where women can talk about the celebrations and challenges they experience as women in the Catholic Church; then b) share those reflections with our Bishops to help create opportunities for greater understanding and inclusion in Church life.

Learn more

Start a conversation about women deacons with DeaconChat!

More women are sharing their stories of being called to the diaconate. Share your story at our 100 Women Deacons campaign!

Catholic Women Preach expands!

We are excited to tell you about two new features we’ve just added to help you get the most out of Catholic Women Preach.

THE CWP PODCAST
Many of our regular viewers have been asking for and suggesting ways to listen to audio-only versions of the reflections on Catholic Women Preach. They want
to benefit from the fine preaching, insights, and wisdom these women have to offer whether they're at home or on the go.

And so we're glad to announce that recent and all upcoming preaching will now be offered as a podcast. Best of all, when you subscribe you'll have the audio version waiting for you as soon as it is added.

**Listen and subscribe on the most popular platforms:**

- Apple Podcasts
- Overcast
- Pocket Casts
- RadioPublic
- CastBox

**SEARCH CWP**

As our archive of preaching grows, many of those who work in religious education, adult formation, RCIA, high schools, campus ministry and other ministries have asked for a way they can search for preaching that touches on a particular theme or topic.

You may have already noticed the new search bar at the top of the page (or in the menu if you're using a mobile device). **All you need to do is type in your search term and press enter to get the most relevant search results.** You can search for a particular preacher, a particular feast day, a topic or issue, or a scripture (using the standard abbreviations).

**THANK YOU**

We really hope that these two enhancements help you get even more out of the faithfilled reflections of all the women who preach for us. And we thank you for your feedback, continued viewership, and support! In our efforts to continually enhance this ministry, we invite you to consider taking our survey and contributing financially.

Of course, be sure to connect with us on Facebook and Twitter and share the gift of Catholic women preaching with your friends and networks!

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