Just a few days left!

Honor St. Mary of Magdala by donating $50 to help us continue our important work to #ReclaimMagdalene.

As our way of saying thanks, through the month of July receive the online video link and transcript to Sr. Sandra Schneiders' presentation on The Gospel of John and its perspective on women's leadership and ministry as a model for the Church today.

DONATE

Sr. Linda Romey, OSB

Developing Strategies for Ensuring the Future of Religious Life

Erie Benedictine Linda Romey has been focused on the evolution religious life for a number of years. In this telecast she 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.

SIGN UP

Donate $10 to support our educational
Listen to podcast and read transcript on the Theology of the Eucharist by Professor Thomas O’Loughlin

Linda will also discuss how the ways we think and speak about religious life influence the perceptions of the wider church and culture. She will close with a few thoughts on the importance of think tanks, public relations and media campaigns to change negative perceptions.

From the Executive Director

In June, members of the International Catholic Reform Network gathered in Bratislava, Slovakia to hear from members of the underground church and to continue our international efforts for reform in the Catholic Church.

One of the members, David Timbs, from Australia, is keeping members updated on an important development there.

From August 27 - 29, 2018, Concerned Catholics Canberra are holding a forum at the University of Divinity. The mission of the Concerned Catholics Canberra is to ensure Catholic lay people in the Canberra-Goulburn Archdiocese have an effective role and voice in the administration and direction of their church.

The forum is an ecumenical conversation on the task of rebuilding and renewal after the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

The following is a description:

At a time when Australia’s churches are still in an early phase of absorbing and responding to the findings and recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, this two-and-a-half-day symposium aims to begin an inclusive, ecumenical and interdisciplinary conversation about the task of cultural change and renewal that lies ahead.

There are significant questions that need to be taken up in light of the Royal Commission’s final report:

- What are the theological implications of the child sexual abuse crisis and indeed the theological learnings to be gained from the Royal Commission?
How do we support those who have been harmed, confront the damage that has been caused within the ecclesial community, and rebuild trust?

- How do we build ecclesial communities and ministerial practice marked by health and integrity?

- What are the neuralgic issues that need to be faced and addressed, and how can resistance to change be confronted positively and transformed for the good of the ecclesial community?

- What questions require further research?

- In responding to the Royal Commission, what can the various Christian faith traditions learn from each other?

This conference aims to bring together a broad cross section of voices: church leaders, academics, people in religious and pastoral ministry, representatives of Church agencies, together with those who rarely get a voice, including survivors of abuse and their supporters, members of the laity, women, and church reform groups.

**SPEAKERS WILL INCLUDE:**

- former child abuse royal commissioner **Robert Fitzgerald**
- Anglican **Bishop Alison Taylor**
- a leading member of the Franciscan Friars, **Brother John Wong**
- clinical psychologist and **former Greens Senator Christabel Chamarette**
- Newcastle University academic **Dr Kathleen McPhillips**
- **Dr Peter Wilkinson** and his co-author of a study on Catholic child sexual abuse, **Professor Des Cahill**

Those interested can [REGISTER HERE](#). To most of us who will not be able to attend, please hold our Australian sisters and brothers in your prayers as they continue to boldly lead the Church forward.

Deborah Rose-Milavec
Executive Director

**From the Associate Director**

**“Making a home” for Feminism and Faith in Union**

On Thursday, July 19th FutureChurch joined with hundreds of other communities around the globe who gathered throughout the week and into the weekend to celebrate the July 22nd Feast of St. Mary of Magdala.

This year, local campus minister, singer, and **Catholic woman preacher**, Vickey McBride led us in prayer and Sheila McGinn,
Ph.D., Chair of the Theology and Religious Studies Department at John Carroll University, preached. Together, they created a spiritual home for us for the evening at the Congregation of St. Joseph’s River’s Edge retreat center and encouraged us to become a “home” for one another and to undertake the work of making the Christian community a home for all.

Dr. McGinn began her poetic preaching by connecting with the very human Mary of Magdala, inviting us relive with her what Mary must have felt and thought some 2,000 years ago as she witnessed Jesus’ Crucifixion and death, lived with grief, walked to the tomb, and eventually met the Risen Jesus. She describes their meeting as a homecoming. “When Mary first met Jesus, it was a homecoming ... living with Jesus, walking with him, talking with him—for three years, that had been her home. ‘Home’ was not a place, but a person,” McGinn reminds us. “To ‘come home’ – that one little phrase,” she continues, “carries such tremendous weight. It means to be safe and respected and cherished deep down into our very bones.”

We all know what it means to feel at home. And perhaps that’s what makes trying to find a home in a faith community where not all are safe, respected, and cherished increasingly difficult. But Dr. McGinn concludes reminding us that we can help create that home for each other in our communities:

*Who needs to hear from us that Jesus’ empty Tomb cracks open all tombs, banishes all despair?*
*Who needs to find a home-coming among us?*

_Saint Mary Magdalene, first among the apostles, aid us in this joyous work of proclamation and home-making._

Read Dr. McGinn’s Preaching Here

Inspired by McBride’s warm hospitality as prayer leader, our liturgy of the word celebrating feminism and faith in union, and McGinn’s preaching, participants were invited to respond to the simple prompt: “Feminism and Faith in Union...” What thoughts, emotions, prayers, had taken up home in their hearts and minds? Below are just a few of the written responses that were placed on our altar:

· “In our church, in our friendships, with the model of Mary of Magdala. With my family, especially with my granddaughters, daughters, and daughters-in-law”
· “Build up the kingdom of God”
· “honor our experience, validate our experience, speak of our experience”
· “will bring wholeness in creation”
· “Will grow our church. It is only through this growth that we all become truly united with Christ”
“Is a blessing we dare not resist any longer”
“Happens when we worship in community, not alone in fear”
“Doesn’t have to be so hard. With open harts, all are welcome to all callings, without regard to sex, race, creed, age, ability, knowledge, or lineage”
“Help create justice and peace”
“Call me out of the tomb – calls us all out”
“...are often diminished by others. We must not allow them to be diminished in ourselves. Stand up! Sing loud!”
“New ways; new ideas; new voices; new words”

As we go forth from these celebrations, we might work to make of our hearts, communities, and our church a home – a home for the memory of Mary of Magdala, for feminism and faith in union, and a home for all to be “safe and respected and cherished.”

Russ Petrus
Associate Director

**Bishops chosen for Synod on Youth**

Catholic News Service reports that Pope Francis has ratified the members elected by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to represent the United States at Synod of Bishops Oct. 3-28.

The synod will meet at the Vatican to discuss “young people, faith and vocational discernment.”

The USCCB announced July 23 that the U.S. Church’s delegates will be:

- Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles, vice president of the USCCB.
- Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Philadelphia, chairman of the USCCB Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth.
- Bishop Frank J. Caggiano of Bridgeport, Connecticut, a member of the USCCB Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth.
- Auxiliary Bishop Robert E. Barron of Los Angeles, chairman of the USCCB Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis.

In preparation for the synod, the USCCB and other episcopal conferences, as well as ecclesial movements, associations and experts in the field, were consulted throughout 2017 on the synod topic of “young people, the faith, and vocational discernment.” The Vatican also collected responses from an online questionnaire aimed at youth and young adults conducted last year.

In March of this year, over 300 young adult delegates gathered in Rome for the synod’s preliminary session.
Rome, where Francis convened a presynod gathering to listen directly to the voice of young people from around the world. The gathering produced a final presynodal document.

The USCCB sent three delegates to that meeting: De La Salle Christian Brother Javier Hansen, who teaches at Cathedral High School in El Paso, Texas; Nick Lopez, director of campus ministry for the University of Dallas; and Katie Prejean-McGrady, a wife, new mother, youth minister, and a popular speaker from the Diocese of Lake Charles, Louisiana. Read more

**MP calls for married and women priests**

Sarah MacDonald reports that John Grogan, the Labour MP for Keighley and Ilkley, has said he would like to see the Church change its rules to permit married and women priests.

Speaking to The Tablet after he addressed the National Justice and Peace Network’s (NJPN) annual conference in Derbyshire last weekend, 57-year-old Mr Grogan, whose brother Fr Paul Grogan is a priest of the diocese of Leeds, said he did not know if he would see the change in his lifetime. The Yorkshire MP spoke to delegates at the NJPN conference on the theme of an inclusive Britain. Read more

**Francis is encouraging a mature participatory Church**

Gerry O'Hanlon, SJ, argues that it is well known that when Francis was elected bishop of Rome and pope earlier that year in 2013, it was at a time of little joy for the Catholic Church.

In the meetings of cardinals leading up to his election many grave problems were mentioned: the scandal of child sexual abuse, suspected financial and other improprieties within the Vatican itself, the ongoing contested reception of the Second Vatican Council, the many economic and social injustices experienced by the marginalised worldwide, the role of women in the Church, disputes about teaching on sexual morality, the shortage of priests in many parts of the world, to name but some of the many difficult issues.

The atmosphere was troubled. There was a sense that the Church had lost its way, was no longer a sacrament or sign for the world of Jesus Christ and his Kingdom, a sign of hope.

Instead, despite the ongoing wonderful witness of so many, it
The Future Church: How Young Catholics are Transforming the Faith

September 20, 2018

Join FutureChurch for our Fall Event with keynote speaker Kaya Oakes and Trivison Award winner Sr. Norma Pimentel

Join Kaya Oakes and a panel of young Catholics as we explore the future of the Catholic Church.

Our 2018 Trivison Award recipient is Sr. Norma Pimentel. Sr. Norma was one of FutureChurch's Women Witnesses of Mercy. She is said to be one of the Pope’s favorite women religious because of her work.

For the first time, FutureChurch will present a young Catholic leader with the Christine Schenk Young Catholic Leadership Award. This year's recipient is Shannen Dee Williams. Shannen is known for her remarkable research on the work of African American Religious women to dismantle racism.

Continuing accusations against McCarrick will force Pope Francis' hand

Nicole Winfield argues that revelations that one of the most respected U.S. cardinals allegedly sexually abused both boys and
adult seminarians have raised questions about who in the Catholic Church hierarchy knew — and what Pope Francis is going to do about it.

If the accusations against Cardinal Theodore McCarrick bear out — including a new case reported Friday involving an 11-year-old boy — will Francis revoke his title as cardinal? Sanction him to a lifetime of penance and prayer? Or even defrock him, the expected sanction if McCarrick were a mere priest? Read more

Sexual misconduct and the high clergy

Church must move swiftly in cases of clergy sex abuse

Albany priest describes culture of harassment under McCarrick

Becoming an accountable Church

After pointing to the recent, numerous cases of clergy sex abuse and its cover up at the highest levels, Charles Collins of Crux argues that the Vatican could take steps to end the crisis.

Collins argues that the problem is so complex, large and widespread it could be said to be endemic. And when a disease is endemic, any individual step taken to tackle it will always seem inadequate and, therefore, ultimately futile, which is perhaps the pope’s problem. That’s not to say, however, there aren’t plausible first steps that could be taken. If one were to survey the Church’s leading experts on child protection right now, you’d probably hear a set of recommendations fairly close to the following.

1. Rules and standards need to be public and accessible

Francis could publish an Apostolic Constitution on clerical sexual abuse, bringing together all of the existing legislation and covering everyone, including cardinals and bishops to avoid impressions of double standards. It could also encompass the sprawling galaxy of lay movements and organizations, which some observers consider among the new frontiers of the abuse scandals.

The drafting process could be transparent and involve lay experts. It could also cover related offenses, including child pornography, professionally unethical sexual behavior (such as propositioning seminarians, parish staff, etc.), and covering up abuse. The pope could present the document as a statement that everyone in the Church - victims, the accused, and all the faithful - deserves a
clear and understandable process.

Granted, truly “one-size-fits-all” solutions won’t work, because of the complexity of situations in different places and cultures. Still, the Church manages to impose something resembling a standard approach on matters of perceived importance, such as doctrinal formula and liturgical practice, and it would be hard for many people to understand why the protection of children wouldn’t merit the same level of seriousness.

2. Justice belongs in a courtroom, not an administrative office.

Currently, clerical abuse cases are handled by the Vatican’s Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, mostly because it was decided under St. Pope John Paul II that Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, the future Pope Benedict XVI, should handle the issue. Now, Francis could establish a tribunal at the Vatican that exclusively deals with sexual abuse and is staffed with experts in its investigation and prosecution.

The judicial process should be transparent, and the sentences should be public.

The Vatican already has some experience here: The Vatican City court has held several trials recently, with journalists allowed to attend - in fact, one trial had journalists as defendants as part of a “Vatileaks” scandal, and another featured a papal diplomat convicted of possession and distribution of child pornography.

Keep in mind that the Vatican City court is the court of a country, not a Church, and its trials - under the Roman law system common in Europe, as opposed to the common law system in the U.S. - take place in a courtroom. Church trials are more paperwork affairs, with testimony being sent in from afar and folders being passed around. As a result, its version of transparency might not be as dramatic as an episode of “Law & Order.”

3. Do more to keep “bad apples” out.

The pope could also install new procedures to properly vet candidates to higher office in the Church, even if that means a public “nomination process” which allows time for those with objections to bring them forward. The crisis means this vetting should be much more aggressive than it is now (generally, forms are sent out, which usually come back with glowing reviews). Future nominees for government posts have a thorough review of their past relationships, financial records, and other aspects of their life for anything that might make the administration look bad, and many analysts likely would say it’s time for the Vatican to follow suit.

Again, the outcome will gain credibility if lay experts with knowledge of the field are part of it.

4. If there is a fire, make sure you smother the embers.
What PR gurus would likely tell the Catholic Church right now is not to assume that removing a high-ranking official is necessarily the end of the story. A bishop with an eye for the seminarians may have advanced the career of his accomplices; there’s a good bet a child molester who likes to vacation in Thailand didn’t travel alone. Corruption investigations of this sort are also ones that require investigators to have special expertise and significant professional experience. The Church could announce its intention to work together with INTERPOL and other competent agencies (The FBI and Scotland Yard often assist other countries in complex criminal investigations, for example).

5. Update the code on bishop resignations.

Canon 401 of the Code of Canon gives two reasons a bishop can resign: He’s reached the age of 75 or is stricken by “ill health or other grave cause.” A new paragraph could be added for malfeasance, recognizing people’s right to know if their shepherds have committed offenses so drastic it requires their removal. Similarly, bishops resigning due to ill health or other just cause have the right not to be suspected of wrong-doing. No one would contend that these reforms, by themselves, will end sexual abuse in the Church, nor heal the physical, psychological, or spiritual damage caused by abusive priests. Arguably, however, they would at least acknowledge a series of long-standing roadblocks to true reform.

US bishop is working to end racism

La Croix International reports that Bishop Shelton J. Fabre of Houma-Thibodaux, the recently named chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism said his goal is to add the church’s voice and wisdom to the national discussion about racism.

“I want to be a part of those discussions and a part of those efforts to advance racial healing,” he said.

“We are all harmed by racism in one way or another. It blocks us from understanding cultural diversity, and it is an attack of the human dignity of a person,” he said.

Bishop Fabre is organizing listening sessions across the country with the aim to give people from all walks of life a chance to share their thoughts and experiences dealing with the effects of racism.
“I believe it will be good for people of different racial groups to hear other people’s experiences, to recognize that there are ways in which we can move forward as a country when it comes to racism,” Bishop Fabre said. “It is our desire to help and provide an ongoing healing in our country as long as it is necessary.”

The Catholic bishops conference established the panel past August following increasing racial tensions and white nationalist activism in the United States.

The Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism also promotes education against racism as well as care for victims of racism.

During the bishops’ spring general assembly June 14, according to the Catholic News Service, Bishop Fabre said the committee plans to release a pastoral letter in November whose focus will include concerns affecting Native Americans, African Americans and the “targeting” of Hispanics.

The document he said, will reflect “grave concerns for the rise in racist expressions” in American society, address ways racism affects institutions and public policy, condemn racism and raise awareness of its impact and assist pastors, educators, families and individuals in confronting racism. Read more

Catholic women find little relevance in Humanae Vitae after 50 years

The Huffington Post reports that since its release 50 years ago, "Humanae Vitae" is still seen as a foundational text for understanding Catholic teachings about the sanctity of human life. American Catholic institutions and dioceses around the country eagerly started celebrating the milestone anniversary months in advance. There have already been special Masses, conferences, picnics and potlucks this year, with many more festivities planned throughout the fall.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops designated this week — marking the golden jubilee of the papal encyclical — as Natural Family Planning Awareness Week, hoping to spread awareness about church-sanctioned methods for postponing pregnancy.

But despite the fervor with which bishops are celebrating the anniversary, it will probably have little relevance to the lives of the average Catholic woman. Most will likely mark the milestone by doing what U.S. women in the pews have been doing even before
1968 — listening politely to the opinions of the celibate man in the pulpit, then going home to make their own choices about their reproductive health. Read more

Chilean bishop to testify

The Tablet reports that the Chilean prosecutor's office has issued a subpoena to Cardinal Ricardo Ezzati of Santiago regarding his role in the alleged cover-up of sexual abuse by members of the clergy.

In a statement released by the Archdiocese of Santiago 24 July, Cardinal Ezzati said he was committed to helping victims "search for the truth" and denied any wrongdoing.

"I have the conviction that I have never covered up nor obstructed justice, and as a citizen, I will fulfill my duty of providing all records that will help to clarify the facts," he said.

The archdiocese confirmed that Cardinal Ezzati is scheduled to testify on 21 August. Read more

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

Recently 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.

Get resource

New! LISTENING TO WOMEN Join the Conversation!

Pentecost is a time when we open our hearts and minds to the movement of God's Spirit.
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.

**CATHOLIC WOMEN DEACONS RETREAT**

Join us for our third retreat as Catholic women come together to discern and explore the call to the permanent diaconate!

**September 7 - 9, 2018**

**Cleveland, Ohio**

**Learn more or Sign up**

**Sign the Open Letter to Pope Francis Urging More Effective Collaboration with Women**

Catholic Women Speak and Voices of Faith invite Catholic women to sign an open letter to Pope Francis urging him to collaborate more effectively with women and to use language that expresses the pressing need for full equality for women.

**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**

**Start a conversation about women deacons with**
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!

Over 150,000 views! PLEASE SUPPORT CATHOLIC WOMEN PREACH!

Please take the Catholic Women Preach survey and help us to make this exciting initiative even better!

Learn what you can do to save your parish community

New! International priests statistics!

U.S. Priest statistics

New! Emerging Models of Parish and Community Life 2017 - 2018 SERIES