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. 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.

Learn more or purchase your ticket
DEVELOPING STRATEGIES FOR ENSURING THE FUTURE OF RELIGIOUS LIFE

August 15, 2018 8pm ET

Erie Benedictine Linda Romey will be presenting the open source movement as a model for facilitating the growth of new offshoots of traditional religious life and the important role of networking in the growth process.

Sr. Romey will close with a few thoughts on the importance of think tanks, public relations and media campaigns to change negative perceptions.

SIGN UP FOR TELECONFERENCE

URGE U.S. BISHOPS TO REFORM SEMINARY PROGRAMS!

A few months ago the Association of U.S. Catholic Priests (AUSCP) sent a letter to Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.SS.R. and the USCCB asking for a major overhaul of their programs for priestly formation.

FutureChurch supports the AUSCP campaign and asks Catholics to contact Cardinal Tobin and the Committee to express their concerns and to urge bishops to reform seminary formation programs.

DOWNLOAD RESOURCE

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From the Executive Director

FutureChurch has been asking you to help us shape our work by telling us what you care about most - what challenges need to be prioritized as we look toward the future.

I want to report to you what we have learned from you thus
I also invite you to take our short survey if you haven't already done so.

Where do you think we should focus our energies and resources? We want to know!

Two hundred and twenty one Catholics from 88 dioceses have responded to the survey thus far.

**Demographics of respondents**

Nearly 70% of respondents identified as female, 29.5% male, and less than 1% identified as non-binary.

Eighty-nine percent of respondents are 60 years of age or older and 83% belong to a parish. Another 11% belong to an Intentional Eucharistic Community while 4% say they do not belong to a faith community and 2% belong to another denomination.

Sixty-seven percent identified as lay persons. Twenty-eight percent identified as lay ecclesial leaders, chaplains, and religious educators. Eighteen percent were professed religious and 10% identified as ordained priests and deacons.

Concerns and issues that needed to be addressed were prioritized as follows

- The need for greater inclusion of women in governance
- A greater role for laity within the Church hierarchy
- Clergy sex abuse and its coverup
- Ordaining women as permanent deacons
- The exclusion of women from the priesthood
- The need for women preachers at the Eucharist
- Treatment of LGBTQI Catholics
- The need for inclusive language
- The invisibility/distortion of women in the Bible
- Formation of seminarians and priests
- Education about Vatican II
- The lack of young people in our parishes
- Opening the priesthood to married men
- Catholics leaving the Church
- Financial scandals
- Shortage of priests
- Closing and merging of parishes

Other people offered free responses that included the problem of clericalism and the need for greater roles for laity.
When comparing the whole group of respondents to those younger than 49 years the priorities shift to a focus on women's ministry and roles and the damage done by clergy sex abuse.

- Exclusion of women from the ordained priesthood
- Need to include women as ordained permanent deacons
- Greater inclusion of women in Church governance
- Impact of clergy sex abuse and its coverup on the credibility of Church pastors
- Need for women preachers at the Eucharist
- A greater voice for laity within the Church hierarchy
- Treatment of LGBTQ Catholics
- The invisibility/distortion of women in the Bible in readings and preaching during Mass
- The need for more inclusive language at the Mass and in our sacramental life
- Training of seminarians and priests
- Fewer younger people joining parishes
- Closing and merging of parishes
- Shortage of priests
- Catholics leaving the Catholic Church
- Education about Vatican II teachings
- Financial scandals in the Church
- Supporting opening to married priests

FutureChurch will continue to reach out to youo to learn from you and to develop initiatives that align with your energies. And as we have for the past 28 years, we continue to develop new initiatives and programs while improving current programming so that all Roman Catholics can participate fully in the life, ministry, governance of the Church.

Some current initiatives, programs, and collaborative efforts include:

**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.

Deborah Rose-Milavec
Executive Director

CATHOLICS Making a Difference

FutureChurch celebrates Catholics who are working for a just Vatican II church. This week we will begin a new section in our weekly newsletter that highlights the work of Catholics whose ordinary efforts are creating remarkably positive changes in the Church.

The following is a #CatholicToo moment of action.

A Catholic woman in California recently listened to a program on Relevant Radio that disturbed her. A Miracle Moment spot chronicled a counselor who suggested an abused woman should stay in her
When this Catholic advocate tried to call in to the show, she was told to email her concern. She wrote:

[I] talked with your office this morning regarding a Miracle Moment heard on AM 930 at 1:48PM on Sunday August 5th and they requested I email my concern. Miracle Moment chronicled a women in an abusive relationship who went to a Catholic counselor. The counselor gave her a paper with things to read before the Blessed Sacrament. While as Catholics we treasure the sacred time spent before the Blessed Sacrament, to tell a women when she had "problems" at home she was to go to the Blessed Sacrament at her local church is not appropriate advice.

Having volunteered with homeless women and hearing their challenges of abusive relationships, I find it deplorable your radio station would foster the mindset that women should stay in abusive relationships. The first concern for their mental and physical health should be TO LEAVE.

Out of concern for the safety of women, I ask that you remove this Miracle Moment from Relevant Radio programming. With a listening audience of potentially 140 million people coast to coast, you have a responsibility to present programming that respects the dignity of women and not make them victims and statistics of abusive relationships.

I request an email reply to this concern.

Thanks to her tenacity, Relevant Radio removed the offensive spot.

Michael Kendall, Chief Programming Officer wrote:

Thank you for taking the time to share your concerns about a recent Miracle Moment prayer which aired over the weekend on Relevant Radio 930AM. I especially appreciate you providing me with the station, date and time you heard the message as it made it easy for us to review the content in question. After review, we have eliminated this particular announcement from our rotation.

Michael Kendall
Chief Programming Officer
Office: 224-805-6868
mkendall@relevantradio.com

Catholics should know that after decades of dangerous advice from too many priests and ministers to women suffering domestic abuse, the U.S. Bishops wrote a 2002 pastoral, When I Call For Help: A Pastoral Response to Domestic Violence Against Women that puts the safety and well-being of a women who is in harm's way first.

A special thanks to this Catholic advocate who called out Relevant Radio on their potentially damaging advice!
FutureChurch's Associate Director, Russ Petrus, just returned from the 2018 LCWR Assembly with a spring in his step. He was grateful for the opportunity to speak with the all star cast of leaders from religious communities who stopped by FutureChurch's table to talk about FutureChurch's initiatives and to learn more about our latest innovations at Catholic Women Preach. In the picture above, Russ had a chance to pose with Sr. Sallie Latkovich, CSJ, who was one of the featured (and popular) preachers for Catholic Women Preach.

Soli Saldgado reports that Sr. Jayne Helmlinger, general superior of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange, California, was voted as president elect of LCWR. Holy Cross Sr. Sharlet Wagner becomes president and Sister of Charity of the Incarnate Word Teresa Maya past president. The blessing of the new leadership team takes place Aug. 10, shortly before Sr. Anita Baird, a Daughter of the Heart of Mary, receives the Outstanding Leadership Award for her work in education about racism.

Keynote Heidi Russell shared that after she adopted children who are black she experienced bias in a new way.

Implicit bias is an internalization of fragmentation, she said, encouraging an us-them mentality. Studies show that people in the United States perceive black men as more threatening than white men. Russell said she had the same bias before adopting her children. Though unintentional, this fragmentation can only be healed through relationships — just as Russell had experienced through motherhood.

"Implicit and perception biases also mean we cannot address this issue of race without understanding that we are interconnected parts of a whole," she said. One example of fragmentation involving racial bias occurs with police shootings involving black victims, as cases of individual circumstances rather than as "a pattern that emerges when one looks at the whole."

Black Lives Matter, a movement that challenges society to acknowledge the patterns in violence against black people, can be illustrated through St. Paul's metaphor, Russell said: "One part of the body is in pain and needs the attention of the whole body." "There is nothing that happens to one part that is not also happening to the whole," she said.

While women religious are reflecting on white privilege and their role in whitewashing their histories, Russell said, the Catholic
Church has been noticeably sitting out the conversation around Black Lives Matter.

Russell recalled reading an interview with Shannen Dee Williams, a history professor at the University of Knoxville who addressed the LCWR assembly in 2016 and played an instrumental role in the initial reckoning for sisters. In the interview, Williams wondered:

Does the bishops' collective silence toward the growing Black Lives Matter movement mean something different if you remember their reluctance to endorse the Brown [v. Board of Education] decision some 60 years ago? If all lives matter, then black lives matter. So, why aren't all Catholics screaming black lives matter? I think black Catholic history provides the key to answering these questions.

"While Dr. Williams has made us aware that we can no longer whitewash our history, many of your congregations are now on the forefront of fighting for racial justice, facing fragmentation with love and relationship," Russell said.

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**Report on International Church Reform Network Meeting in June is out**

Australian David Timbs, one of the participants at the June ICRN meeting in Slovakia, writes a report on the meeting with special attention to the reports we heard from those who were part of the underground church.

**Honoring the life and work of Richard Sipe**

The New York Times reported that A. W. Richard Sipe, a researcher, psychotherapist and former priest who spent his life studying the roots of sex abuse within the Roman Catholic Church, becoming one of the subject’s leading experts, died on Wednesday in the La Jolla neighborhood of San Diego. He was 85.

Mr. Sipe’s research into celibacy and sexuality within the clergy helped establish a foundation for those studying, investigating and responding to the sexual abuse crisis of the 2000s. Along with describing how celibacy was lived, his work resulted in several striking estimates arrived at in the 1980s.
FutureChurch called on Richard Sipe when in need of expert advice on clergy sex abuse and the dynamics of clericalism. Sipe was always generous in offering advice and support. When executive director Deborah Rose-Milavec last spoke to him two months ago, he urged her to "carry on" FutureChurch's important work of making Vatican II a greater reality and while calling on the institution to live up to its claims to be just. Thank you Richard Sipe for a life well lived in service to the Church!

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 ministers, and allies
Learn more

**Call To Action Conference**
*Sanctuary, Resistance, Sacrament*
**November 9 - 11, 2018**

*FutureChurch* will offer the workshop “Is the Parish Dead?” and in collaboration with CTA and WOC, a pre-conference and workshop on "Catholic Too."
Learn more

In Europe, decline continues for church attendance among younger Catholics

La Croix International reports that a new study by the Catholic Institute of Paris and St. Mary's Catholic University at Twickenham in Greater London on the religious affiliation of young people aged 16-29 in Europe will undoubtedly make an impression on participants at the Pre-Synod now under way in Rome.

In 12 out of the 21 European countries studied, plus Israel, most young people say they have no religion. This figure rises to 91 percent in the Czech Republic.

This decline in religious affiliation, which should not be confused with belief in God, which can be distinguished from belonging to a religion, forms one of the main conclusions from this statistical study.

The study draws on information collected by the most recent two waves of the European Social Survey carried out in 2014 and 2016. Read more
The end of the priesthood

Rev. Timothy Buckley writes:

I have noted with interest the recent correspondence from some of our retired bishops about how to respond to the dramatic decline in vocations to the priesthood. I celebrated my 48th anniversary of ordination at the end of July and am happily caring for two large parishes in south Liverpool. For most of the 1970s I was Director of Vocations for my congregation, the Redemptorists. During the 1990s I was involved with the education of our students until we finally ran out of them and closed the house in Canterbury.

The seminary had been transferred there from Hawkstone Park in 1973. When I was a student in the 1960s the numbers coming from the novitiate to the seminary each year were sometimes in double figures, but then came the dramatic hemorrhaging, not only of students, but of the newly-ordained as well. In the meantime there have been periodic surges with sizeable groups trying their vocation with us, and the flow has only occasionally dried up completely, but now in our province we have only two men in training, one of whom is already in his fifties, and we have only nine priests less than 70 years of age.

This story is being repeated across the religious congregations and dioceses of the country and although there may be the odd exception, the trend seems to me to be inexorable. It would be interesting to do a piece of serious research into the causes of all this, but I believe one thing is certain: the Church community of the immediate future is going to be very different from the one I signed up to serve in 1964. Indeed in many ways it already is, although we are still clinging on to the old structures. Read more

Religious superiors support women deacons

Catholic News Agency reports that a survey of both male and female religious superiors in the U.S. found that most believe that the Church can and should ordain women as deacons.

Almost three-quarters of responding superiors said they think it is possible to sacramentally ordain women deacons, and that the Church should do so. Only 45 percent, however, believe the Church will do so.

The survey, released this week by The Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University (CARA), reached out to
Church historian Paul Collins on how to solve the confession debacle in Australia

Paul Collins writes that recently we’ve seen a slew of articles in the media, both informed and otherwise, on the question of the seal of confession. Already a couple of Australian governments have acted to enforce mandatory reporting on priests when sexual abuse of children is mentioned in confession. Federal Attorney General Christian Porter told his state and territory counterparts in early-June that his government is working toward developing a consistent approach for all jurisdictions. In passing, Porter correctly pointed out that legally the seal of confession was never absolute under Australian law, but was generally respected. What is also clear is that the Australian bishops aren’t going to accept mandatory reporting of confessional material. We seem to be plunging into a church-state conflict with priests heading-off to jail.

Read more

Paul Collins on 5 major shifts in Church history

Tina Beattie explores the art of theologizing

Professor Tina Beattie writes that some 500 Catholic theologians from around the world gathered in the Bosnian capital last week for the third international conference of Catholic Theological Ethics in the World Church. It is the brainchild of James Keenan SJ of Boston College, whose vision is to create a global community of theological ethicists that supports young and emerging scholars.

One evening I found myself sitting alongside the passionately eloquent Spanish Benedictine sister, theologian and medical doctor Teresa Forcades; one of the founding mothers of African women’s theology Teresia Hinga; and the Bosnian Muslim scholar Zilka Siljak, who had addressed the opening session of the conference. Siljak spoke of how, as a young woman in war-torn Sarajevo, the
Voices of Faith offers strategy to bring more women into governance

Voices of Faith writes that recent statements by Pope Francis and top Vatican officials support the need to bring more lay women to top leadership positions at the Roman Curia. However, Voices of Faith is concerned about the apparent difficulties and lack of transparency in regard to how those women are chosen and the process undertaken to appoint them.

Voices of Faith proposes these three steps that are proven to work:

1. Open, merit-based and transparent hiring practices. We call on the Vatican to publicly announce any vacancies, openly list required qualifications for vacant positions and implement transparent selection and hiring policies.

2. Workplace gender equality policy. Design and implement policies and procedures that safeguard equal opportunities and remove barriers for women employed at the Vatican. Such policies should include anti-discrimination training for all Vatican employees.

3. Monitoring and evaluation. Measure progress towards a more inclusive Vatican Curia through a regular evaluation of key indicators and report results publicly.

Young Catholics speak up about McCarrick and the corruption that allowed him to act

First Things reports that a number of young Catholics from a variety of institutions have written an open letter asking for a thorough, independent investigation into claims of abuse by Archbishop McCarrick, both of minors and of adults. We want to know who in the hierarchy knew about his crimes, when they knew it, and what they did in response. This is the least that would be expected of any secular organization; it should not be more than we can
We ask that the silence surrounding sexual impropriety in the Church be broken. We ask that bishops take clear action when priests flout the Church’s sexual teaching and that networks of sexually active priests be rooted out. We ask that good priests be given the freedom to tell their bishops what they know, without fear of reprisal. Along with these actions, we ask that bishops engage in formal acts of public penance and reparation.

We also commit to the following. We will refuse to be silent when we see or hear of sexual assaults taking place anywhere in the Church and by any person, clerical or lay. When those we know are assaulted, we will encourage the victims to come forward. We will stand with them until justice is done. We will not accept silence and inaction. Rather, we will publicly name and expose those who harm others and superiors who fail to take action when others are harmed.

Rocio Figuero, former Vatican staffer, explains how bishops support abusers

Elise Harris reports on the sexual abuse scandal in Peru involving The case of Luis Fernando Figari and his *Sodalitium Christianae Vitae* showcases the need to oversee lay groups that are rooted in the clerical system.

According to Rocio Figueroa, a former high-ranking official of the women’s branch of the SCV, the Marian Community of Reconciliation (MCR), authorities “didn’t really listen to the victims,” but dismissed their claims as attacks against the Church.

“The attitude of these people is to believe more the superiors and founders than the victims,” she said, explaining that part of this is likely due to the fact that in many cases, it was bishops who supported the abusers and helped to advance their role in the local Church.

In most dioceses where an abuser is found, the bishops “are the ones who supported them, they are the ones who didn’t follow them closely, they gave [them] tremendous freedom, they gave them properties, they gave them institutions to manage without enough oversight.”

Read more NCR article
Priests preach about clergy sex abuse after McCarrick

Carol Zimmerman reports that a number of priests preached about McCarrick and clergy sex abuse over the weekend. But during the Saturday evening Priests reading the opening lines of the first reading from Jeremiah decided he had to say something about sexual abuse allegations against now former Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick, retired archbishop of Washington.

"Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the flock of my pasture," the passage from Jeremiah 23 begins.

Evidence mounts--prelates knew about McCarrick

Fr. Peter Daly knew Cardinal McCarrick personally as his archbishop. He writes that prelates knew about McCarrick, but ignored the blatant facts that he was having sex with those he had power over.

Daly writes that in 2010, the psychologist and former priest Richard Sipe posted an essay on his blog about priests, celibacy and sexuality titled, "The Cardinal McCarrick Syndrome." His statement was addressed to Pope Benedict XVI.

Read more

2008 Letter to Pope Benedict from Richard Sipe

Past review board members speak of need for independent council

Heidi Schlumpf reports that past members of that initial National Past review board members speak of need for independent council

How to read the grand jury report from Pennsylvania

Thomas Reese, SJ writes that Pennsylvania’s Supreme Court
Review Board for the Protection of Children and Young People are calling for an independent investigation of sexual abuse of seminarians and other vulnerable adults, including allegations against one of the country's most prominent church leaders, retired Archbishop Theodore McCarrick of Washington, D.C.

Such an investigation, they said, should also uncover any cover-up of abuse: who knew what and when about McCarrick's alleged abuse of seminarians and at least two minors that go back decades.

But any investigative body must be independent of the bishops, former members of the review board told NCR. "Bishops can't investigate themselves. They've showed us that they're incapable of that," Nicholas Cafardi said. "And they don't have authority over each other. Bishops can only be tried by the Holy See." Read more

Reese contends that the grand jury report is a wake-up call to other U.S. dioceses.

If they don't want a grand jury poking its nose into their affairs, they had better be more transparent.

They should hire someone to do an independent and credible report, make it exhaustive, and publish it. People demand transparency. Either the bishops must provide it or the government will. Read more

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Rev. James Alison on destructive gay cardinals

Rev. James Alison asks, "Would it shock you to know that the leading force behind the term 'gender ideology', and the campaign against it, was a gay cardinal? Or that a gay priest wrote the official 2005

Bishop says lay people, not bishops, should investigate bishops who cover up clergy sex abuse

Michael O'Loughlin reports that, Bishop Edward Scharfenberger of Albany reacted to Cardinal Wuerl's suggestion of an
explanation as to why gay men could not be priests?"

I learned of the (now dead) Latin American cardinal’s reputation for violence towards the rent boys he frequented from a social worker in his home town, and later discovered that this and other outrages were open secrets in both his homeland and Rome. Paris-based Mgr Tony Anatrella was a Vatican expert on homosexuality, one of very few authors the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith recommended on the subject, alongside Drs Joseph Nicolosi, Gerard van den Aardweg and Aquilino Polaino, gay-cure proponents all. Anatrella had long been reported to have engaged in inappropriate touching with seminarians and others who came to him for help in dealing with their so-called “same-sex attraction”. Read more (subscription)

To have credibility, a panel would have to be separated from any source of power whose trustworthiness might potentially be compromised,” he said.

“Our laypeople are not only willing to take on this much-needed role, but they are eager to help us make lasting reforms that will restore a level of trust that has been shattered yet again,” Bishop Scharfenberger said. “In speaking with them, we all hear their passion for our universal Church, their devotion to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and their hunger for the truth. They are essential to the solution we seek.”

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**Academic theology needs the Church and vice versa**

Massimo Faggioli argues that the estrangement between academic theology and the institutional Church is one reason many younger Catholics are now turning to neo-traditionalist circles for instruction.

A new generation is re-examining what’s happened in the church since the 1960s and reacting against the theology that came out of the Second Vatican Council.

Some younger Catholics are also questioning the legitimacy of the secular, pluralistic state. This is why the concerns of academic theology are no longer merely academic.

Those who have contact with young Catholics—for example, college students—may have noticed that this theological anti-liberalism is not just coming from a few marginal intellectuals. Catholic anti-liberalism is part of a broader phenomenon, a new quest for Catholic identity that takes various forms. Read more
Nicolas Senèze reports that feminist historian as well as coordinator to L'Osservatore Romano women’s supplement, Lucetta Scaraffia explains how the church progressively erased the role of the apostle Mary Magdalene, transforming her into a repentant sinner.

La Croix: In your view as someone who has closely studied the relationship between women and the Church, is Mary Magdalene more a sinner or an apostle?

Lucetta Scaraffia: I would like to begin by recalling a personal experience. When I was a young woman in Milan following the events of May 1968, many women in Italian feminist circles began to name their daughters Magdalene.

This was meant to be in contrast to the name Mary. The idea was to contrast the figure of an obedient woman with that of a free, yet sinful woman.

That was when I also began to take an interest in Mary Magdalene, who I think has been one of the most manipulated persons in history — both by the church and by feminists.

Why, in your view, is there this double view of Mary Magdalene? Mary Magdalene is a powerful figure from the beginning of Christianity. However, in a patriarchal society the fact that the risen Jesus appeared first of all to a woman, giving her the mission of announcing the Resurrection to the Apostles – the highest mission possible! – was a problem for the men of that time.

This is illustrated in a variety of ways. Gnosticism, the first Christian heresy, for example, took a great interest in Mary Magdalene. The Gnostics believed that Christ had transmitted a secret teaching to her, which was recorded in the Pistis Sophia. Read more
transformed to the profane

Peter Feuerherd reports that dozens of churches across Quebec that have been transformed — into university reading rooms, luxury condominiums, cheese emporiums and upmarket fitness centers.

Some Catholics do not like what is happening. 

Read more

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Gauthier Vaillant reports that in the Tarn region of southern France, the Archdiocese of Albi has been divided into 503 parishes since the Middle Ages.

Over the Pentecost weekend, however, Archbishop Jean Legrez, completely re-organized them into 21 new parishes.

It is an impressive change. In coming to this decision, the Archdiocese of Albi has followed a general trend among France’s 93 dioceses, two-thirds of which have already made major changes to parish boundaries and structures. Read more

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C. Sodano asked then President Mary McAleese to protect Church

The Tablet reports that the former Vatican Secretary of State, Cardinal Angelo Sodano, sounded out Mary McAleese when she was President of Ireland about the possibility of a deal between the Holy See and the Irish government to prevent damning church and government archives from being released. Read more

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Faggioli asks, "Is transparency a cure-all?"

This is a time of desolation for the church, as pope Francis acknowledged last January when he was in Santiago, Chile.

And that was before he knew that his trip to Chile would turn out to be the beginning of the most difficult year in his pontificate.

Read more
Bishop of Lancaster works to preserve churches

The Tablet reports Bishop Paul Swarbrick, is making a momentous effort to preserve 31 churches in a county where Catholicism runs deep.

The bishop has a history of forming groups of lay parishioners to help coordinate the tasks of restoring the churches physical structures so they can be used to "provide a broader welcome to the community" as a multi-use space.

(The Tablet, 11 August 2018)

Restructuring Parishes

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Priests who abuse in the Hispanic church

J.D. Long-Garcia reports on the prevalence of clergy sex abuse in the Hispanic church and the political barriers and cultural norms that have created a safer haven for abusive priests.

“Hispanics believe it’s their cross to bear, that’s how they live with it,” said Virginia Zamora, who works with the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests, known as SNAP. “But it’s not our cross. We need to speak up.”

Hosffman Ospino, an associate professor of Hispanic ministry and religious education at Boston College, said the Latino community “tends to go under the radar.”

“It worries me that in some cases of abuse, some Hispanics feel afraid of their legal situation,” he said, referring to undocumented immigrants.
Because of their culture, immigrants, in general, tend to support the clergy, Mr. Ospino said. Read more

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

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

DOWNLOAD RESOURCE

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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