FutureChurch
Fall Event
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. 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

The first Christine Schenk Young Catholic Leadership Award will be given to Shannen Dee Williams. Shannen is recognized for her groundbreaking 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.

FutureChurch Teleconference Series
August 15, 2018 8:00pm ET
Sr. Linda Romey, OSB
Developing Strategies for Ensuring the Future of Religious Life

Erie Benedictine Linda Romey has been focused on the evolution of 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.

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
The #MeToo movement continues to reshape the world as we have known it.

This week Nicole Winfield and Rodney Muhumuza reported that about half a dozen sisters in a small religious congregation in Chile went public on national television with their stories of abuse by priests and other nuns — and how their superiors did nothing to stop it.

A nun in India recently filed a formal police complaint accusing a bishop of rape, something that would have been unthinkable even a year ago. Ordained and lay Catholics from India and around the world (FutureChurch signed the petition) urged Pope Francis to immediately investigate the bishop who had been accused.

This week FutureChurch, Call To Action, and Women's Ordination Conference, part of the #CatholicToo coalition, issued a press statement in solidarity with the many women religious who came forward this week with accusations of sexual assault by clergy. The action was picked up in an article by Gail DeGeorge for Global Sisters Report.

Kate McElwee of Women's Ordination Conference voiced a strong sense of gratitude to "these sisters, who at great risk are speaking out against their abusers and the culture of secrecy and misogyny that enabled them" while I suggested that "the brave survivors are making it clear that ‘time’s up.'"

In December of 2017, Call To Action, FutureChurch and Women’s Ordination Conference unveiled their newest shared campaign, #CatholicToo, as a Catholic response to the outpouring of testimonies from women breaking their silence about harassment and abuse across industries (#MeToo).

Christine Haider-Winnett of Call To Action explained, “We formed the #CatholicToo campaign as a way for ordinary Catholics to speak out about their experiences with misogyny and abuse in our Church. As we’re learning from these courageous women religious, change is possible when women tell the truth about their experiences. The #CatholicToo campaign gives Catholics a supportive space to tell those stories.”
To learn more about the #CatholicToo movement, or if you want to share your own story, go to www.catholictoo.org.

As we witness the pain of women who have been silenced, excluded, and abused in the Church, I am also reminded how much I owe to those women who are speaking up and to the many women and men who are standing in solidarity with them. My heart is full.

Deborah Rose-Milavec
Executive Director

New CARA study: Most US Major Superiors support women deacons

Joshua McElwee reports that a major new study has found that more than three-quarters of the leaders of religious orders of priests, brothers and sisters in the U.S. believe it is "theoretically possible" to ordain women as deacons in the Catholic Church.

Nearly as many, according to the just-released report from the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University, believe the church "should authorize" the ordination of women to the diaconate.

The study was released by CARA on Aug. 2, the second anniversary of Pope Francis creating a commission to study the women's diaconate. It surveyed all 777 leaders of Catholic men and women religious orders in the U.S., and got responses over a four-month period from 385, or just below 50 percent.

Among the findings:
- 77 percent believe it is "theoretically possible" to ordain women as deacons;
- 72 percent say the church "should authorize" such ordinations;
- 76 percent say ordaining women as deacons would be "very much" or "somewhat" "beneficial to the Catholic Church's mission";
- 45 percent believe the church will return to the practice of ordaining women as deacons.

Read more

Poland facing priest shortage

The Tablet reports that a Polish
archbishop has warned that Poland faces a “dramatic shortage” of vocations, and has urged Catholics to “beg God for priests”. “There’s a heavy toll today, as the Christian spirit becomes laicised and frozen in a spiritual winter,” said Archbishop Stanislaw Nowak, the retired head of the Archdiocese of Czestochowa said. “After so many years as a bishop, I’ve never experienced such a development. We must now beg God for priests.” Poland’s 83 seminaries have reported a fall in applications of a quarter in the last two years. The Bishops’ Conference admits that it now has too few clergy to meet the needs of Polish Catholics living abroad. Read more (subscription link)

**Update on the Synod of the the Evangelization of Youth**

As we head toward the next Synod of Bishops focusing on the Evangelization of Youth, there has been a lot of discussion about the future of the Catholic Church and how young Catholics will shape its future. FutureChurch's Fall Event will feature Kaya Oakes talking about young Catholic adults and future trends.

The Australian bishops sent the results of their survey of 15,000 youth to Rome. Of note is the findings that the recent Royal Commission inquiry into the sexual abuse crisis in the Catholic Church in Australia has had serious repercussions in many communities. The legacy of child sexual abuse in some dioceses has tarnished not only the institution of the Church but also anyone who remains an active member of its community. There is a general loss of trust in society’s institutions and leaders, including the Church. In some places, priests refrain from visiting schools as they used to. There is a perception that the Church has lost moral high ground.

The bishops also reported that "some youth are frustrated with particular Church teachings on issues such as same sex marriage, LGBTQ+ issues, abortion, and the clergy sexual abuse scandal which creates difficulties in remaining faithful. Young people are also aware that it is not popular to be affiliated with religion, especially the Catholic Church. The fewer young people in the Church, the harder it is to stay involved."

As we head into the synod in October, it will be crucial for the bishops to address the challenges offered by youth with integrity and authenticity. Will they continue to blame secularism and society for all the woes of the Church, or will they have the
FutureChurch will be reporting from the Synod during October. We will keep you abreast of the happenings in Rome via our e-newsletter. In the meantime, you can stay up to date on the synod process and help shape the conversation is by offering a "Listening To Women" session in your parish or community and then filling out the survey. You will be part of creating a safe space for women to voice their hopes, dreams and concerns in the Church. The results of the those surveys will be sent to the bishops in the U.S. and in Rome as they consider the pastoral outreach of the Church.

Together, we are all working toward a strong future for the next generation! Deb Rose-Milavec

Cardinal from India criticizes women's call for ban on sacrament after abuse by priests

Catholic News Service reports that India's Catholic Church has led a chorus of protest over a demand to ban the sacrament of reconciliation from the chairwoman of the National Commission for Women.

"This demand is absurd and it displays ignorance about the sacrament of confession," Cardinal Oswald Gracias of Mumbai, president of Catholic Bishops Conference of India, told Catholic News Service July 27.

"Such a ban will be a direct infringement on our freedom of religion guaranteed by the Indian Constitution. ... I am confident the government will totally ignore this absurd demand from the commission," Gracias said.

The cardinal urged the commission "to pay attention to empowerment of women, their capacity building, prevention of domestic violence, organizing rescue systems, and so on, instead of dabbling in religious matters about which it understands nothing." Read more

McCarrick resigns, renounces, but claims no recollection

Heidi Schlumpf and Joshua McElwee report that retired Washington Archbishop Theodore McCarrick has renounced his position in the College of Cardinals, leaving the global Catholic
Church's most symbolic and powerful group in the wake of revelations that he sexually harassed or abused several young men during his meteoric rise to become one of the U.S. church's most senior prelates.

The move, announced in a press release from the U.S. bishops July 28, is without precedence since the founding of the American church with the creation of the diocese of Baltimore in 1789. While several U.S. cardinals have come under scrutiny in recent decades for their handling of abuse cases, none prior had set aside their red cardinalial robes.

In a statement after the announcement of his withdrawal from ministry, McCarrick said he had no recollection of the accusations made against him.

Read more

**Pope accepts resignation of C. Theodore McCarrick**

According to the [USCCB website](https://www.usccb.org/), Pope Francis has accepted the resignation of Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, Archbishop Emeritus of Washington, from the College of Cardinals.

Pope Francis has also imposed on Cardinal McCarrick suspension a divinis and directs him to observe a life of prayer and penance in seclusion until the completion of the canonical process.

The statement of this resignation and these stipulations was publicized in Rome on July 28, 2018.


**Robert Mickens asks if Pope Francis can save the Church**

In his [Letter from Rome](https://www.usccb.org/), Robert Mickens argues that if the pope decides to get to the root of the clergy sex abuse crisis and the hierarchy's disastrously inadequate response to it, he will have to devote the rest of his pontificate almost exclusively to this gargantuan endeavor.
A radical solution and stiff opposition
To be sure, the 81-year-old Francis has come to this moment reluctantly. And in light of the recent shocking events and the huge task that now stands before him, it is easier to understand why he carefully avoided even mentioning the clergy sex abuse crisis in his first years as Bishop of Rome.

Had he done so, he would have risked bogging down his pontificate in efforts to heal what, until now, has been an incurable cancer. He can no longer ignore what is clearly the biggest crisis to hit the Catholic Church at least since the Reformation. And it is one that has only just begun and will eventually spread to the Church in other parts of the world.

Up to this point in time, Francis and his predecessors have applied only stopgap measures largely designed to control the fallout of sexual abuse.

They and other Catholic officials have also boasted of implementing a succession of new safeguarding protocols, screening procedures and new disciplinary instruments aimed at preventing future abuse. But they have refused (or have been unable) to put in place juridical mechanisms that hold bishops accountable for covering-up or ignoring allegations (and even proven cases) of clergy sex abuse. Read more

Fr. Gerry O'Connor urges a discussion of married priests when Francis comes to Ireland

Roisin Burke reports that Fr Gerry O'Connor, a Redemptorist priest from Mahon who is a member of the Association of Catholic Priests, has been holding regional meetings across the four provinces of Ireland, asking people what they would like discussed with the Pope while he is on Irish soil.

He said it was becoming very clear that to ensure the next generation of priests, changes have to be made, including allowing priests to marry.

"It is becoming very clear, there is no next generation of priests, there is only a trickle of vocations."

"That means you have just aged priests, many of which are tired, demoralised, and know there is no next generation coming. Read more"
Honoring Archbishop Raymond Hunthausen

In the Women's Ordination Conference weekly publication, Robert Shines writes that few church leaders embraced Vatican II like Archbishop Raymond Hunthausen who died on July 2018 at the age of 96. He attended all four conciliar sessions and returned to the U.S. with a prophetic vision for implementing the Council’s teachings.

Hunthausen advocated for oppressed persons everywhere. He protested nuclear weapons as a tax resistor, welcomed lesbian and gay Catholics to Seattle’s cathedral, established diocesan policies to address clergy sexual abuse as far back as 1988, addressed divorced and remarried Catholics with compassion, encouraged better youth catechesis, and supported the first stages of Call to Action.

Hunthausen became convinced of the need to ordain women while attending a retreat for priests.

“In Seattle and elsewhere, Catholic leadership asked itself how best to include women in the full life of the church. Hunthausen participated in a priests’ retreat in which the retreat master extolled the mystery and magnificence of the priesthood and how grateful priests should be that God had called them to this wonderful ministry.

“All of a sudden it crossed my mind,’ the archbishop recalled. ‘I cannot believe in a God who has instituted a priesthood that is this magnificent and then denied it to half of the human race. I can’t believe that.’”

He made another astute observation:

“We cannot expect women to accept a role that limits their growth, opportunity, freedom, dignity, and particularly their rights...Change is mandated for the church of western Washington.”

As Shine shows, Hunthausen did more than just talk. He instituted an affirmative action program.

“. . .affirmative action in all parishes and archdiocesan offices; equal access to theological and pastoral education; the elimination of sexist language and imagery from church rites, documents, and communications; equal employment opportunities and compensation for qualified women and men in church positions; and active recruitment of women as lectors, eucharistic ministers,
and parish and diocesan team members. Finally, Hunthausen recommended creation of a Commission on Women to work with him and the archdiocesan Pastoral Council to guide and monitor the policies he had proposed.”

Read more

America Magazine's article

Women religious speak up about sexual abuse by priests

The Washington Post reports that while revelations about Cardinal McCarrick's abuse of adult seminarians have shocked Catholics, the Vatican has long been aware of its heterosexual equivalent — the sexual abuse of nuns by priests and bishops — and done little to stop it, an Associated Press analysis has found.

An examination by the AP shows that cases of abused nuns have emerged in Europe, Africa, South America and Asia, demonstrating that the problem is global and pervasive, thanks to the sisters’ second-class status in the church and their ingrained subservience to the men who run it.

Yet some nuns are now finding their voices, buoyed by the #MeToo movement and the growing recognition that even adults can be victims of sexual abuse when there is an imbalance of power in a relationship. The sisters are going public in part to denounce years of inaction by church leaders, even after major studies on the problem in Africa were reported to the Vatican in the 1990s.

Reports of abuse in the 1990s were prepared by members of religious orders for top church officials. In 1994, the late Sr. Maura O’Donohue wrote about a six-year, 23-nation survey, in which she learned of 29 nuns who had been impregnated in a single congregation.

Nuns, she reported, were considered “safe” sexual partners for priests fearing infection with HIV from prostitutes or other women.

The reports were never meant to be made public, but the U.S. National Catholic Reporter put them online in 2001. To date, the Vatican hasn’t said what, if anything, it ever did with the information. Read more

Prediction: Cardinal Cupich will speed up the merging process
NBC 5 News reports that the Chicago Archdiocese is bringing together bishops, priests, deacons, school principals, religion directors and other pastoral leaders for a two day retreat Oct. 1 and 2.

That’s when it is expected Cardinal Blase Cupich will expedite the consolidation process he’s calling Renew My Church.

Multiple sources NBC 5 has spoken with say while the two day event suggests a collaborative process, the cardinal and his team know what tough financial decisions have to be made to balance the spiritual needs and the economic needs. Those sources predict the economics will drive the process.

A massive overhaul was announced more than two years ago, as only 240 priests are estimated to be available by 2030, with more than 350 parishes. Some parish closings and mergers have already begun.

Chicago priests were told in 2016 that the Archdiocese may close anywhere between 80 to 100 parishes over the next 14 years. Read more

FutureChurch also has resources that can help Catholics who learn their parish is being merged or closed. Download your free resources today.

Mergers in Minnesota cause anguish

The Independent reports that several members of the Church of St. Clotilde in Green Valley have been reported to be upset by the eventual closing of their newer church building in a merger with other local churches. The Independent did try to reach out to some of the concerned parishioners, but they decided not to publicly criticize the New Ulm Diocese.

A young priest, Matthew Wiering opened up about how the mergers of area Catholic parishes is affecting his congregations at St. Clotilde in Green Valley and Church of St. Mary in Cottonwood.
"I’m not insensitive to the struggles the parishioners are facing," Wiering said. "I’m here to help them through the transition. The changing of the priests has added to the confusion."

Wiering said that there have been several parishioners who have expressed their concern over the changes the Diocese is going through. The Bishop’s office has received letters from about 10-12 households, he said.

"When having difficulty in saying goodbye to church and parishes that we love, it’s important to acknowledge that when a person attends a church that is full and has access to opportunities to grow in their spiritual life, as well as having more opportunities for service, parish life can grow,” he said. “The end result is that (entire) parishes grow.”

While the priests in the New Ulm Diocese have completed their reassignments throughout the various faith communities on June 26, prospective merger dates have yet to be set. Read more

Thomas Reese argues we need a better way to deal with prelates who commit or coverup clergy sex abuse

Thomas Reese, SJ writes that as the sexual abuse scandal surrounding Cardinal Theodore McCarrick continued to spread in the past week, Cardinal Sean O'Malley, who heads the Catholic Church's Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors, acknowledged on July 23 that "a major gap still exists in the church's policies on sexual conduct and sexual abuse."

O'Malley, who is also the archbishop of Boston, noted that while the church has a zero-tolerance policy for the sexual abuse of minors by priests, there is a need for clearer norms and procedures for investigating and judging bishops. But O'Malley's statement raises further questions.

Who will set the norms for bishops?

Under canon law today, only the pope has authority over bishops and cardinals, although there were examples of bishops being tried by provincial councils in the ancient church. That is why only priests and deacons are subject to the norms and procedures set by the United States Catholic bishops for dealing with accusations of sexual abuse. The bishops conference does not have the authority to set norms for their own bishops.

The pope needs to publish norms making clear that there will be
zero tolerance for bishops who abuse children or allow abusive priests to continue in ministry. The McCarrick case also shows the need for zero tolerance for a bishop who has sex with his seminarians or priests and others under his authority like nuns. Any bishop involved in these activities should lose his office. Any cardinal should lose his red hat. There is no reason the pope could not publish these norms immediately.

Who will investigate allegations against a bishop?

The church needs better ways of investigating allegations against bishops. True, Archbishop Charles J. Scicluna of Malta has done an excellent job investigating cases for the Vatican, but there are few other clerics up to the task. A degree in canon law does not equip a person to handle such cases.

Smart American bishops use laypersons with expertise in investigating sex crimes — for example, detectives and retired police officers. The Vatican should do likewise.

The local police and courts should, of course, deal with criminal cases, even for bishops. When Cardinal McCarrick was accused of abusing a minor in New York, it was reported to the police.

Read more

New documentary shows how women were airbrushed from early Christian history; new evidence of their prominence

Candace Sutton reports that two Biblical historians, Joan Taylor and Helen Bond, have undertaken new research that convinces them that the 12 disciples actually traveled in pairs.

They argue that Jesus Christ had prominent female disciples who made his religious mission possible, but their pivotal role was wiped from history.

Mary Magdalene who, despite popular culture, was not a prostitute, a noblewoman named Joanna and a healer called Salome were among his close circle.

And Joanna, who had been married to an official of Judaean Roman leader Herod Antipas’ noble clique, funded Jesus’ itinerant travelling band.

Biblical historians Joan Taylor and Helen Bond have undertaken new research which convinces them that the 12 disciples actually travelled in pairs with their female partners.
And by forensically examining the New Testament, the pair unearth a trail of clues they believe will rewrite the origins of faith for millions of Christians around the world.

Taylor and Bond believe that Mary Magdalene became an important figure in a town on the Sea of Galilee.

They also say that Joanna fled Herod’s court and financed the disciples’ spreading of the word and healing.

And the reason the traditional story of the birth of Christianity is dominated by men is that one Roman emperor sought to erase them for his own political fortunes.

“For 200 years the story of Jesus and his twelve disciples has been a very male affair,” the historians’ TV series, Jesus’ Female Disciples: The New Evidence says.

“It’s a story in which women play minor supporting roles, as pious onlookers or repentant whores.”

But as the two Bible experts expound in their update of the “greatest story ever told”, the truth is very different.

“We know now there were many women, disciples of Jesus. It’s very important to the Jesus movement. Women weren’t just bystanders to the greatest story ever told, but the ones who made it all possible.”

Taylor, professor of Christian Origins and Second Temple Judaism at King’s College London and Bond, Edinburgh University’s Christian Origins and New Testament professor, went on the road to investigate their theories.

The two-part series, which screened on Compass and is available on podcast, took them to Rome, and Israel probing tombs, catacombs, Roman theatres and around the Sea of Galilee.

Read more

The Guardian Report

**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

Get resource
Preventing for National Council of Priests meeting in Australia

The Swag, the quarterly journal of The National Conference of Priests (NCP) in Australia, has announced that the NCP is preparing for their September 10 - 14, 2018 convention by listening to a variety of experts, including Catholics involved in church reform.

The convention's theme, *Being Catholic in Australia today...after the Royal Commission and before the Plenary Council*, reflects the determination of the Vatican II priest organization to take seriously the words of Archbishop Mark Coleridge, President of the Australian Bishops Conference, who, at the conclusion of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Sexual Abuse stated emphatically, "It cannot be business as usual."

At their upcoming convention they will hear from: Bishop Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFMConv, Rev. Frank Brennan SJ, and The Concerned Catholics of Canberra-Goulburn. They will also begin preparation for the 2020 Plenary Council. Read more

Lay leadership in parish communities

The quarterly journal of The National Conference of Priests (NCP) in Australia, includes an article by Catherine Seward RSM on lay leadership in the parish.

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

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!

Spring 2019
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.

Sign the letter

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 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!
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